

PMO COVID Policies and Procedures

The following procedures and policies are either standard practice at PMO 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 8.

Student Masks

Children in PMO will not be required to wear masks pursuant to CDC guidelines.

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 as age appropriate or their hands will be cleaned with a disposable wipe 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 water bottle and lunch to school each day. There will be no sharing of food. If a snack is needed prior to lunch, single serve snacks of Goldfish crackers or Cheerios will be provided.

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.

Parents will bring your child to the classroom door and pick up at the classroom door. Parents must be masked and will have their temperature checked by the greeter or PMO director. 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. At the classroom door, 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 should wear a mask upon entering the building. The greeter will perform the health screening and

temperature check. Take your child to the classroom door. 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 Pickup

Please allow 6 feet of space between yourself and others waiting to pick up a child. Do not enter the classroom and do not linger in the hall once you have picked up your child.

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.

PMO expects each family to act responsibly, communicate with PMO, 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.