

Seeds of Joy Christian Nursery School

Pandemic and Infectious Disease Plan 2022-2023

Seeds of Joy Christian Nursery School's primary concerns are for the health and safety of staff and the children in our care. We all share the responsibility of engaging in preventive practices and refraining from coming to school when symptomatic as identified by the Centers for Disease Control for infectious diseases.

Methods to Prevent the Spreading of an Acute Respiratory Illness

- During a pandemic, before school each day, parents are asked to check their children for symptoms of any sickness, following current CDC guidance as part of a daily health check.
- The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months or older get vaccinated against COVID-19. While Seeds of Joy is not requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for students, please consider getting the vaccine for your child and submitting an up-to-date vaccine schedule.
- If a child is feeling ill, has had a stomach or intestinal issue within the last 24 hours or bad cough, green runny nose, chicken pox, pink eye, fever, etc. they need to stay home.
- For non-COVID-19 sicknesses, children may return 24 hours after gastrointestinal issues resolve, cough or other cold symptoms significantly lessen, or child has been fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
- COVID-19 symptoms may include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting or diarrhea. If a child is diagnosed with COVID-19, they will only be readmitted following current CDC guidelines referenced here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html>
- A child may not come to school if they are ill, as described above. If a child becomes ill while at school, the child will be taken to a safe, clean and separate space away from other children and parents will be called and asked to take the child home.
- These same precautions will be taken with our staff.
- Staff will be reminded to adhere to CDC prevention practices for cough and sneeze etiquette and hand hygiene. Appropriate supplies will be available in the nursery school, including hand soap and alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol).
- Staff will clean high-touch surfaces at least once daily with a disinfectant. Common high touch areas in our nursery school are defined as doorknobs, shared keyboards, faucet handles, drinking fountains, railings, toilet levers, shared tables and chairs, light switches, and toys.

Seeds of Joy's Face Mask Policy – Mask Optional

- Students are not required to wear masks indoors/outdoors unless specified by their parent or guardian.
- Staff will observe non-punitive policies and practices to support individuals who choose to wear masks.

- Please see “Masking” as referenced on current CDC guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html>

Preparing for an Outbreak:

- Director will maintain a staff team list with contact numbers.
- Staff that come down with symptoms while at work will notify the director and associate director immediately and prepare to leave school. If necessary, staff will take measures to avoid coming in contact with other staff and children.
- If a staff member is confirmed to have an infectious disease, the directors will inform fellow staff and Seeds of Joy families of their possible exposure to the infectious disease in the school but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

When an Outbreak Occurs

- Seeds of Joy Christian Nursery School will follow emergency guidelines as announced by the CDC. If those guidelines are announced after business hours, and include the need to close the school, the director will inform staff and activate electronic communication to ensure staff is notified.
- Staff will receive a phone call and/or text alert notifying them of the closure status and other relevant updates.
- **For non-COVID-19 illnesses:** Children may return to school 24 hours after the sickness has resolved, since the last gastrointestinal event, fever has been gone after 24 hours with no fever reducing medicine, after 24 hours on an antibiotic.
- **Dealing with confirmed positive COVID-19 cases and exposure:**
 - If the child is in care when the temperature or symptoms present, the child will be isolated to a different room (with supervision), parents called as described above.
 - Parents will be informed there is a positive case of COVID-19 in the school.
 - Children may return after following current CDC recommended quarantine strategies only.
 - Children who have received the COVID-19 vaccine and have this information on file with Seeds of Joy and are up to date on their vaccine schedule will not have to quarantine and can attend school as per usual.
 - Children who have NOT received the COVID-19 vaccine and test positive will quarantine for five days after a positive test, then return with a mask through day ten. The class will remain open, and children in that class will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask for ten days after exposure.
- For any upper respiratory infection, it is recommended that parents or guardians administer a COVID-19 test and provide negative test results or obtain a doctor’s note clearing the child to return to Seeds of Joy.
- Staff are expected to stay home and contact their physician if they suspect they have been infected with an infectious disease.

School or Classroom Closure - Returning to School

In the event that a classroom or school closure is necessary, when the closure is lifted, our staff will be informed by the director and will return to work as normally scheduled. News will be communicated electronically that families and children can return to Seeds of Joy Christian Nursery School.

This policy is subject to change based on the CDC's most current recommended guidelines, and current Covid 19 Community Levels.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html>