

2021-2022 School Year COVID-Related Policies and Procedures

The purpose of these policies and procedures is to ensure the health and safety of our preschoolers and their families as well as our staff and their families. Working together as a community will help to mitigate transmission of COVID-19.

Listed below is the framework with which we are strongly recommended to follow from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and the Maryland State Department of Education-Office of Childcare (MSDE-OCC) as of July 23, 2021.

Guidance Set Forth by MDH and MSDE-OCC

SAFETY ACTIONS

- Promote healthy hygiene practices
- Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation
- Ensure social distancing (for example, cohort children by class and space out children when possible)
- Train all staff on safety protocol and any new information
- Use layered prevention strategies to protect people who are not fully vaccinated
- Increased ventilation

MONITORING AND PREPARING

- Screen for signs and symptoms
- Plan for when a staff member, child or household member becomes sick

CLEANING & DISINFECTING

CLEANING PRODUCTS WE WILL USE:

Bleach
DISINFECTING Wipes and Aerosol Spray
Other EPA approved disinfectants

HOW WE WILL PREPARE AND USE THE CLEANING PRODUCTS:

A bleach/water solution of 2 TBSP bleach per 1 quart of water will be made each morning. The bleach solution will be replaced every 24 hours to ensure effectiveness. The bleach solution will be used to clean classroom furniture, toys, and other classroom materials, as needed, during the school day. Disinfecting wipes and spray will be used to clean items that cannot soak in the bleach water solution. At the end of the school day, we will use EPA approved disinfectants on all surfaces and materials as well as spray each classroom and the hallways with a disinfectant spray.

WHAT WILL BE CLEANED:

The building, the classrooms and the classroom materials will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before the start of the school year. Frequently touched areas will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times per day or between uses. These areas include (but are not limited to) playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, tables and chairs, classroom materials, and any shared toys. Any items or materials that are unable to be cleaned and disinfected properly will not be used.

FACE MASKS

Face masks are REQUIRED for all staff, parents, and children, regardless of vaccination status, at our preschool since physical distancing is difficult for young children.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW:

1. All face masks need to cover both the individual's nose and mouth.
2. **Staff members are REQUIRED to wear face masks** throughout the day.
3. **Parents are REQUIRED to wear face masks** during drop off and pick up.
4. **Children will be REQUIRED to wear face masks**, except during snack, lunch, and rest time. Mask will also be worn during outdoor play when physical distancing cannot be maintained. In addition, the children will be given opportunities for masks breaks when necessary.
5. Parents are required to **provide at least 3-4 clean masks each school day** for their child. Ashton Christian Preschool **WILL ONLY** provide face masks for the preschoolers when necessary. Parents providing face masks for their child will ensure proper fit and hopefully the child's tolerance to wearing a mask of their choosing.

****All face masks should be labeled with the child's name and classroom.**

Decision Aid: Exclusion and Return for Persons with COVID-19 Symptoms and Close Contacts in Child Care, Schools, and Youth Camps

For the purposes of this decision aid, **COVID-19 symptoms** are any ONE of the following: fever of 100.4° or higher, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or new loss of taste or smell. For persons with chronic conditions such as asthma, the symptoms should represent a change from baseline.

Exclude all persons (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19 symptoms and recommend evaluation by a health care provider and testing for COVID-19 ¹	Recommendations for the person with symptoms who is NOT FULLY VACCINATED Individuals are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after receiving either 1) both doses of a 2-dose vaccine series or 2) a single dose vaccine.	Recommendations for asymptomatic close contacts of the person with symptoms
Person has symptoms and positive test for COVID-19 or clinical diagnosis of COVID-19	May return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	Close contacts who are fully vaccinated ² OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days do not need to quarantine. All other close contacts should follow MDH and local quarantine guidance.
Person has symptoms and negative test for COVID-19	If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. If known exposure, may return when quarantine completed according to MDH and local guidance.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms and health care provider documents symptoms are due to a specific alternative diagnosis (ex. strep throat, otitis media, pre-existing condition such as asthma)	If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. If known exposure, may return when quarantine completed according to MDH and local guidance.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
Person has symptoms with no negative test for COVID-19 AND no specific alternative diagnosis	If no known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	Close contacts do not need to quarantine.
	If known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.	Close contacts who are fully vaccinated ² OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days do not need to quarantine. All other close contacts should follow MDH and local quarantine guidance.

¹For persons with symptoms who were previously infected with COVID-19 and recovered, follow [CDC guidance](#).

²Fully vaccinated persons who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 should follow [CDC guidance](#).

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<p>Exclude all persons (child, care provider, educator, other staff) with COVID-19 symptoms and recommend evaluation by a health care provider and testing for COVID-19 if indicated¹</p>	<p>Recommendations for the person with symptoms who is FULLY VACCINATED</p> <p>Individuals are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after receiving either 1) both doses of a 2-dose vaccine series or 2) a single dose vaccine.</p>	<p>Recommendations for asymptomatic close contacts of the person with symptoms</p>
<p>Person has symptoms and positive test for COVID-19 or clinical diagnosis of COVID-19</p>	<p>May return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.</p>	<p>Close contacts who are fully vaccinated² OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days do not need to quarantine. All other school close contacts should follow MDH and local quarantine guidance.</p>
<p>Person has symptoms and negative test for COVID-19</p>	<p>May return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met.</p>	<p>Close contacts do not need to quarantine.</p>
<p>Person has symptoms and health care provider documents symptoms are due to a specific alternative diagnosis (ex. strep throat, otitis media, pre-existing condition such as asthma)</p>	<p>May return when symptoms have improved, no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met.</p>	<p>Close contacts do not need to quarantine.</p>
<p>Person has symptoms and no negative test for COVID-19 AND no specific alternative diagnosis</p>	<p>If no known exposure, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met. Person should have written health care provider assessment that COVID-19 testing is not indicated and risk of COVID-19 is low.</p>	<p>Close contacts do not need to quarantine.</p>
	<p>If known exposure, may return when it has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication AND improvement of other symptoms.</p>	<p>Close contacts who are fully vaccinated² OR have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days do not need to quarantine. All other close contacts should follow MDH and local quarantine guidance.</p>

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