



## Derry Preschool Health and Safety Plan COVID-19 Plan and Procedures

**As of 8-16-20**

***(Plan is subject to change as guidance on response to pandemic develops)***

Derry Preschool is a private preschool who is certified by the PA Department of Education and is located in Derry Township. This Health and Safety Plan has been created to support multiple scenarios throughout the course of the school year. This is a fluid document, based on local, state and federal guidelines that will continue to develop over time. The information in this document is taken from the CDC, PDE, DOH and AAP. For more information on these specific COVID-19 guidelines can be found on the following websites:

The Center of Disease Control (CDC) : <https://www.cdc.gov>

The PA Department of Education (PDE): <https://www.education.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

The PA Department of Health (DOH): <https://www.health.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): <https://www.aap.org/en-us/Pages/Default.aspx>

The CDC defines COVID-19 as a respiratory illness accompanied with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. The virus is spread person-to-person between people within close contact via respiratory droplets. This occurs most often when someone sneezes or coughs and another person nearby inhales the droplets into the lungs. Transmission may also be possible through contact with contaminated surfaces, but this is not the primary source of transmission.

There is a wide range of symptoms reported and these symptoms range from mild to severe. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. (This list does not include all possible symptoms and this list may be updated. Please refer to the link for the most up to date list of symptoms)

- fever or chills
- cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fatigue
- muscle or body aches
- headache
- new loss of taste or smell
- sore throat
- congestion or runny nose
- nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

## **GENERAL POLICIES**

### **Face coverings**

All persons over the age of 2 years need to wear a face mask at Derry Preschool. Please have your child wearing their face mask when they arrive at Derry Preschool. Also plan to have an extra face mask in your child's bookbag, it is best if the extra mask is placed in a plastic bag or container. A face mask can be made of synthetic or natural fibers and cover the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. All staff and students will be wearing a mask for the duration of the class.

At Derry Preschool we have learned from our medical task force that a face mask is the safest face covering option for preschool aged children because it helps keep hands from nose and mouth. Children who are unable to wear a face mask are asked to contact the director with a written exemption and reason. We will accept these exemptions on a case to case basis to see if a face shield is an appropriate replacement. We are mandated to require a facial covering while at school for the safety of all staff and students in the classroom.

### **Social Distancing**

Each class will stay with their fellow classmates and their teachers for the entire preschool class. We will be providing movement mats labeled for each child that will allow us to set up spots around the classroom during the structured times of our day (gathering time, story time, movement time). We will also be adding extra outdoor time, weather permitting. We will provide an organized outdoor time to take a mask break, along with playground time. During these times, there will only be one classroom in each area so that classrooms will not be mixed. Mask Breaks will be given during times when we will intentionally social distance the children.

We will not be hosting any enrichment classes or extended day programs such as Lunch Bunch, KickStart, Zumba or art classes at this time.

### **Additional Safety Precautions**

There will be added hand washing and sanitizing throughout the day for staff and children. All staff and children will sanitize hands after entering the building (both at entry and after outside play time). We have installed three additional hand sanitizing stations at our entrances.

We will be limiting sharing of materials in the classroom. Each DP student will be given a creative kit! This is a fun new addition to help minimize sharing materials in the classroom. The art materials in the kit will belong to the student and will be given to the student to take home either in event we need to transfer to a virtual learning environment or at the duration of the school year.

We will be creating extra outdoor space that will allow for children to spend more of their school day outdoors (weather permitting). We are creating a rotating outdoor schedule to ensure that classrooms will not be combining. Children will remain with their specific classroom group for the duration of their school day.

We will be intentional about using minimal items in the classroom. We will remove items with porous surfaces and choose items that contain materials that can be easily sanitized. We will be making additional efforts to sanitize and disinfect all surfaces and objects that are used after each class. We will be wiping surfaces throughout the day, with a focus on the high touch surfaces that are in shared spaces (such as doors in hallway, bathroom sink handles, paper towel dispensers, etc.). We have installed 3 cleaning stations in our building that hold CDC approved disinfecting wipes. These will be used to wipe all high touch areas.

In order to maintain product supply, we are working with a company to purchase approved cleaning materials. We are not depending on parents to supply classrooms. We are however always thankful for any items that are donated.

The water fountains will be closed. We will be using signage around the building to remind all teachers and students about how to stay healthy. This includes wear a mask, cover when you cough, wash hands frequently, do not use water fountain.

### **Signs of Illness**

If your child shows signs of illness during the school day, we will provide a space for your child to relax that is distanced from peers in the classroom. We will then contact you. This year we will use extreme caution and we will call you if your child presents any symptoms of illness. \*Please ensure that the contact on the emergency authorization form is a person who is able to be reached and available during the school day hours.

### **Drop off and Pick up Procedures**

In an effort to limit exposure, we will not be allowing any adult who is not a staff member, inside the building. Each child will be assigned to an entrance door and a time. The child's teacher will greet you and your child and ask a few screening questions. They will then take the child's temperature with a no touch thermometer. The child's temperature must read less than 100.4 degrees in order to enter the building. The teacher will then offer hand sanitizer to the child and guide them to join their classmates.

Signage will be placed outside in this area to direct entrance/exit flow and promote social distancing. For your child's safety, staff members will also be required to go through the same screening process daily.

Daily screening questions for staff, families and children are:

-Has your child been fever free for 48 hours without medication? (a fever is 100.4 or higher is considered a fever according to CDC guidelines for COVID)

-Has your child recently had a new cough, sore throat or shortness of breath that is NOT attributed to another health condition?

-Have you or any household member had direct contact or live with anyone with a presumed or confirmed case of COVID-19? If the answer is yes to any of this question, we will ask that you remain home and only return to DP with a doctor's note.

The door that your child was dropped off at, will be the same door that your child will be picked up from as well. We will be implementing a staggered drop off/pick up time. If you are running late and not able to drop your child off during the assigned window of time, we ask that you wait outside and call the classroom phone number at 717-533-1487. A staff member will answer the phone and let your teacher know you have arrived and then meet you at the proper location to screen your child and escort them to the classroom.

### **ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM POLICIES**

#### **Snack**

To begin the year, we will supply a dry snack and water for each classroom. We will ensure that food allergies are considered when the snacks are being purchased. We will be using our movement mats to have a picnic style snack hopefully outside or in our classrooms. We will spread the mats around the grassy area/room so that we can social distance. We will model how to first wash hands and then take off their mask and avoid touching the fabric. The teachers will sanitize their hands and wear gloves to distribute a dry snack and water to each child. If your child has a food allergy, please ensure that is noted on your child's medical form and that you have a specific conversation with your child's teacher to discuss an action plan.

#### **Communication**

Face to face interactions with parents and teachers will obviously be impacted by our new protocols. We will be making extra efforts to communicate to you about our day through Bloomz and through email. Teachers will use Bloomz to communicate all classroom happenings. The Derry Preschool office will use email to communicate all school wide information.

### **DERRY PRESCHOOL COVID-19 ILLNESS POLICY**

Exposure is defined as: a) Being within 6 feet of someone for at least 15 minutes who has COVID-19 or b) coming into direct contact with sneezes, coughs, or respiratory droplets of the infected individual.

-If a child is exposed to an individual who has a confirmed case of COVID-19, the CDC is strongly recommending that they quarantine for a period of 14 days and will not be permitted to attend DP until after the duration of this quarantine.

-If any household member tests positive for COVID-19, it is also strongly recommended by the CDC to quarantine for 14 days. The child will not be permitted to attend DP during the duration of the quarantine.

-If a child begins to feel ill during the class time, they will be escorted to a separate waiting area and parents will be contacted.

The area in the middle hallway by our emergency exit will be our isolation area. This is a space that is not frequently traveled and parents can use that entrance to pick up their child if they are contacted to do so. While in the isolation area, an isolation area checklist will be utilized to ensure correct measures are occurring. These include things such as wearing additional Personal Protective Equipment, increasing ventilation, cleaning, handwashing, etc. while in the area.

These are the communication guidelines we will follow as it pertains to potential COVID contact:

- If a staff or student is symptomatic but does not have a confirmed case of COVID-19 AND no knowledge of contact with a confirmed case, no formal school wide communication will occur. Increased cleaning in the areas staff or student visited while sick will be disinfected as a precautionary measure.

-If a staff or student is symptomatic and is discovered to have been in contact with a confirmed case, we will use email communication to staff and families.

If a staff or student is symptomatic and does have a confirmed case of COVID-19, DP will initiate Infectious Disease Protocol. In this protocol, the Department of Health is contacted, and DP follows their guidance. We will be using the Chameleon Company to help with additional cleaning that will be done in any area the infected person was present. They will disinfect all touch surfaces and use an air mister disinfectant to that is sprayed in the air. In addition, families and staff will be alerted via email. HIPPA related policies will be followed throughout this process.

The following link is the guidance that will be used. The guidelines are based on whether the county is 'low', 'moderate' or 'substantial'.

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance/Pages/SchoolClosureRecommendations.aspx>

**Decision making for in-person or Virtual Learning:**

The DOH has provided a COVID-19 early warning monitoring system on their website and the link is provided below. This will be a tool that will be used in our decision-making process. This tool provides data based on the incidence rate per 100,000 residents in most recent 7-day period. We will follow the recommendation that once the percent positivity of diagnostic testing in Dauphin County hits 10%, which is then considered 'substantial' we will transition to a remote learning option.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>

