



St. John's Preschool - Fall 2021 COVID-Related Policies

(Last Updated: August, 2021)

St. John's Preschool has always been dedicated to the health and safety of all our children and staff in our preschool family. This plan was developed using the guidance from the CDC, NCDHHS Child Care Strong NC Public Health Toolkit, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the School Task Force of the NC Episcopal Diocese.

These policies are for the fall semester and are subject to change as needed throughout the semester.

Keeping the Preschool Safe & Healthy

FACE COVERINGS: All children ages 2 and up are required to wear masks inside St. John's preschool and church buildings. Staff members and any essential visitor (special's teachers, itinerant teachers from WCPSS, consultants from Project Enlightenment) are required to wear masks while inside the buildings.

SANITIZING: All adults coming into the preschool will use hand sanitizer before or upon entering the preschool. All children and staff will also wash hands upon entering their classrooms. Frequent opportunities for hand washing will be provided throughout the day.

HEALTH POLICY: A detailed health & return-to-school policy is included in this document. For the safety of all, this health policy will be strictly enforced. All questions regarding a return-to-school plan for your child should be directed to the preschool co-directors. Parents are asked to do a daily home screening for COVID-19 and any other infectious diseases as outlined in our **Preschool Parent Handbook**. Staff will check the temperatures of all children as they enter the building. (Staff members will be checked as well.)

CLEANING PROTOCOLS: Each classroom and bathroom will be cleaned each evening by a professional cleaning company:

- Each classroom will be stocked for frequent cleaning with cleaning and sanitizing solutions that are CDC and EPA approved.
- Tables and chairs will be cleaned and disinfected upon arrival, between learning centers, before and after snack, and upon dismissal.
- All classroom learning/center manipulatives and supplies (puzzles, blocks, art supplies, writing supplies) will be cleaned and disinfected after use.
- A designated bin will be placed in each classroom to use when a child puts a toy in their mouth.
- Each classroom is equipped with its own bathroom. Teachers will spray surfaces (faucet, flush handles, light switches) after each individual child uses the bathroom during the day.
- Communal surfaces (light switches, door handles, cubby hooks) around the preschool will be sprayed each day.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: Teachers will work with children and arrange their classrooms to allow for optimal social distancing that can best be expected for preschool children.

VISITORS IN THE PRESCHOOL: To minimize potential exposure, only preschool staff members (including special's teachers, WCPSS Itinerant teachers, or Project Enlightenment Consultants) are allowed on the preschool floor of the Education Building when the children are present. If a parent arrives late, call the preschool office (919-562-8619) or go to the side entrance and ring the doorbell. Someone on the staff will let your child in.

CLASS PODS: Students will remain in class pods to assist with contact-tracing and to reduce cross classroom exposure. This allows us to minimize the number of classrooms that may have to be closed with a positive COVID case.

LUNCH BUNCH: We will not offer Lunch Bunch until it is safe to mix different classes.

SNACKS: Parents are asked to provide an individual snack in a labeled container and a labeled water bottle for their children.

DRINKING FOUNTAIN: Our drinking fountain will not be used during this time.

PLAYGROUND/OUTDOOR TIME: We will have a maximum of 2 classes outside on the upper and lower playground at any given time during the day. One class will be on the upper playground (3 and 4 year olds) and one class on the lower playground (Toddlers and 2's).

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL PROCEDURES: We will have separate arrival/pick up entrances. The 4's will go to the front door of the Education Building, the 3's to the side entrance, and the Toddlers and 2's will access and exit through the lower playground and go to the outside door of their classroom. They will be met by their Teacher Assistant who will check their temperature and give you the sign in sheet.

FINANCIAL/LEGAL: Parents will be required to sign this COVID policy, which outlines all guidelines, the health policy, and financial terms, as well as an acknowledgement regarding COVID exposure at the preschool prior to the start of school (attached). In addition:

- If it becomes necessary for you to remove your child from the Preschool program, you must notify the Preschool Director one month in advance. Tuition is due for the month prior to the withdrawal and there is a \$50.00 cancellation fee.

What to Expect with an Exposure at Preschool

If a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, immediate steps will be taken to ensure the health and safety of all others in the preschool. Upon notification, the preschool office will do the following:

1. Contact the Wake County Department of Health. The epidemiologist on-call will outline the preschool's course of action.
2. Contact the impacted class(es) first, followed by the entire preschool community. Confidentiality is mandatory; names of infected persons will not be released.

3. Complete a COVID-19 Child Care Reporting Form. We are required to complete this form for contact-tracing purposes. This is submitted to the Wake County Department of Health.
4. Ensure the impacted classroom(s) are appropriately cleaned and sanitized.
5. If a classroom(s) needs to close for a short-term period (2 weeks or less) due to exposure, that class will move to an online preschool platform. Tuition will still be collected for short-term closure.

St. John's Preschool has a long standing commitment to provide a loving and safe environment that prioritizes the health and well-being of both our children and staff. Protection from COVID-19 is an integral part of our day-to-day operations as we reopen for the 2021-2022 school year, since we serve children who fall into the unvaccinated category. **All of our staff have been fully vaccinated against this virus.** We have developed and will continue to update our policies regarding when children and staff should stay home from preschool using the most recent guidance set forth by the CDC, the NC Department of Health and Human Services (ChildCareStrongNC Public Health Toolkit), as well as the guidelines from the NC Episcopal Diocese School Task Force. As we are asking our preschool families to entrust your children with us, we must also ask that you comply with these health policies for the good of your child and the entire preschool community.

NCDHHS: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/media/3091/open>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/child-care-guidance.html>

Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina: <https://www.episdionc.org/>

COVID - 19 SYMPTOMS & EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL

If your child or someone in your household is experiencing any of the following symptoms below, please keep your child home from school. Refer to the "Return-to-School" chart on the following page for next steps.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus:

- Fever (100.4 degrees F or greater) or chills
- New cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea
- Congestion, persistent or discolored runny nose, headache

***Cold-like symptoms are an indication of Covid-19.** Please keep your child home if they have a cough, a persistent/discolored runny nose, sneezing repeatedly, sore throat, etc.

***Allergies:** We know that all of us experience allergy symptoms throughout the year. We ask that you visit your pediatrician for a note confirming allergies for your child to return to school and if your child takes allergy medication, we encourage you to keep providing it for your child at home.

***If you have siblings that attend preschool and one is sick, you must keep all siblings home.**

****Please let us know if your child will be out! You must notify the director and your child's teacher immediately if you suspect your child or someone in your family may have/has Covid-19.***

RETURN-TO-SCHOOL POLICY

COVID-19 Related Exclusions from Preschool	Criteria Necessary for return to Preschool
<p>A child/staff member has symptoms of COVID-19, but has not been tested/not received a PCR test (this person is presumed positive)</p> <p>A child/staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and shows symptoms.</p>	<p>Child/staff may return to school after a 10-day isolation. The 10-day timeline starts the day of the first symptoms. In addition,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Must be 24-hours without a fever (without medication) ● Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.
<p>A child/staff member tests positive for COVID-19 but remains asymptomatic.</p>	<p>Child/staff may return to school after a 10-day isolation. The 10-day timeline starts the day of the positive test.</p>
<p>A child/staff member has symptoms of COVID-19 but tests negative with a PCR test or has received an alternate diagnosis from a doctor.</p>	<p>Child/staff may return to school when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It has been 24-hours without a fever (without medication); ● They have felt well for 24 hours.
<p>Any exposure to a household member who shows symptoms of COVID-19 but has not been tested/has not received a PCR test (this person is presumed positive)</p> <p>Any exposure to a household member who has a known case of COVID-19.</p>	<p>Person may return to school after a 14-day quarantine, beginning after the last known close contact with that person.</p> <p>The 14 days of quarantine begin either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● at the end of a 10-day isolation of the person with COVID-19 since that person may remain infectious for up to 10 days after symptom onset, OR ● after the last known close contact with the COVID-19 positive person, in situations where the positive person isolates from all other households.
<p>Any exposure to a household member who has symptoms of COVID-19 but tests negative with a PCR test or has received an alternate diagnosis from a doctor.</p>	<p>Child/staff may return to school immediately following negative tests or alternate diagnosis, as long as no symptoms have appeared.</p>
<p>If a vaccinated staff member has been exposed to a known case of COVID-19.</p>	<p>A Staff member may return to school after receiving a negative PCR test administered 5-days post-exposure.</p>