

## **Christ Church Day School Policies During COVID-19**

### **UPDATE 1/13/21**

The Day School is committed to providing the safest environment to our children, families and staff by following these COVID-19 policies. This protocol was formulated using the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and SCDHEC recommendations, discussions with at least 8 other local preschool and daycare directors and a review by an assistant nursing professor from Charleston Southern University. These procedures will stay in place for an undetermined amount of time and may be revised using the recommendations of the CDC and SCDHEC.

#### *JANUARY 13, 2021 UPDATE*

*As we increasingly feel the presence of COVID in our neighborhoods and families, we wanted to take this time to revisit our COVID policy, ADJUST and make sure that we all have the same understanding based on SCDHEC and CDC guidelines.*

*Currently, if you have an immediate family member or close contact that has tested positive, you have 2 options regarding your child and school attendance. It is mandatory to contact the school. A text to your teacher is most efficient.*

- 1. Stay home from school for a full 14 days. A full 14 day quarantine after exposure continues to be the most effective strategy for preventing additional transmission OR*
- 2. Stay home for a full 7 days with NO SYMPTOMS and THEN get a PCR test (not rapid). You must contact the school and show the PCR negative result to return.*

*If a class experiences this situation, all class parents will be notified by text. Parents will need to make the best decision for their family regarding attendance. If you or your child is symptomatic, go get tested immediately. If symptoms persist and you know you were a close contact, a repeat test a day later is important.*

*Teachers of an affected class will test 5-7 days after potential exposure if asymptomatic. If a teacher has symptoms, the class will be closed immediately until the teacher can get a COVID test. If a child or a teacher tests positive, the class will have a 14 day quarantine with learning packets.*

- Upon arrival on campus, all children (MMO & Preschool) will be screened for fever. Any child with a fever of 100.4 degrees will not be allowed to attend school.

- If a child has a fever, that child must be fever free without medication for 72 hours before returning to school.
- Children and staff with the following symptoms must stay home and may need medical care. Signs of illness can include but are not limited to:
  - Fever of 100.4
  - Loss of taste and smell
  - Severe headache
  - Flushed cheeks
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - New or worsening cough
  - Diarrhea, nausea or vomiting
  - Rash
  - Sore throat (NEW)
- **If allergies are a chronic situation for your child, we need a doctor's note to keep on file. If your child is running a fever or exhibiting any of these symptoms, please remain home for 72 hours. A child may also be tested for COVID-19. If the result is negative , the child may return to school.**
- If a family member of that child tests positive for COVID-19, the child will need to remain home in self quarantine for 2 weeks. Notification to the school is mandatory.
- If a staff member or immediate family member of that employee tests positive for COVID-19, the staff member will need to remain home in self isolation for 2 weeks. Notification to the school is mandatory.
- If there is a positive COVID-19 case in our school, parents will be notified and the school will be cleaned and disinfected.
- By cohorting our classes, our goal is to keep our school open, but close the affected class. This may need to be determined on a case by case basis.
- The classroom with a reported case of COVID-19 will immediately be closed for 14 days since all the children and teachers in the affected classroom will be considered close contacts. A close contact person is defined as spending more than 15 minutes with a COVID positive person AND being in close proximity (less than 6 feet). We hope you will use this time to assess your family's health and possible need for testing.
- Once the school year begins, preschool car line will be used every morning and every afternoon. Preschool parents will not enter the building during arrival and dismissal. The children's assistants will be greeting the families in the morning car line. Hand sanitizer or hand washing will be used to clean little hands before children enter the classroom. In the afternoon, children with their teachers or assistants will be outside at each loading station for a safe and happy dismissal. To keep our staff as healthy as possible, all parents must wear masks at the car

line stations and assist their children from the cars in the morning and into the cars in the afternoon.

- Mother's Morning Out children will be screened outside next to their classroom entrance. Parents' temperatures will be taken as well. Parents will sign in their children outside, use hand sanitizer and proceed into the building to deliver their children to the MMO teachers. Social distancing will be enforced.
- If a parent needs to come inside the school, hand sanitizer must be applied and masks must be worn to limit exposure to the children and staff. Having parents come into our classrooms will be discouraged at this time, but we certainly don't mind a hallway visit and peek in the room.
- At this time, we plan on keeping classes self-contained. By limiting exposure to other classes during the day, our goal is to contain the spread of germs from class to class. This means that one class at a time will use the playground or large recreation/music rooms.
- To limit non-essential visitors and large social gatherings, our fall in-house field trips and Chick-fil-A Spirit Lunch will be rescheduled.
- Fall and holiday festivities will be determined as the school year progresses.
- A staff member or child may need to stay away from school for a number of days if travelling out of state. This will be determined case by case and travel notification in advance is required.
- We are committed to keeping in touch with parents. All parents will be asked to join Remind texting service and a private social media platform for their child's class at the start of the year. This will be extremely useful to establish in advance if a school closure becomes necessary. Also, the director will send weekly emails called Day School Updates.
- The director will conduct multiple orientations to reduce large gatherings on campus. The teaching team will give a virtual tour of each classroom for parents prior to the start of school and will have a parent Zoom meeting within the first 2 weeks of school to welcome and answer any questions. Your children will all have an opportunity to meet the teacher and play in their perspective classrooms prior to the official first day of school.
- To help us ensure a cleaner and safer environment for the children, some classes will use pencil boxes. To offset the increased cost of additional cleaning and school supplies, preschool school classroom material fees will be increased to \$45.00 (just \$5.00 more than originally planned).
- Healthy habits such as covering a cough, washing hands, using hand sanitizing, disinfecting toys and frequently used surfaces will be practiced everyday.
- ALL 3K and 4K children must bring a mask to school everyday just like they would bring a lunchbox. We have purchased carabiner D shaped clips for all the children's tote bags so their masks will be easily accessible and visible for the teachers in the mornings. We envision the need for masks when children are in circle time or working closely together. Teachers and staff will wear masks or

face shields with the comfort and safety of the children in mind. Outdoor school activities may not require a mask.

- Parents can help support our guidelines by practicing healthy habits, informing us of any illness, and keeping sick children at home. Most importantly, we do not want children to fear people who are wearing masks. Help us with that by wearing a mask in front of your child. We also hope that the use of face shields during class instruction will help children see our happy faces and know that they are loved.