

## **RUMCK COVID Policies and Procedures**

**The following procedures and policies are either standard practice at RUMCK or have been added due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When a policy or procedure listed below differs from the parent or staff handbook in any way, the temporary policies in place due to COVID-19 override previous policy. Staff are familiar with and will be implementing these new policies.**

*Early childhood is the time for being social, learning through play, making new discoveries, and practicing new skills. Young children learn best from hands-on activities with many opportunities to interact with peers and teachers. We want to take care to honor this unique time in a child's development while keeping our children, families, and staff safe. These policies and procedures were built upon the guidance and recommendations of the Georgia Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.*

### **Teacher and Classroom Interaction**

Your child's teacher will not be socially distanced from him/her. Your child's class will become a group that will practice healthy hygiene and be together throughout each school day.

Teachers will have temperatures taken each day upon arrival.

Teachers will wear masks or face shields while in the school and during carpool. Because we feel it is important for our children to be able to see expression, our lips and mouths as they learn language and learn how to process feelings, we will allow the use of face shields.

Children will be limited to contact with their class for school activities. At all times these numbers and classroom ratios will be within CDC and church guidelines. The maximum number of students in a classroom will be 16.

### **Outside the Classroom**

Classes will not be combined with another class on the playground. Children will wash hands or use hand sanitizer when returning to class.

Children will be socially distanced from other classes in common areas.

Ms. Ginny, our music teacher, and Ms. Dawn, our creative movement teacher, will be socially distanced from all classes and will disinfect items used between each class. Music classes will be socially distanced with masks on for singing in the classroom. For music outside, children will be socially distanced, but not required to wear masks.

Chapel will be held monthly. Classes will be socially distanced from one another in the sanctuary and on the steps in the south narthex. Children will be socially distanced for singing and will wear masks.

## **Student Masks**

Children in the 3-year-old classes and older should wear a mask in the school building. We realize wearing masks is a new life skill and many children have learned to wear masks during the last few months. We also recognize some children do not leave masks in place and are constantly touching them. Therefore, we encourage you to work with your child at home so that he/she is successful at wearing a mask at school. We realize this will be challenging for some, and we will gently encourage your child. We ask that you wash your child's mask or send your child to school wearing a clean mask daily.

The children will be taken outside daily, weather permitting, where masks are not necessary.

## **Classroom Toys & Surfaces**

Classroom toys and manipulatives will be disinfected daily by teachers. All toys will be disinfected by teachers before they pass to another classroom or returned to our manipulative closets.

Any toy put into a child's mouth will be put into a "soiled toy" container and disinfected by teachers before being returned to classroom use.

All tables and chairs will be disinfected by teachers before school, snack, and lunch.

All commonly touched classroom surfaces such as light switches, doorknobs, and sink handles, will be disinfected daily by custodial staff.

Common spaces will be cleaned at intervals during the day by school and custodial staff.

Children will have their own individual items such as scissors, markers, etc.

## **Handwashing**

Children will wash hands using proper hand washing technique before and after snack/lunch and after using the bathroom. Please practice this at home in advance to help us expedite the learning process.

Hand sanitizer will be used as children arrive each day, upon dismissal for carpool, and at other times throughout the day.

## **Food**

Each child will bring his/her own snack, water bottle, and lunch (as applicable) to school each day. There will be no sharing of food.

## **Special Programs**

Special programs will be handled on a case-by-case basis. When programs are announced, we will communicate our plan to implement.

## **Health Screenings**

The most important thing we can do to keep our school free from sickness is for children who are ill to stay at home. This has always been our schoolwide policy, and guidelines now encourage programs to have a health screening procedure in place to ensure children arriving at school are not sick.

Therefore, we will be conducting health screenings and temperature checks daily. School staff conducting the screening will be wearing a mask or face shield and have sanitizer wipes available to clean the thermometer in the event it comes in contact with skin.

While you are in the carpool line, you will be asked if your child has shown signs or symptoms of illness or taken any medication within the last 24 hours. If your answer is yes, your child will not be allowed to stay at school. Before exiting the car, your child will have his/her temperature taken. If your child has a fever of 100.4 or higher, he/she will not be allowed to stay at school. Your child will need to be fever and symptom free for a minimum of 72 hours (3 days) without the use of medication to be able to return to school.

## **Health Screenings for Students Arriving Late**

If your child is late for school, you will need to park and walk in the main school entrance. The parent and child should wear a mask upon entering the building. The greeter will perform the health screening and temperature check. The child will then be escorted to class by school staff. If you see another parent at the entrance, please wait outside until the parent has exited the building.

## **Classroom Visitors**

We will have a “no visitor” policy to avoid exposure. Anyone entering the building will be given a health screening and temperature check. They will not be allowed to go beyond the greeter’s desk.

## **Afternoon Carpool**

All families will use carpool to reduce contact. Please have your carpool number displayed with the hanger on your rearview mirror.

## **Checking a Child Out Early**

To check your child out early, you will need to park and walk in the main school entrance. The parent should wear a mask upon entering the school. The greeter will call the office and school staff will escort

the child to the front desk to meet the parent. If you know that you are planning to check your child out early, please send a note to your child's teacher or contact the school office.

### **Sickness at School**

If a child gets sick at school, he/she will be quarantined away from other students immediately and the parent will be contacted for pick up. The student will need to be fever and symptom free for 72 hours (3 days) without the use of medication to be able to return to school.

### **COVID-19 School Closures**

If a child is diagnosed with COVID-19, the parent or guardian should contact the director or assistant director immediately. You will be informed if there are any changes in this policy at that time. A health alert will be sent home and the children in that class will need to quarantine for 10 days. The classroom and all items in the classroom will be thoroughly disinfected. The child who tested positive may return after:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared, **and**
  - 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, **and**
  - Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving\*
- \*Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.

If a family member living with a child is diagnosed with COVID-19, the director or assistant director should be notified. You will be informed at that time if there have been any changes to this policy. The family member must be isolated from the child. The child in contact with the family member may return to school after:

- Day 10 without testing **and** if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.
- Day 7 with a negative PCR test taken 5 days after exposure **and** if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.

The classroom will not be shut down unless a student or teacher in the classroom has been diagnosed.

RUMCK expects each family to act responsibly, communicate with RUMCK, and quarantine any child who has been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19 for the safety of all students and staff. Confidentiality in these circumstances will be maintained. We ask our families to work together as we navigate this new normal.