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All Saints Preschool Health and Safety Guidelines

INTRODUCTION

All Saints Preschool has created this document in response to COVID, a respiratory illness caused by a novel virus that has spread globally. The Guidelines have been constructed to address prevention, detection, and response to occurrences of COVID. Throughout this process, we have had to rethink our protocols to provide the safest possible environment for our community of families, children, teachers, and staff.

We continually monitor COVID policies, however, the situation is dynamic and can change from week to week. We follow CDC recommendations and specific guidance from [Montgomery County Office of Child Care](#), [Maryland Department of Health](#), [Montgomery County Department of Health](#), [Maryland State Department of Education](#), and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

We are planning to host in-person school for the 2024-25 school year, but please recognize that what is being presented is based on the latest findings; however, we will remain flexible throughout this process as we recognize this is an ever-changing situation.

COMMUNICATION WITH STAFF AND FAMILIES

We will continue to educate ourselves on the latest COVID related findings. Vital information will be shared with the entire community as it becomes available. As always, we will be transparent with our school community when a COVID case is reported to us.

MASK REQUIREMENTS

Currently we are mask optional. Those who wish to wear a mask will be supported, and the School maintains a supply of KN95 masks for those who need them. The School may implement temporary mask requirements for specific events or for classes, should an outbreak or other conditions that warrant precautions present. Masks may be required for individuals following a positive case or for exposure to a positive individual (see section on Exclusion, Isolation, and Quarantine).

FOOD SERVICE

As always, parents/caregivers will send their child to school with a packed lunch. This year you can send your child to school with a lunch or bento box (we will not require lunches to be in disposable bags). Please only include non-perishable items as we will not be able to refrigerate food.



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We do ask that you send your child to school with a reusable water bottle filled with water and clearly marked with your child's name.

Lunch bags/boxes will remain in the children's backpacks until it is time to eat. As always, teachers will wear disposable gloves to help children unpack their lunch.

All surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected before use. All staff and children must wash hands before and after meals. Teachers will wear disposable gloves to assist children with unpacking their lunch.

INCREASED CLEANING PROTOCOLS

Teachers/staff will disinfect high touch surfaces throughout the day. ASP's cleaners will do a thorough cleaning of the school at the end of each day.

We will continue with our increased handwashing and sanitizing protocols.

Disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, tissues, disposable masks and gloves will be available in public areas.

EXCLUSION, QUARANTINE AND CLOSURE

Children and staff will be excluded from school if they register a 100.4-degree fever (or higher). Children and staff are required to stay home, monitor for symptoms, and, in some instances, show a negative test result to COVID or provide a health provider's clearance to return to school.

Before Coming to School

It is critical that, if you or your child have symptoms such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing, your child should stay home to avoid spreading illness to others. Seek medical attention and report results to Preschool Director immediately to discuss. The same protocols hold true for teachers and staff.

Child or Staff Exhibit Symptoms While at School

If a child exhibits concerning symptoms or runs a fever while at school, we will isolate the child and contact their parents to request the child be picked up as soon as possible. Parents/caregivers should contact their health provider immediately to monitor for symptoms and possibly have child tested for COVID. Note: If the sick child's sibling is not showing similar symptoms, they will be allowed to remain at school unless the sick child tests positive for COVID.

If a teacher exhibits symptoms or runs a fever while at school, teacher will immediately be sent home, and a substitute teacher will back-fill for the teacher.



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COVID-19 Diagnosis

In accordance with the **CDC**, anyone testing positive for COVID should isolate for 5 days and can return when they are fever-free without fever-reducing medication and symptoms are improving. However, those with Moderate or Severe symptoms should follow **CDC guidance** regarding the appropriate return date and protocols. **Anyone who was positive should mask for 10 days or until they have tested negative twice, with tests 48 hours apart (per CDC updated guidance).** You can test your child on Day 6 and Day 8 and return on Day 8 with two negative COVID tests.

COVID-19 Exposure

In accordance with the **CDC**, those exposed to a positive COVID case do not need to quarantine at home unless the exposure is an individual in the household who is not isolating. Those who are exposed should mask for 10 days. If masking is not feasible due to the age of the child, the child will need to stay home for 10 days or they can test on Day 6 and if negative can return to school on Day 6.

TRAVEL POLICY

Please check the latest information on affected areas and abide by any travel health notices.

We understand that during the fall children experience the inevitable fevers and sniffles which will not be related to COVID. We will follow our current health policy in the Parent Handbook, as well as the new guidelines outlined above. We will always err on the side of caution, as the health and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff is our highest priority.

IMMUNIZATIONS

In addition to monitoring for COVID symptoms, All Saints Preschool will be checking that all children are up-to-date with their immunizations (measles, etc.).

VACCINATION

ASP does not require COVID vaccinations for students, but the School strongly encourages all students to stay **Up to Date** with vaccinations. The vaccines are safe and remain the best protection against severe illness. Though imperfect in preventing transmission, the vaccines continue to reduce the risk that one can catch and transmit COVID. Please email them to Linanne Breslin at linanne.breslin@allsaintschurch.net. Please also stay up to date with influenza (flu) vaccines.

Flu Vaccines

ASP strongly encourages all students and families to receive the flu vaccine each fall or winter.

HOME/SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP



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Our home/school partnership has never been more important in keeping our community healthy. We must work together and trust each other to mitigate health risks through our own personal choices and vigilance in adhering to health standards.

If you have any questions at all about the information in this document, please contact Lisa Hollingsworth or Sara Tobin.

PLEASE KNOW GUIDELINES OUTLINED IN THIS DOCUMENT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON THE HEALTH CONDITIONS IN OUR AREA AND UPDATED GUIDANCE FROM THE CDC, MD DEPT OF HEALTH, MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPT OF HEALTH, AND THE MD STATE DEPT OF EDUCATION.