



First Baptist Preschool

Pandemic Care Plan:

Guidelines & Procedures

to provide

Care for Young Children

During the Covid-19 Pandemic Health Crisis

Effective August 1, 2020

Never in our history has the mission of First Baptist Preschool been more critical than it is today. The days ahead are uncertain and will present many new challenges. We must face these challenges together, trusting that God is with us and adapting best practices as necessary, to deliver safe, loving care that parents can count on.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on you own understanding;
in all your ways know him,
and he will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3: 5-6 CSB

Mission: Limit & Minimize Exposure

What follows is a multi-faceted approach to providing care for young children during a pandemic crisis. We recognize that mitigating exposure to this virus is critical to the wellbeing of our children, staff, and families. Doing so will require multiple strategies to:

- 1. Limit person to person contact**
- 2. Minimize contagion brought from home**
- 3. Manage possible contamination throughout the day**

None of these strategies are 100% effective on their own and some are more effective than others, but each piece of the mitigation puzzle works in concert with the others to increase protection and decrease viral load when exposure does occur.

Changes to Operating Procedures

(in Accordance with VDSS, VDH & CDC Guidelines)

1. Social Distancing: Limit Person to Person Contact

In accordance with Phase 3 guidelines set forth by VDSS, group size limit is 12 (including staff) for children under 4 years old and 22 (including staff) for children ages 4 to 13. Given our classroom square footage, these numbers will generally be smaller in each classroom. At FBP, we will implement social distancing in the following ways:

- Limit school hours (no Before/After Care) to eliminate mixing of classrooms
- Limit adults in the building to only working staff
- Implement “Front Door” drop-off and pick-up (We will use two separate door entrances based on child’s classroom location.)
- No mixing of groups during the day, including on the playground
- Maintain consistent teachers for each group throughout the day
- Provide classroom centers and activities that encourage individual play
- Assist children in learning social distancing strategies
- Manage transitions to eliminate groups mixing in the hallway

School Day

- Our goal is to create safe, self-contained classroom groups. To maintain the integrity of each group, we will limit exposure to additional staff throughout the day.

Drop-off & Pick-up (revised 10/5/20)

- Each class will be assigned a drop-off and pick-up door to enter. The 5-day pre-k, transitional kindergarten, and kindergarten will enter through the upper level right-side door. All other children will go through the upper level left-side door. Families with children that have children in both groups will sign their children in at the upper level left-side door. This information is also available in your Parent Handbook.
- Check-in will be done on the breezeway by the office doors where your child will have his/her temperature checked, you will sign a daily health statement, and say goodbye.
- Check-out will be done at the same door as check-in, where you will sign your child out for the day. Repeated and frequent failure to pick-up within your designated time window (12:00-12:15/1:00-1:15 for K) will lead to late fees.

Playground

Using temporary fencing, the playground has been divided into two sections. In general, two groups will be on the playground at the same time, with one group on each section at a time.

- Materials and equipment in each area will be sanitized frequently.
- Groups will alternate sections each day so children will have the benefit of playing on all play structures and equipment throughout the week.

2. Minimize Contagion Brought from Home

Daily Health Checks for Faculty & Staff

- Temperature will be checked before staff enter the building.
- Staff will complete a daily health statement.
- Staff with any symptom of illness will be told to stay home or sent home immediately.

Daily Health Checks for Children

- Children's temperatures will be checked at the drop-off location.
- Parents will be expected to wait while their child's temperature is checked.
 - Children with a temperature above 100 will not be allowed to attend school. (This is the established temperature guideline at FBP.)
 - Children will be screened for signs of illness. This will include questions about general health and use of OTC medications.

Exclusion from Care

Children with any of the following symptoms will be excluded from care:

- Fever of 100 or higher (This is the established policy at FBP.)
- Consistent coughing (more than just a few times per hour and/or is atypical for the child)
- Shortness of breath
- Runny/stuffy nose (as opposed to sometimes needs to be wiped) that is atypical for the child
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Pink Eye
- Lethargy/Extreme fatigue
- Any undiagnosed rash
- Combination of mild to moderate symptoms such as sore throat, headache, body aches and "just not acting like themselves"

How long to stay home will depend on symptoms, diagnosis, and direction from the child's physician and/or the Virginia Department of Health. ***A doctor's note is required to return to school. 10/23/20 REVISION: Your child may also return to school without a doctor's note if he/she has been symptom-free for 72 hours without medication and has not been in close contact with anyone who has COVID.**

Children must also be excluded from care if a household member has a known or suspected case of Covid-19.

Cloth Masks

The VDSS “Reopening Child Care Phase III guidelines and Information for Child Care” states:

Staff and children over the age of two should use cloth face coverings when physical distancing cannot be maintained, as is medically and developmentally appropriate. Face coverings are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult.

When we reopen, staff and children will be expected to wear a cloth face mask, except when eating, drinking, or when outside, to help curb virus that can be spread through large respiratory droplets. We will provide a space in each classroom where children can “take a mask break” when needed.

- Young children have difficulty controlling both coughing and sneezing, and frequently spread illness through large droplets.
- We have extensively researched wearing cloth masks and we understand the limits of their effectiveness, understand they can be uncomfortable and have heard concerns from parents. However, there is evidence that if both parties wear a mask, this drastically reduces your risk of being infected with the virus from the other person.
- There is much to learn about this virus, but we do know that viral load seems to impact severity of illness, and it does appear that masks help mitigate viral load.
- According to the CDC, masks should be worn in situations where social distance is difficult to maintain. We can say with confidence that it will be challenging to maintain social distance in an early childhood classroom.
- As we said earlier, this is a multi-faceted approach to mitigating the spread of this virus. At FBP, wearing masks is one piece of the mitigation puzzle.
- Please provide 1 extra mask as back-up. This can be placed in your child’s Ziplock bag of extra clothing.
- Masks should be washed daily.

Lunches, Snacks & Water Bottles

- Children will bring their snacks to school each day. (Kindergarteners may choose to bring lunch versus snack.) As usual, children will eat in their classroom. Social distancing strategies, such as staggering where children sit at tables, will be in place.

- Children should bring water bottles to school, provided it is properly labeled with his/her name. The hallway water fountain will not be used this year.
- Children may bring their lunch in a box that can be easily be disinfected. Any leftover food will be returned home in the lunchbox. Be sure to label the lunchbox with your child's name.
- Children may also choose to bring lunch in a disposable paper bag with disposable containers or bags. Everything in the lunch will be thrown away at the end of lunch, including leftover food.

3. Steps to Manage Possible Contamination Throughout the Day

Teachers will wear:

- Teachers will wear masks.
- Teachers may also choose to wear a smock, goggles, glasses, or a face shield.
- Teachers will wear their hair pulled back from their face and off the neck.
- Teachers will refrain from wearing excessive jewelry.

Additional Steps:

- Toys, equipment, and surfaces will be sanitized regularly throughout the day. Toys will only be used by one child before re-sanitizing.
- Teachers received extensive training in appropriate hand washing and cleaning practices.
- Children and teachers will frequently and thoroughly wash hands: when soiled, before and after using the restroom or diapering, and before and after eating, before going outside and when they come back inside.
- Gloves will be worn as needed.
- Sick children will be isolated immediately, in an area where sight and sound supervision can be maintained, while waiting to be picked up by a parent. A separate isolation area has been created for this purpose.

“What will happen when we have a case of COVID-19 in the school?”

- When we have a positive test result in a child, staff member or immediate member of either's household, then we will immediately notify the local health department and follow their instructions.
- Parents and staff should anticipate that either their child's classroom or the whole school may be quarantined for 14 days. This is the current guidance from VDH and VDSS.

- Please notify the school as soon as possible if you have a case of COVID-19 in your household or a known exposure.
- Please follow social distancing guidelines when you are away from school to help keep all of us safe!

Tuition and Enrollment

If FBP closes temporarily (individual class or school-wide) due to COVID-19, tuition will still be expected. Teachers will send home virtual lesson plans during that time. However, if FBP must close for the remainder of the school year, parents are not responsible for tuition for those months. May tuition refunding will be assessed at the time of the closure, so at this time a refund is not guaranteed.

Summary and Miscellaneous Information

- You will be assigned a drop-off and pick-up entrance door.
- Children will bring a snack or lunch each day. This may be packed in a lunchbox that can be easily disinfected or in a disposable lunch bag.
- Daily Health Checks will be completed, including temperature checks.
- Children will be picked up at the same door as drop-off.
- Parents will not be allowed in the building based on current guidelines.
- Children should bring a change of clothes and an extra mask in a Ziploc bag labeled with their name.
- Children and parents will wear masks when they get out of their car and approach the building. Please follow traffic pattern, parking where assigned, and staying 6 feet apart.
- No toys or books from home will be allowed in the building.
- **Please do not bring additional items such as backpacks, tote bags, or umbrellas.**