**Little Saints Comprehensive Learning Center**

***Love God, Serve Children and Light the Way for Tomorrow’s Leaders***

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**COVID-19 Preparedness Plan**

**2020-21**

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**Table of Contents**

Welcome ………………………………………………………………………… 2

FACTS ABOUT COVID-19 …………………………………………………… 3

Morning Arrival ………………………………………………………………… 4

Afternoon Dismissal/Pickup ……………………………………………………. 5

Social Distancing ……………………………………………………………….. 6

Cleaning/Disinfecting …………………………………………………………... 7

Illness …………………………………………………………………………… 7

Behavioral Health/Emotional Support ………………………………………….. 8

Welcome!

Dear Families,

We are grateful that you have chosen Little Saints Comprehensive Learning Center to help with the spiritual and social development of your child(ren). Hopefully, you are happy to have your child in this nurturing and educational environment. We also understand that during these times of the coronavirus (COVID-19), you may be feeling a bit uncertain or nervous about them being in a school community for a few different reasons.

Many parents share a concern about the “COVID Slide” (students falling a bit behind because of school closures this year). Our teachers will assess every student in their classes to identify learning needs and speak with their last year’s teachers to determine areas in which their previous students will need the most help as a whole group.

As a parent, I know you are worried about exposure to the virus. Procedures and protocols are in place at our school to help prevent the spread. The PreK-3 classes will only have nine (9) children to 1 teacher and PreK-4 classes will only have ten (10) children to 1 teacher. Handwashing and hygiene, social distancing, proper mask care, and extra cleaning measures are at the forefront of our prevention protocol. Lessons about all new routines will be taught in these first few weeks and revisited as necessary throughout the year. Please see the additional pages for details on these procedures. Reviewing these at home will help our students make these routines into healthy habits!

Your child deserves a safe year filled with rich learning opportunities! Parents and teachers working together and communicating openly is the key! Please let us know if you have questions or feedback.

Sincerely,

*Little Saints Comprehensive Learning Center Administration and Staff*

FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

**What is COVID-19**

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus ‘CO’ STANDS FOR CORONA, ‘VI’ for virus, and ‘D’ for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as ‘2019 novel coronavirus’ or ‘2019-nCoV.’ The COVID-19 virus is a new virus linked to the same family of viruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and some types of common cold.

**What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

Symptoms can include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia or breathing difficulties. More rarely, the disease can be fatal. These symptoms are like the flu (influenza) or the common cold, which are a lot more common than COVID-19. Therefore, testing is required to confirm if someone has COVID-19.

**How does COVID-19 spread?**

The virus is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory droplets of an infected person (generated through coughing and sneezing). Individuals can also be infected from and touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and touching their face (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth). The COVID-19 virus may survive on surfaces for several hours, but simple disinfectants can kill it.

**Who is most at risk?**

We are learning more about how COVID-19 affects people every day. Older people, and people with chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease, appear to be more at risk of developing severe symptoms. As this is a new virus, we are still learning about how if affects children. We know it is possible for people of any age to be infected with the virus. This is a new virus and we need to learn more about how it affects children. The virus can be fatal in rare cases, so far mainly among older people with pre-existing medical conditions.

**What is the treatment for COVID-19?**

There is no currently available vaccine for COVID-19. However, many of the symptoms can be treated and getting early care from a healthcare provider can make the disease less dangerous. There are several clinical trials that are being conducted to evaluate potential therapeutics for COVID-19.

**How can the spread of COVID-19 be slowed down or prevented?**

As with other respiratory infections like the flu or the common cold, public health measures are critical to slow the spread of illnesses. Public health measures are everyday preventive actions that include:

* staying home when sick;
* covering mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing. Dispose of used tissue immediately.
* washing hands often with soap and water; and
* cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects.

As we learn more about COVID-19 public health officials may recommend additional actions.

Morning Arrival

**Temperature checks for all students, staff, and essential persons are required.** All individuals with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher will be sent home (please do not be offended if you are asked to take your child back home due to a high temperature). ***Students, teachers, and other staff members may not return until a written doctor’s note is submitted stating that this person is clear of any illness. (See section on “illness”).***

Parents are to drive up to the front door of the preschool (under the canopy). Parents and students are to remain in the vehicle (parents, please do not enter the building). A teacher will come to your car to take your child’s temperature with a non-contact/touch thermometer. Parents must remain at the school until their child’s morning temperature has been checked, and then the student is approved to enter the school building (students will be escorted to their classrooms). This procedure not only ensures a smooth arrival process, but also reduces the number of individuals we have in the building *(less people, less the spread).*

All students, staff, and other essential persons are required to wear face masks upon entering the building, and it must remain on for the duration of time in the building. All individuals must sanitize their hands immediately upon entry by using hand sanitizer.

Afternoon Dismissal/Pick-Up

Another temperature check will be given to all students before dismissal. As stated above all individuals with a temperature 100 degrees or higher may not return until a written doctor’s note is submitted stating that this person is clear of any illness.

Parents are to drive up to the front door of the preschool (under the canopy). Parents are to remain in the vehicle (parents do not enter the building). A staff member will escort your child to your car; they will sanitize his/her hands before exiting the building. A school staff member will also give the parent brief report of their child’s health status for that day.

Social Distancing

**Classroom**

Each table and chair will be cleaned and sanitized. Students will remain with their class for the duration of the day, with the same teacher all day. Sharing of belongings is prohibited (pencil boxes, toys, books, etc.). Children will be distanced 6 feet apart in all classrooms. Student belongings will be stored in labeled cubbies.

**Face Masks**

All teachers, students, staff members and other essential person must wear masks upon entering the building and must be worn through the school day (except during lunch time). Please make sure the mask fits appropriately (if needed, mask is available).

**Hallway**

Since our student enrollment is small, traffic in the hallway will be minimal. However, social distancing will still be implemented during transition.

**Restroom**

The restroom breaks for all classrooms will be staggered, so that only one classroom will go one at a time and the teacher will always be present with their class.

Students must wash their hands with the taught protocol (*“How to Wash Your Hands*”). It will be taught by singing ABC’s or counting 1 to 20. While in the bathroom, students need avoid touching their masks. If the restroom is occupied, the students must wait outside in the hallway on designated spots until the whole class is finished using the restroom still practicing social distancing while a teacher or staff member will be monitoring.

**Breakfast/Lunch/Snack Time**

Because we are practicing social distancing, lunch time will be different. Our lunches will not be catered during this time. Each student must bring his/her own lunch (please pack a healthy lunch/snack). Lunch and snacks will be eaten in the classroom. Please make sure that your child’s lunch is packed with an ice pack to maintain its freshness. **Microwaves will not be available to heat food (teachers will not be allowed to leave the children unattended to warm food)**. Also, eating and birthday parties with your child are not allowed at this time.

**Recess**

Enforcing physical distancing in an outside playground is difficult and may not be the most effective method of risk mitigation. Emphasis will be placed on limiting the size of groups participating in playground time. Outdoor playtimes will be staggered. Outdoor transmission of virus is known to be much lower than indoor transmission.

**Assemblies/Chapel Time/Other Schoolwide Activities**

Daily morning devotion and workshop will be held separately in each classroom and other assemblies are canceled.

**School Supplies**

Because we are practicing social distancing, students will need to keep their own school supplies. There will be no “sharing” of school supplies as we have done in previous years. Students must maintain their supplies in their pencil box and in their cubby. Teachers will let you know if your child’s supplies need to be replenished.

**Dress Code**

The dress code at Little Saints has and remains to be uniforms.

**Cleaning/Disinfecting**

All teachers, staff members, and other essential persons will implement the following procedures:

* Make sure you have all your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): face masks, gloves, soap, paper towels, sanitizer, cleaning supplies, etc. for the day
* Cleaning of high-touch areas
* Tables in proper formation for social distancing
* Keep teacher workstation, desk, device, pencils, remotes, whiteboard, and markers cleaned
* Monitor students when they use the restroom. Teach students to do their part to keep the restrooms clean (flush toilets, throw used paper towels in trash receptacle, clean up water on sink counter, etc.)
* Promote and demonstrate regular handwashing and positive hygiene behaviors and monitor their uptake.
* Ensure that the restroom is always properly stocked with paper and soap supplies.
* Place hand sanitizers in classrooms, near entrance and exits where possible. The American Academy of Pediatrics urge to keep hand sanitizers out of children’s reach. It is required that teachers should supervise children ages 5 and younger when they use hand sanitizer.
* The preschool building is cleaned and disinfected by our hired cleaning crew when we close. Throughout the day the staff and teachers clean and disinfect preschool building classrooms bathrooms, spray, or wipe down handles, tables, faucets, etc. As a precaution, the students will not be allowed to use the water fountains (each child must bring their own water to drink).
* Inventory of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), soap, paper towels and cleaning supplies will be submitted by the teacher or student.

**Illness**

Should a student become ill at school, the parents will be notified. Students who have a temperature of 100 degrees or more are not permitted to remain at school. It is strongly recommended that the following general polices are followed:

* Any student or staff member with a fever of 100 degrees or greater ***must*** be sent home. Parents will be contacted to pickup their sick child promptly.
* Students, teachers, and other staff members may not return until a written doctor’s note is submitted stating that this person is clear of any illness. ***No exceptions.***
* If your child had a fever overnight or in the morning, please DO NOT give him/her Tylenol/Motrin and then SEND THEM TO SCHOOL. If he/she has had a fever prior to the start of school, please keep him/her home to prevent the spread of germs. It is recommended that you seek medical attention to help your child. It is the responsible action to take during this pandemic.

The following procedures will be implemented if a teacher/student exhibits symptom of COVID-19.

* There will be a designated location in the building if a student or staff member who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be taken to isolate them from others until the student or staff member can be picked up from school. Anyone entering the room must be wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
* **The student and/or teacher must seek medical attention (testing) and stay home until a negative test result is received. If the test comes back positive, the student that was diagnosed with COVID-19 and the other students and teacher will need to be tested. They will need to be quarantine for 14 days. The classroom will need to be aired out for 24 hours, cleaned and disinfected. A copy of a “negative” test result must be submitted to the Director before returning to school.**
* All parents will be notified to inform of possible exposure in the school.
* If the testing results are positive, the local health department will be notified immediately.

**Please notify the school if you suspect that your child has been exposed to COVID-19 IMMEDIATELY.**

**Behavioral Health/Emotional Support**

As teachers, we will anticipate and prepare to assist in the emotional needs of our students. Prayers, lessons, and discussions will be imparted to help any student experiencing any anxiety during this time of uncertainty. However, we highly suggest that you seek counseling if your child is struggling with extreme anxiety or distress.