

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.

Face Masks: Face masks will continue to 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 those rooms. Additionally, we will operate ceiling fans in classrooms and open classroom windows, when outside temperatures warrant it, 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.

Parents/Caregivers in the Building: Parents/Caregivers may be permitted in the building in certain circumstances. The parents/caregivers with children in our 2s programs will briefly enter the building to drop off the child at their classroom door and exit the building. Adults participating in our Adult/Toddler programs will enter through the red church doors to access the designated program space. Parent volunteers may be allowed in the building for certain scheduled activities. More information will be communicated to parents as these opportunities become available.

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 contact the School Office to schedule a Return-to-School date for your child.
- **In most cases, 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.
- **Your child will need to wear a well-fitted mask for Days 6-10** or they may return on Day 11 if they are unable to wear a mask.

If your child has been exposed to COVID-19, please keep them home:

- Contact the School Office to schedule a Return-to-School date for your child.
- Your child may return to school on **Day 6 with a negative test administered no earlier than Day 5 after the last known contact with the positive case** and provided that your child remains asymptomatic.
- **Your child will need to wear a well-fitted mask for Days 6-10** or they may return on Day 11 if they are unable to wear a mask.

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

- Contact the School Office to schedule a Return-to-School date for your child.
- Household exposures are handled on a case-by-case basis.

If your child has been exposed to someone who is awaiting a test result, please keep them home:

- Contact the School Office.
- Your child may return to school if the test result is negative.
- Your child does not need to stay home if the person awaiting a test result is being tested for surveillance reasons (medical procedure, work/school required etc.) and is not symptomatic and has not been exposed.

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 will need to be symptom-free without any medication for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to school. . A doctor’s note may be required. Please see above 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.