

Salem Preschool Pandemic Response Plan

Covid-19 - Modifications for the 2021-2022 School Year

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With the guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control, the Pennsylvania Department of Early Learning, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the National Association of Education of Young Children, we have developed the following plan to help reduce the possible exposure and spread of COVID-19. While these plans outline the current measures recommended for safety, it is important to acknowledge that these are fluid and tentative, dependent on the active cases in Allegheny County and surrounding areas.

Information can be found at the following site:

[COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/earlychildhood/operating-early-care-and-education-child-care-programs)

[Resources for School Communities During COVID-19 \(pa.gov\)](https://www.pa.gov/government/education/early-learning/early-learning-resources)

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT CREATED: June 2020

AMENDED: August 2020, November 2020, January 2020, March 2020 & August 2021

Schedule Modifications *Please see tables below

Each class will be reduced by 5 minutes and staggered. **siblings can come together*

8:55-11:25 9:00- 11:30 9:05-11:35
 12:25-2:55 12:30- 3:00 12:35-3:05

This will allow children to arrive and depart with fewer kids present.

Parents will walk their children to a designated door (Upper or Lower) for drop off and return to that door for pick up.

Health-Assessments will be made prior to the child entering the building.

MORNING CLASSES

8:55-11:25	Young 3s & TWTh PreK --- Upper Doors
9:00- 11:30	MWF 3s & TTh 3s --- Lower Doors
9:05-11:35	MTWTh PreK --- Upper Doors

AFTERNOON CLASSES

12:25-2:55	MTWTh PreK --- Upper Doors
12:30- 3:00	MWF 3s --- Lower Doors
12:35-3:05	5K --- Upper Doors

Classroom Modifications

Each child will have their own supplies: pencils, crayons, scissors (where appropriate), glue and work folder/papers.

Class will be separated into 2 cohort groups when appropriate.

Large group activities will be held in a larger open areas to encourage social-distancing.

Room 4 (4 Day AM PreK/5K Room) will use the downstairs restrooms, designated for preschool use only.

Windows will remain open to circulate the air in every classroom.

Cleaning/Sanitizing Modifications

High touch surfaces will be cleaned frequently during and between classes using a hydrogen peroxide sprayer.

Playground time will be scheduled so that there are not overlaps in classes, with high touch surfaces disinfected between each class.

The climbing room, theme room and large fellowship hall will be used by one class only per session and disinfected thoroughly afterward.

Children will be asked to wash their hands upon entering the classroom and several times throughout the day.

Children will sanitize their hands both entering and exiting our extra rooms.

Hand sanitizer will always be available (at student height).

All classrooms and shared spaces will be cleaned each weekday evening using professional grade cleaning products with our electrostatic sprayer.

Individual Modifications

Masks will be required for children and adults inside the building.

Mask breaks will be given several times throughout the day when children are outside, socially distant and stationary.

Families are responsible for furnishing masks for their children and disinfecting them each day.

Each child will bring their own water bottle. Snack will temporarily be eliminated.

Children will be encouraged to “spread their wings” to create social-distancing.

Information on Quarantine/Testing Timelines:

-If a student tests positive, that student’s class will be suspended immediately for a minimum of 24 hours, so that we may evaluate a timeline of symptoms and potential exposure, and conduct a thorough cleaning. Salem Preschool will seek guidance from the Allegheny County Department of Health in determining safe return dates for each unique situation.

-Quarantine timelines for our unvaccinated population of learners will remain at 10 calendar days from the date of exposure; however, families have the option to test on day 5 and return on day 8 with a negative test and no symptoms.

-Classroom teachers will conduct a 30-minute lesson via Zoom with their class in the event of a classroom shut down coinciding with a regular class day. The video lesson will begin at 10am and the link to join class will be sent via Brightwheel prior to the start of class.

-“Just in case bags” will be distributed at the start of the school year and will contain a variety of materials that will allow us a continuity of learning in the event of emergency. Please tuck these bags away for safe keeping...and cross your fingers that we never need them!

-If a person in your home has tested and is waiting on COVID-19 test results, please keep your child at home until you’ve received negative results.

-If anyone in your house has even minor symptoms of illness, please stay home.

Illness Modifications

If a staff person, household member, or child is exposed to an individual who tests positive for COVID-19, they are required to self-quarantine. Academic and creative materials will be available for pick up at Salem Preschool for continuity of learning.

If a child becomes ill while at Salem Preschool, we will isolate them in a designated area until they are able to be picked up. That area will be disinfected immediately.

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the class will be suspended for minimum of 24 hours for disinfecting.

Any person who tests positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to Salem Preschool only after: 10 days have passed from the onset of symptoms AND that person is fever free (without medications) for 72 hours AND respiratory symptoms (cough and shortness of breath) have diminished.

Additional Notes

Lunch Bunch and Stay Day will be temporarily suspended.

DART Therapists will meet in areas outside of the classrooms if appropriate.

We will utilize all available spaces in Salem UMC (Large Fellowship Hall, Small Fellowship Hall, Olive Branch Room, Youth Room, Sanctuary, and Good Shepard Chapel) as needed to provide ample space to encourage social distancing.

We will utilize our 2 outdoor classrooms and picnic table area as additional instructional spaces as weather permits.

This Pandemic Response Plan supersedes elements of the previously drafted Safe Schools Policy and Salem Preschool Handbook while in effect. Copies of both the handbook and policy will be shared with families prior to the start of the school year.

Director's Note:

Please know that the safety and health of our Salem Preschool Family has always been, and is especially now, our priority. We strive to provide the same loving, nurturing environment and quality academics that we always have, with these temporary modifications in place. We have taken great care in researching best practices and will do our best to help the children understand and acclimate to the new safety precautions in place due to the pandemic.

We will make regular, necessary adjustments to our Pandemic Response Plan with the guidance of the same departments and organizations that guided this initial plan. Please know that the safety of our Salem Family is now and always will be the driving force of our decision making.

We understand that there will be some fear and trepidation in our return. With the same grace and compassion we have always shown one another, we'll welcome old friends and new friends into our Salem Family in a safe and mindful manner. The adaptability and resilience that our children demonstrated during the previous school year gives us a strong sense of confidence that these modification will be easily implemented.

Here we are 18 months later, wiser for having completed a school year with this plan under our belts! As a staff we have found a lot of positive attributes in these temporary amendments, and have discovered so much to build on in respect to responsibility, independence, patience and such with our little learners...SILVER LININGS! So with enthusiastic hearts, we'll embark on another unique school year. (And I'm certain that this year will be just as amazing!)

Warmly,

Wendy Ruby and the Salem Preschool Staff 😊