

Good Shepherd COVID-19 Response Plan

At Good Shepherd Preschool we want to make sure that the children, families and staff are safeguarded to the best of our ability. We are implementing the CDC Recommendations for Childcare Centers (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>) as well as the recommendations for New Jersey Childcare Facilities established by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families (https://www.nj.gov/dcf/coronavirus_licensedchildcare.html).

The following pages will detail all procedures that we at Good Shepherd Preschool will follow.

Protocols

- We will require that all employees, parents and children stay home if they have a fever over 100.4 degrees, have flu-like symptoms or have potentially been exposed to COVID-19.
- All parents will be asked to answer the Daily Health Screening Questions when they arrive at school each day.
- The temperature of each child will be taken upon arrival to the school.
- Only children and staff only will be allowed in the school.
- We will maintain a drop off and pick up procedure that limits the number of individuals in our vestibule at one time.
- We will perform routine, thorough cleaning of the entire facility, including toys, furniture, equipment and doorknobs.

Drop-off and Pick-up:

Parents should drop off and pick up their children in the vestibule. Only staff and children will be permitted in the school.

A staff member will escort the children to their classroom in the morning and will escort the children from the classroom to the vestibule at the end of each session.

In order to maintain social distancing, only one family member should be in the vestibule area at one time. If you arrive and another family is in the vestibule, please wait outside until the family departs before entering the

building. Any one dropping off or picking up a child is required to wear a mask.

A staff member will be checking children in and out of school upon arrival and departure.

The school door will be open during arrival and departure times. The school doors will be locked after these times. Should you arrive while the doors are locked, please knock on the door so a staff member may admit you into the vestibule.

Screening and Admittance:

Children and staff will be screened for fever and other COVID-19 symptoms prior to being admitted into the school each day using a non-contact thermometer. Children and staff with a fever in excess of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, or exhibiting other symptoms of COVID-19, will not be allowed to enter the school, nor will persons that have had exposure to persons known to have COVID-19 during the preceding 14 days.

All parents will be asked to answer the Daily Health Screening Questions when they arrive at school each day.

Parents are asked to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick.

Children and staff will be routinely checked for temperature and other COVID-19 symptoms throughout the day. Should a child or staff member present a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher or exhibit other symptoms during a routine check, the child or staff member must go home. Parents will be notified, and the child must be picked up within 30 minutes.

Implement Social Distancing Strategies:

Though complete social distancing is impossible to achieve in a childcare environment, we will implement strategies to minimize chances of viral transmission.

These strategies include eliminating large group activities, assemblies, large meetings, performances and presentations. We will have reduced group sizes, and children will remain with their classmates throughout the

day and will not be grouped with children from other classrooms in the mornings, the afternoons, or during outside play times.

Face Coverings and Masks

The staff will be required to wear cloth masks or face shields while working unless doing so will inhibit the individual's health.

All children age 2 and over will be encouraged to wear face coverings within the facility periodically throughout the day.

Please make sure the children arrive at the center wearing their masks.

Should you forget a mask for your child, we will provide one for the child and may choose to pass the cost along to the parents.

Activities

Children will have their own pencil box with art supplies that will be labeled and not shared with other children.

Some activities that are likely to bring children into close contact will be canceled or modified. External entertainers and visitors will not be permitted access to the school.

Items from Home

Please make every effort to limit the number of items that you have your child bring into the school. The children will need a snack in a lunch box for our 3-year-old program and a snack and a lunch for our 4-year-old program. We will supply cups for water, so please refrain from having your child bring in cups from home.

Toys from home will not be allowed in the school.

Stuffed animals and/or security blankets that children need for comfort will remain in their backpacks

The children's extra pair of spare clothes should be put in a Ziploc bag and will remain in their backpacks.

Visitors

Visitors will not be permitted to enter the school during school hours.

Anyone who wants to enter the school during non-school hours will be subject to the same screening protocols as described above.

Promoting Healthy Hygiene Practices

The school will teach and reinforce the washing of hands and how to appropriately cover coughs and sneezes.

Children and staff will practice frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, and will be required to wash their hands upon arriving at the school, before meals or snacks, after outside time, after going to the bathroom, and prior to leaving for home. Children will be monitored to ensure proper technique.

The school will teach and reinforce the use of face coverings among children and staff where appropriate. Face coverings are most essential at times when social distancing is not possible.

Staff and children will be frequently reminded not to touch their face coverings and to wash their hands frequently.

The school will have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer, and tissues.

Cleaning and Sanitation Procedures:

The school will increase the frequency of cleaning toys, equipment, and surfaces, especially doorknobs, light switches, tabletops, and restrooms. The school will clean, sanitize, and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in accordance with the CDC's Guidance for Cleaning & Disinfecting.

Response Procedures for COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure

Children or staff members who develop symptoms of COVID-19 while at the school will immediately be separated from others until the ill person can leave the school.

Any confirmed or suspected exposure to COVID-19 occurring at Good Shepherd Preschool will immediately be reported to both the Warren County Department of Health and the DCF Office of Licensing.

Health officials will provide direction on whether the school should cease operations following the identification of a positive case in the school. The duration may be dependent on staffing levels, outbreak levels in the community and the severity of illness in the infected individual. Symptom free children and staff should not attend or work at another school during the closure.

All rooms and equipment used by the infected person/persons will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with CDC guidance referenced above.

Stay at Home Recommendations

All staff and students should NOT come to school if they have any of the following COVID-19 symptoms:

Fever of 100.4 or higher
Cough, congestion, runny nose
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
New loss of taste or smell
Chills, shivers, muscle aches, headaches, sore throat
Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
Fatigue

If fever is the only symptom, children can return once they are 72 hours fever free without the use of medication and with a doctor's note stating they may return to school.

All staff and students should NOT come to school if they have had close contact (see definition of close contact below) with a person with confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days or if they have traveled to another state on the NJ Travel Advisory List within 14 days.

**Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period.

COVID-19 Return to School Guidelines:

No Known Exposure to COVID-19

If children or staff ***have not been exposed*** to COVID-19 but exhibit one or more of the symptoms and they ***do NOT get tested***, they must stay home for 14 days since their first symptoms appeared. They can return after they no longer have a fever for at least 24 hours (temperature of 100.4 or higher) or signs of a fever (chills, feeling very warm, flushed appearance, or sweating) ***without*** the use of fever-reducing medicine (e.g., acetaminophen or ibuprofen) and symptoms have improved.

If children or staff ***have not been exposed*** to COVID-19 but are exhibiting one or more of the symptoms ***and they DO get tested*** and they receive a negative test result, the symptoms are most likely from another infection. Because this student DOES NOT have a known close contact, they may return to school once symptoms have improved according to existing school policies.

Known Exposure to COVID-19

If children or staff members ***have tested positive***, they should isolate and not attend school. They may return after 14 days from when the symptoms first appeared and only if they have not had a fever the past 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication AND all symptoms have improved.

If children or staff members ***have been exposed*** to COVID-19, ***but have since tested negative or are not tested*** they must still complete the full 14-day quarantine from the last contact with an infected person before returning to school because they can still develop COVID-19 for up to 14 days after being exposed.