

St. Mark Lutheran Preschool Re-opening Plan

For the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency, St. Mark Lutheran Preschool will operate as one cohort, a self-contained small group of students, with no interaction with students or staff in the Head Start program which operates in a separate space in the building. To further limit potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus, the following protocols and procedures have been established and will be followed.

- Face coverings that cover both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times by St. Mark students, teaching staff, parents and visitors when on school grounds and in the school building, with the exception of church personnel when in an isolated office. A plastic face shield alone is not an acceptable face covering. During times when face coverings need to be removed, such as meal times and for short breaks when needed, individuals will be seated 6 ft. apart. Members of the same family may be seated together. If an individual does not have a face covering, one will be provided to them.
- Daily mandatory health screenings will include temperature checks of students, staff, therapists and church personnel who enter the classroom, as well as a questionnaire relating to potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Screeners will be provided with, and must use, appropriate PPE. If an individual being screened presents a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, or has potentially been exposed to the virus, as determined by the questionnaire, the individual will be denied entry into the classroom. If a child develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day they will be placed in an area separate from other children and supervised while waiting to be picked up. Parents will be called immediately and given protocols for how to pick up their child along with instructions that the student must be seen by a health care provider. Staff supervising the student will be supplied with appropriate PPE to ensure their safety. If a staff member develops symptoms during the school day they will immediately be sent home with instructions that they must be seen by a health care provider.
- If a student, staff member, classroom visitor, or immediate family member of such is diagnosed positive with COVID-19 they must immediately notify the school. The state and local health department will immediately be notified about the case. Cleaning and disinfection guidance set forth by DOH and CDC for cleaning and disinfection of exposed areas will be adhered to and appropriate notification will be given to parents, staff and visitors.
- A daily log of all individuals who enter the classroom will be maintained for contact tracing purposes. The state and local health department will be notified immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual within school facilities or on school grounds, including students, parents, faculty, staff, and visitors.
- Should an individual, student or staff, screen positive for COVID-19 symptoms or has had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19, the local health department(s) will be consulted and requirements will be established for determining when the individual can return to school. This return to school protocol shall include, at minimum, written documentation from a health care provider following evaluation, negative COVID-19 diagnostic test result, and symptom resolution, or if COVID-19 positive, release from isolation. Individuals will be referred to their personal physician or their local health department for testing.
- At drop-off and pick-up times families will be instructed to use the ramp on the left side of the porch to approach the classroom door on the left, using appropriate social distancing. Children will be screened at the door before entering the classroom. Parents/guardians will then walk across the porch and use the stairs to exit, allowing the next family to continue from the ramp to the door. Once a child enters the school they will be directed to the restroom to wash their hands before entering the classroom.

- Weather permitting; many classroom activities will be conducted outdoors.
- Inside the classroom, ventilation with outdoor air will be increased to the greatest extent possible, through the use of fans and open windows, while maintaining health and safety protocols.
- Social distancing inside the classroom will be maintained to the greatest degree possible by limiting the number of children in each interest area at a given time.
- Prior to school opening, the classroom and bathrooms have been deep cleaned. Every surface and toy has been cleaned and disinfected. Throughout the school year, guidance set forth by DOH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for cleaning and disinfection of toys and surfaces will be adhered to. Students, faculty, and staff will be trained on proper hand and respiratory hygiene. Logs that include the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection, as well as identify cleaning and disinfection frequency will be maintained.
- All students will bring in a snack for their personal consumption in a lunch box labelled with their name, as well as a labelled drink/water bottle. These will be kept in the child's cubby so as to prevent cross-contamination. Children will wash hands immediately before and after eating. During snack time staff will use food service gloves to help children open containers, if needed. All surfaces will be cleaned immediately after use, and disinfected at the end of the day.
- The director of the program will monitor state and local health departments and governing authorities for warning signs that positive COVID-19 cases may be increasing beyond an acceptable level, as established by state and local health departments, and will follow all guidance set forth by such authorities.
- The school will communicate with families, through email and direct mailings, about preparing for the upcoming year as well as any new information that develops during the course of the school year.