

Paradise Valley United Methodist Church Preschool COVID Mitigation Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year

August 2021

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Illness and Communicable Disease Policy for PVUMC Preschool

For the well-being of all our children and staff, a child who is ill may not come to preschool. If a child becomes ill at school or if a child's condition is suspected to be contagious, a member of the child's teaching team will bring the child to the Preschool Office where office staff will contact parents or other persons authorized by the parents to pick the child up from school. If the parent does not respond to the phone call or text message within 5 minutes, the next person on the authorized pick-up list will be called to come get the child. PVUMC Preschool is unable to watch ill children at preschool for any length of time and would ask for your prompt attentiveness in picking up your ill child. The child will be made comfortable and will remain with office staff in an isolated room located away from the preschool classrooms and office.

A child will be sent home from preschool if he/she has a temperature of 100 degrees or above or if the child has addition symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, headache, stomach ache, undiagnosed rashes, or the child is lethargic or not his/her normal self, even without a fever. A child must be free from fever, diarrhea and vomiting **without the use of medication** for 24 hours prior to the return to school. A child with a nose running yellow or green or coughing is also considered ill and contagious. Families with children who have allergies that cause clear running noses may be asked to provide documentation from a health care provider.

With the COVID-19 pandemic going on we would ask all of our PVUMC Preschool families to err on the side of caution and keep your child home if you suspect your child is coming down with anything or has been exposed to any type of illness.

Guidelines for Determining When and How an Individual Who Tests Positive for COVID-19, Displays COVID-19 Symptoms, or Is a Close Contact May Return to the Preschool

If a **preschool child** tests positive for COVID-19, displays COVID-19 symptoms, or is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please refer to the preschool's **COVID-19 Return to Preschool Policy for Preschool Children 2021-22 (Attachment 1)** for guidance about when and how the child may return to the preschool.

If a **vaccinated staff member** tests positive for COVID-19, displays COVID-19 symptoms, or is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please refer to the preschool's **COVID-19 Return to Preschool Policy for VACCINATED PVUMC Preschool Staff Members for the 2021-22 School Year (Attachment 2)**.

If an **unvaccinated staff member** tests positive for COVID-19, displays COVID-19 symptoms, or is a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please refer to the

preschool's **COVID-19 Return to Preschool Policy for UNVACCINATED PVUMC Preschool Staff Members for the 2021-22 School Year** (Attachment 3).

The preschool will no longer categorically close classrooms if a child or teacher in that classroom tests positive for COVID-19. Instead, the preschool will make any decisions about classroom closures on a case-by-case basis with the help of the county health department.

Work Day Procedures for Staff

- Preschool staff members shall wear a mask or face shield while indoors with children, regardless of vaccination status. Preschool staff members do not need to wear a mask or face shield during playground time or when they and the children are outdoors.
- Upon arrival, wash hands with soap and water.
- Prior to leaving, wash hands with soap and water.

Preschool Yearly Calendar

Given the uncertainty about the status and effects of the pandemic, on the preschool calendar, we have marked some of our regular events (Welcome Back Event, Father's Saturday, Christmas Programs, Preschool Open House, etc.) as "TBD" (to be determined). These events may or may not take place, depending upon the status and impact of the pandemic and ongoing protective measures.

Parent Orientation

Parent Orientation will take place on Monday, August 16, 2021, from 5:30-7:15 p.m. We are asking that **only one family member** attend Parent Orientation due to the need to social distance in the classrooms.

At 5:30 p.m., there will be an orientation for new families in the Sanctuary. We will ask for attendees to wear masks and socially distance from other families while inside the Sanctuary.

From 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., one family member will attend Parent Orientation in their children's classrooms. The teachers will divide their classroom families into two groups. One group will meet in the classroom from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., and the other group will meet in the classroom from 6:45 to 7:15 p.m., in order to minimize the number of people in the classroom at one time. We will ask for attendees to wear masks while inside the classrooms.

Parent and Child Orientation

Parent and Child Orientation will take place during the mornings of Tuesday, August 17th, and Wednesday, August 18th. We will ask parents to wear masks while inside the classrooms.

Morning Drop-Off

- We strongly recommend that parents wear a mask when dropping their children off at the preschool, regardless of vaccination status, and maintain social distance from other families while inside the preschool gates.
- Classrooms will open at 8:55 a.m. If a family is running late, they should bring the child directly to his/her classroom instead of coming to the preschool office.
- After entering the classroom, children will wash their hands before they begin the preschool day.
- Parents will not enter the classroom while dropping off their children at preschool.

COVID Mitigation Strategies while in the Classroom and on the Playground

- Children will wash their hands using soap and water before going to the playgrounds and after playing on the playgrounds.
- Snack will be served by the Preschool staff wearing gloves. Each child will have their snack prepared and served individually. Snack and water will not be passed Family Style at this time.
- Snack will be served on throw away plates or napkins and disposable cups.
- Children will wash their hands with soap and water before and after snack.
- All children will need to bring a filled water bottle each morning to Preschool marked with their name and classroom number. We will refill water bottles, but will not be having the children use the outside water fountains at this time for drinking.
- Children may bring their lunch for Lunch Bunch in a cloth, metal container or paper sack.

Afternoon Pick-Up (at noon or after Lunch Bunch/Play Bunch)

- We strongly recommend that parents wear a mask when picking their children up at the preschool, regardless of vaccination status, and maintain social distance from other families while inside the preschool gates.
- Parents will not enter the classroom while picking up their children at preschool.

Procedures for After School Programs Providers

- After school programs providers shall wear a mask or face shield while indoors with children.