

St. David's Preschool COVID-19 Guidelines

Best Practices for Reducing the Spread of COVID-19:

St. David's has developed a plan to maintain your child's health, minimize the spread of infection, and provide a quality, enjoyable, and interactive learning environment. Please realize, given the changing nature of the virus situation, we will continue to learn and be flexible with our guidelines. We will follow advice from the CDC, the Department of Public Health (DPH), the Georgia Department of Education, and the Fulton County Board of Education.

To ensure and preserve the health and safety of our community, we ask that our families partner with us in exercising best practices when at school and at home. Best practices for St. David's families include:

- *SOCIAL DISTANCING* – Avoid unnecessary public exposure. If out in public, keep at least six feet away from others. Please realize that individual actions effect our preschool family, and community exposure outside of school has the potential to introduce the spread of COVID-19 here. Consider gatherings and trips as potential spreading events and limit exposures.
- *WASHING HANDS AND COVERING COUGHS AND SNEEZES* – Wash hands frequently or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Cover your coughs and sneezes, using your elbow or a tissue. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- *WEARING FACE COVERINGS WHEN IN PUBLIC*
- *MONITORING THE HEALTH OF FAMILY MEMBERS AT HOME*- Please consider you family's general health and take cautious measures to keep your child home if there is concern of ANY illness. Screen your children at home for any signs or symptoms of sickness before arrival in carpool. Parents are responsible for truthful representation of the child and family's health

We, as St. David's teachers and staff, have committed to these best practices in our own lives, and we expect the same from our families. ***We are all in this together!***

Transmission and Symptoms of COVID-19:

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices such as handwashing, wearing masks, and staying home when sick are most important.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- **Fever* or chills**
- **New cough**
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- **Fatigue**
- **Muscle or body aches**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Sore throat**
- **Congestion or runny nose**
- **Headache**

This list does not include all the possible symptoms. Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) are less common than other symptoms, but have been reported. People with COVID-19 report a wide range of symptoms and mild to severe illness. Even people with no or mild symptoms can spread the virus. Children with COVID-19 may not initially present with fever and cough as often as adult patients.

*Fever is determined by a measured temperature of 100.4° or greater, or feels warm to the touch, or says they have recently felt feverish.

Plans for Preschool at St. David's:

- All classes meet from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM on child's designated school day
- Class size is limited to 10 children
- No non-staff adults will be allowed in the preschool wing. **NO PARENTS/VISITORS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING**
- All children will arrive and depart by carpool using only the playground door. Families arriving late, will be required to wait outside the building until a staff member receives the child at the door. We will no longer use the church main entrance doors. Teachers will escort children to their classrooms using proper personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Temperature and health screen checks will be done daily in carpool while the children are still in their cars. Parents are responsible for truthful representation of the health status of their child and their family. Teachers will also have daily temperature and health screenings
- **Sick children DO NOT come to preschool.** Children with temperatures above 100° or who appear ill will be sent home
- Children will be in pods (Lions: Pre-K & Pre-K +, Tigers: 3's rooms, Teddy Bears: 2's/Toddler room) with no intermixing outside of pods
- Snack will be provided, prepared, and distributed by St. David's staff adhering to strict sanitation guidelines
- No before or after school activities
- More outdoor learning when possible including for in-preschool specials like music/movement, chapel, and Spanish
- Staff will wear facemasks during transitions and when close to children and face shields for instruction in groups
- Children over age 3 will be taught to how and when to wear a mask and will learn manage it themselves (kept at preschool)
- We will wash adult's and children's hands each time we enter or leave the classroom as well as frequently throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be used when there is no access to soap and water
- Additional cleaning and sanitizing practices will be implemented in all classrooms
- Children will be provided with their own set of school supplies stored in their designated covered box
- We will discontinue the use of dress-ups, soft toys, sand and sensory tables, and other porous play materials

In accordance with the CDC recommendations, St. David's will:

- Perform daily temperature checks and symptom monitoring. All students and staff will be screened prior to entering the building. Those who manifest symptoms of concern or a fever of 100° or above will not be admitted to school and must be fever free for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications before returning to school. (See **Staying Home/Medical Dismissal from School**)
- Students who exhibit concerning symptoms during the day will be provided a designated, isolated sick area until pick up
- Maintain a closed building. Only essential personnel will be allowed in the building. **NO PARENTS/VISITORS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING**
- Post appropriate signage to control entry to preschool spaces
- Require face coverings and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff
- Teach and encourage proper handwashing techniques. Hands will be washed regularly throughout the day. In addition to usual handwashing, hands will be washed:
 - upon arrival in the morning
 - before and after eating snacks
 - after blowing noses, coughing, sneezing, or when in contact with body fluids
 - after toileting
- Maintain pods of students that stay together all day. Increased opportunities for outdoor play and learning will be added to our day. Minimize sharing of objects and appropriately clean shared surfaces and objects between use

Staying Home/Medical Dismissal from School

Students who develop symptoms at home or are identified in carpool:

- If your child has any of the above-listed symptoms of COVID-19, please keep your child at home
- Temperature checks and health screening questions will be asked before a child exits their car. These questions will cover the child's overall health in the last 24 hours, the general health of the household, and potential exposures to COVID-19

- If any questions during carpool screening are a “yes” or temperature registers over 100°, you will be asked to take your child home and contact your physician for evaluation
- Any students who are in the car with you at that time will be asked to go home as well, until further evaluation by a physician

Students who develop new symptoms at school:

If during the school day, a student has any of the above-listed symptoms, the following steps will be taken:

- The student will be moved to a designated, isolated sick area with a staff member for supervision
- The student MUST be picked up by a parent or documented adult within one hour

If your child is COVID-19 positive:

The positive result must be reported to the office and the child must be isolated at home. If the child has attended preschool and there is potential exposure, an email will be sent to families within that pod. St. David’s will follow the guidance of the DPH to alert those involved families.

The student may return to school once **ALL** the following criteria have been met:

- Child has been fever-free for three consecutive days without the aid of fever reducing medication
- Child’s symptoms have improved
- It has been 10 days since the child’s first symptoms appeared
- If the child has a sibling at St. David’s, they must quarantine for 14 days to watch for developing symptoms
- A note from a physician is required to return to school

If your child tests negative for COVID-19 and has a fever:

- The child must be fever-free (under 100°) without fever reducing medication for 24 hours prior to returning to school

If your child is not tested for COVID-19 and has a fever from a verifiable source (e.g. ear infection, strep):

- The child must be fever-free (under 100°) without fever reducing medication, asymptomatic, and must take prescribed antibiotics for at least a full course before returning to school
- A physician’s note clearing the child for school is required

If your child is not tested for COVID-19 and has a fever from an unverifiable source (e.g. virus):

- The child must quarantine at home and may return to school when ALL the following criteria have been met:
 - The child has been fever-free with no fever reducing medicine for 72 hours
 - The child’s symptoms have improved

If your child has a family member at home who has been exposed to COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19:

- The child must stay home to quarantine until the family member is cleared
- Follow DPH guidelines criteria to discontinue home isolation

If a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, St. David’s will:

- Inform those who have had close contact with the individual (confidentiality will be maintained) to stay home and follow DPH guidance if symptoms develop. If a child does not have symptoms, follow appropriate DPH guidance for home quarantine
- Close off areas used by the person who is sick
- Wait up to 24 hours, or as long as possible, to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick

- If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick was on campus, no additional cleaning and disinfecting will be necessary. We will continue routine cleaning and disinfecting.

If there is a possible COVID-19 exposure of a child or staff member while at preschool, St. David's will:

- Dismiss staff member or child ASAP
- Close off areas used by the person who is sick
- Move classes within that pod to an alternate learning environment until dismissal
- An email will be sent to families within that pod to detail the plan for return to school
- Wait up to 24 hours, or as long as possible, to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick then allow appropriate waiting time for opening
- **Parents will continue to closely monitor their child's health and make their decision about returning to school**