



# The Good Shepherd School

1401 Carrollton Avenue • Towson, Maryland 21204 • 410-825-7139 • [www.GoodShepherdRuxton.org](http://www.GoodShepherdRuxton.org)

*Delight in Discovery and Development*

## OVERALL HEALTH AND SAFETY

**The health and safety of your children are of primary concern to the school. It is paramount to err on the side of caution when sending your child to school each day by considering everyone who will be exposed to your child.**

### **When to keep your child home:**

If your child is experiencing any of the following, please keep them home and notify the School Office:

- Diarrhea
- Fever (Temperature above 99.5)
- Vomiting
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Headache
- Chills
- Pink Eye (conjunctivitis) – a child must stay home for at least twenty-four hours after the first eye drop treatment.
- A contagious condition of any kind, including but not limited to strep, flu, respiratory infection, hand-foot-and-mouth disease, conjunctivitis, infectious rash, chicken pox, scabies, lice, etc., unless accompanied by a physician's note indicating that the child is able to return to school

**Your child must be symptom-free without fever-reducing medication for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school. A doctor's note may be required. Please see below for specific COVID-19 protocol and returning your child to school.**

- Parents/caregivers are required to notify the School Office by phone, email or Brightwheel if their child will be absent and provide the reason for their absence.
- If your child should become ill while at school, your child will be placed in a separate room with staff supervision and care until pick-up. Once you are notified of your child's illness, you or an authorized adult must pick up your child within 30 minutes from receiving the call from the School Office.

## COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols

The Good Shepherd School continues to monitor the COVID-19 virus and relies upon national and local agencies to provide guidance and support. We have developed our *Health and Safety Protocols* according to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Office of Childcare regulations and CDC, while taking into account developmentally appropriate practices within an early childhood setting. Please note that these protocols may be updated to reflect changes in MSDE and CDC guidance.

**Face Masks:** Face masks will continue to be optional for all students and staff.

### **Ventilation:**

- Our HVAC system operates with the recommended Merv air filters and circulates air throughout the day.
- Each classroom and all shared spaces, e.g. Parish Hall, Library, are equipped with an air purifier specifically designed to accommodate the square footage of the rooms.
- Additionally, we will operate ceiling fans in classrooms and open classroom windows, when outside temperatures warrant, for continual air circulation.

**Handwashing:** Handwashing will take place throughout the school day for all students and staff.

**Cleaning:** A professional cleaning service will clean and sanitize all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways and the office every evening.

### **If your child is experiencing any Covid-like symptoms:**

- temperature above 99.5° F,
- runny nose,
- sore throat,
- cough,
- headache,
- lethargy,
- difficulty breathing,
- diarrhea or vomiting

**Please keep them home:** One of the most important measures we can take to keep children healthy and in school is to keep symptomatic children home from school. If your child exhibits any one of these symptoms, please keep them home and do the following:

- Contact the School Office and share the nature of the symptom(s).
- Contact your pediatrician to determine next steps.

**If your child tests positive for COVID-19:**

- Please keep them home for 5 full days and contact the School Office.
- Your child may return to school on Day 6 after a positive test result or the onset of symptoms if they are symptom free for at least 24 hours. Day 0 is the date of the positive test result or the onset of symptoms.
- Upon returning to school, your child should wear a well-fitted mask for Days 6-10. If they are unable to do so, they may return with a negative test result on Day 6 or after. No test is needed if they return after Day 10.

**If your child has been exposed to COVID-19**

- Your child does not need to quarantine if they remain symptom free.
- CDC and MSDE recommend wearing a mask for 10 days.

**Household Exposures: If someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19, please keep your child home:**

- Please contact the School Office
- Household exposures will be handled on a case-by-case basis.