

# Mt Olive Preschool COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan August 30, 2020

This plan is intended to provide written instruction to staff, parents, and visitors detailing how the program will try to minimize the risk of transmission of COVID19. The plan is based on the information available from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), the Oregon Early learning Division (ELD), the Oregon State Health Authority (OSHA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Linda Holscher, Preschool Director, and the Mt. Olive Preschool Board will continue to monitor the requirements and recommendations of these health organizations and amend this plan when needed. Mt. Olive Preschool will utilize email, Class Dojo, and text messaging to communicate changes to this plan. Signage detailing these plans and resources related to COVID19 will be posted at the school's entrance and on the church website: [Mtolivefg.org](http://Mtolivefg.org)

## ***Health Checks at Drop Off***

One at a time, families will drive, or walk up to, the preschool entrance. Face masks or face shields, and physical distancing will be required. While you are in your car a staff member will ask a set of 4 health related , yes/no, questions and a no touch temperature will be taken. If the temperature is 100.4 or less and the health check is passed, staff will record only that the student passed the health screening for the day and complete the check in data. Please have your child unbuckled and ready to leave your vehicle so staff can escort them in. Upon entering the building, staff spritzes the child's hands with hand sanitizer and the child will be directed to the classroom. If your child is having a difficult time separating from you and won't leave the car, please drive around to the parking lot and walk them to the door so the line can keep moving. Teachers are also required to follow the same procedure daily before they begin work. No visitors will be allowed in the classrooms except adults providing specialized services to a child, such as those associated with Early Intervention. If a parent needs to enter the preschool area, they will need to wear a face covering and be screened.

## ***Pick Up***

Staff will be watching for parents arrival at the preschool entrance and send their child out to them. Again we expect families to form a line because only one child will be released at a time.

## ***Family Responsibilities***

As per our parent handbook, page 4, parents are asked to keep their child home if ill. Fever, congestion, cough, sore throat, runny nose, vomiting, diarrhea are common childhood illness but they also may be symptoms of COVID 19. Some of the other symptoms of COVID 19 identified at this time are loss of taste or smell and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing that is not related to a known health condition such as allergies. No child may return to the facility within 24 hours after the last fever without the use of fever reducing medicines. Staff will also follow these health regulations. If a child becomes ill while at school, they will be appropriately isolated until they can be picked up. Timely pick up of an ill child is required.

We will be following ODE's *Planning for Covid-19 Scenarios in Schools*, August 11, 2020. Refer to the General Quarantine Protocol chart that follows. The recommended protocol for a person that has been in close contact with a positive COVID-19 individual, Person B on the chart, should quarantine for 14 days. However, the state guidelines say anyone who has been in close contact with someone who was exposed to COVID-19, Person C on

the chart, does not need to quarantine. In this scenario we would not be closing school. Families are expected to report any known exposures of their family to COVID 19 positive individuals to the school.



**Figure 1. General Quarantine Protocol**  
A PDF of this figure is available [here](#).

As an overall framework:

- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 **should** isolate.
- Any person who has been in close contact with a person with positive COVID-19 **should** quarantine.
- Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who was exposed to COVID-19 does not **need to** quarantine.

This framework will need to be applied within an ever-changing local context. The following graphic represents the application of this framework in one possible local context to support school leaders in building the schema necessary to apply this information successfully in their own situation:

When a staff member or student has a confirmed case of COVID-19 we will partner with the Washington County Health Department to implement safety protocols. Parents will be informed via email and Class Dojo that their child has been exposed to an identified infected person at school. Current recommendations are that students and staff isolate at home for 10 days after symptoms first appeared and 24 hours after fever is resolved without the use of a fever reducing medicine and after symptoms improve. A negative test is not needed to return to school (pg18, *Planning for COVID 19 Scenarios*). School would be closed for two weeks during which time a deep cleaning and disinfecting would be done. We would move to distance learning for the two weeks. Possible class activities might be meeting on Zoom, watching U-tube teacher directed videos and sharing at home activities on-line or printed for pick up.

### ***Stable Grouping***

The state encourages stable groups, they are calling them cohorts, in which the same students are together so if there is a case of COVID 19 in the facility they can more easily perform contact tracing. We are planning to begin the year with one blended multiage class on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Class would meet in the morning for 3 hours from 9am – noon, 2 days a week on Tuesday and Thursday. The cost would be \$120 a month. The extended time is for drop off, pick up and extra hand washing built into the day. Class size would be between 10 – 16 students. A minimum of 12 students are needed for us to be able to offer a class that includes a teacher and an assistant.

### ***Enhanced Hygiene***

Teaching personal hygiene has always been an integral part of the preschool curriculum. Sneeze into your elbow, wipe your nose and throw the tissue away, wipe yourself after using the bathroom and proper handwashing techniques are talked about and taught daily in most preschool classes. We will continue to partner with you so together we can encourage these independent skills at home and at school. Children will be taught to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds. Songs, rhymes, and even rubbing off a hand stamp will give them a sense of how long 20 seconds is. For times when handwashing is not practical, hand sanitizer with alcohol content between 60-95 percent will be applied by the teacher and then stored safely out of reach. Some of the times hands will be cleaned are upon entering the school, after toileting, before and after eating, after wiping nose, coughing, sneezing, and after coming in from outside.

For now we are eliminating the large sensory table where we often had sand or water play. Individual sensory materials will be used and then cleaned.

Instead of sharing craft supplies children will be given their own supply box with 24 crayons, 10 markers, a pencil, glue stick and scissors. Backpacks and any toys from home are not allowed.

To improve the ventilation and increase airflow we will be keeping windows open more often.

We will increase the lessons and activities we do outside.

Families will provide a daily snack for their child and a water bottle.

An enhanced disinfecting and sanitizing schedule will be posted in the class. CDC protocols will be followed.

Face masks or shields will be worn by staff but will not be required by for the children. Parents can request their child wear one. We may have the children practice wearing disposable masks for certain activities since school readiness is an important goal of preschool.

We will teach the concept of social distancing using terms like spreading your wings or personal bubble but it will not be required to stay six feet away from your friends. Hugging, kissing, wrestling, etc. will be discouraged but never punished.

Guidance from the Oregon Early Learning draft of July 23, 2020, page 9, states, "Staff and children are not required to physically distance from adults and children within their stable group"

The CDC published an article titled, *The Importance of Reopening America's School this Fall*, on July 23, 2020. This article mirrors our belief in the profound importance of preschool, "Social interaction at school among children...is particularly important for the development of language, communication, social, emotional and interpersonal skills".

### ***State Stay at Home Orders and Tuition Payments***

We will follow the Oregon Department of Early Learning guidelines for closures due to COVID 19. Mt. Olive Preschool also reserves the right to close the school at any time that such action is deemed appropriate to minimize the transmission of disease. In the event of an extended closure due to the pandemic, a combination of work pick up and remote learning will be offered through the end of the month the closure occurs. Tuition that has been collected for that month will not be refunded and payment will be expected if not yet received. This is to preserve the integrity and longevity of the program and retain essential staff.

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By signing this form you are saying you have read and understood the Mt. Olive Preschool COVID 19 Health and Safety Plan. Also, that you are agreeing to follow the plan and make timely tuition payments.

Please sign and return before the first day of school.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please print name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_