

A Great Start Preschool Covid-19 Protocol Updates 2022-2023 School Year

A Great Start Preschool will follow federal, state and local regulations to keep your children and our staff safe, and to keep our doors open throughout the school year. Our staff and student's safety and well-being is our top priority. We have amended our Covid Protocols for the 22-23 School Year, detailed below. Should there be a change in federal, state, or local mandates, these protocols could be amended at any time. We will also continue to monitor the Covid-19 numbers within our community, as well as within our facility, to determine if changes are needed for any period of time. Any changes will be directly communicated with our staff and families.

Please note: If there are mandates or laws requiring us to reinstate certain safety measures, we will be required to follow those. We will communicate any new information as soon as possible.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

<https://emanuals.jfs.ohio.gov/pdf/pdf-letters/CCMPL-159---Update-to-the-JFS-08087-Communicable-Disease-Chart.pdf#:~:text=Child%20Care%20Manual%20Procedure%20Letter%20No.%20159%20TO%3A,against%20COVID-19%20in%20child%20care%20and%20educational%20settings.>

<https://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/docs/ChildCareGuidance8-6-2021.pdf>

Arrival: Arrival procedures: Unless using Curbside (refer to Curbside instructions in the handbook), Parent/caregivers will bring their child inside the building via door 10, sanitize hands upon arrival (thermometers will be available if there is uncertainty about an individual's temperature), help to hang up child's coat/backpack on their assigned hook, and proceed to the door of the child's classroom. Parents/caregivers should say goodbye to their child at the door of the classroom. We will continue to offer Curbside Assistance for those families who do not wish to come into the building. Curbside will be at the back of the building, door 6. *Please note: if there is an influx of positive Covid cases or we decide to limit visitors in the building for any reason, we could change to mandatory "Curbside for All" in which case further instruction will be given.

Dismissal: Dismissal times are promptly at 11:15 (morning classes), 2:45 (afternoon preschool), 3:15 (afternoon kindergarten and After Care). Parent/caregiver should enter the building at door 10 using assigned code (unless using Curbside Assistance, refer to Curbside instructions in Parent Handbook) and proceed to the doorway of their child's classroom. Teachers will dismiss students one at a time directly to their parent/caregiver. Please notice the colored tape near your child's class to indicate where to stand and wait for dismissal. If someone different than usual is picking up your child, please be prepared with picture ID and make sure they are on the list as "authorized to pick up." To help our arrival and dismissal plan run smoothly, please arrive on time and be patient. Please watch for pedestrians while walking/driving in the lot, and drive slowly. We will continue to offer Curbside Assistance for those families who do not wish to come into the building. Curbside will be at the back of the building, door 6. *Please note: if there is an influx of positive Covid cases or we decide to limit visitors in the building for any reason, we could change to mandatory "Curbside for All" in which case further instruction will be given.

Daily Health Screenings: Although our staff makes a point to observe every child at arrival and do a general quick check for symptoms of illness, there will not be a formal Daily Health Screening by our staff at arrival at this time. If your child is not feeling well, has a temperature above 100, or any symptoms of illness (within past 24 hours), please keep them home until symptom free without medication for 24 hours, or they have been released by doctor to return to school. We will continue to have sanitizing and thermometer stations set up at the entrance. Before coming to school each day, families should consider: Has student/staff member taken any fever reducing medication in the past 24 hours? Is staff member/student exhibiting any of these symptoms: Temperature of 100 degrees or higher, new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition, new shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition, new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition, gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea, vomiting, nausea), new loss of smell/taste, other signs of illness, including allergy/sinus symptoms not accompanied by a doctor note indicating non-covid diagnosis. Has student/staff member been to a covid "hot spot" area as recognized by the CDC in the past 10 days? Has anyone the staff/student been in direct contact with for more than 15 minutes tested positive for Covid-19 within the past 10 days? Is anyone in the household/direct contact exhibiting symptoms above or awaiting test results?

Facial Coverings will be optional for students and staff in our school buildings at this time. The decision to wear masks or not will be left to the individual family. If worn, facial coverings should be worn properly (covering nose and mouth), with minimum touching, grabbing, and other distractions or cross contamination risks. Face coverings should be washed daily. If facial coverings are worn, they must be worn properly, covering nose and mouth. If a parent/guardian chooses for their child ages 3 and up to wear a facial covering at school, please practice proper wearing and proper removal of the mask (for large motor play and snack) at home prior to the first day of school. The only time a facial covering would be required (unless mandates change) is if an individual is returning to school on a reduced quarantine. For example, if an individual tests positive for covid, they must remain out of school for 5 days. They can return to school as soon as day 6, so long as they do not have any symptoms, but must wear proper facial coverings for 5 more days (10 days total quarantine). The first day of exposure or first day of symptom/positive test starts count at day 0.

Cleaning Strategies: All hard surfaces will be sanitized/disinfected with an EPA registered disinfectant. Classrooms will be disinfected between groups. Toys and learning materials will continue to be cleaned regularly (or more frequently as needed). A professional cleaning company will continue to clean the preschool nightly, after hours (classrooms, hallways, entry ways, and restrooms). Restrooms will be cleaned throughout the day and after hours. HEPA Air purifiers and Air Conditioning have been installed in each classroom to remove contaminants from the air and improve indoor air quality.

Class/Group Sizes: We plan to follow our normal ratios and class sizes this fall, which are still lower than state minimum standards, no more than 1:6 this fall in the Little Learners, 1:10 in our Smart Start program, 1:12 in Preschool Plus and KinderStart, and 1:16 in Kindergarten. At this time, we do plan to combine 2 same age group classes for activities such as Music and Large Motor, as we did pre-covid. Extra-Curricular Classes, which we will begin in October, will also follow their normal class sizes. Additional information about Extra-Curricular Classes will be sent home in mid September. If we start to see a large number of Covid cases within our facility or community, we may discontinue combining classes indoors for a time period.

Special Events: We plan to continue hosting Group Events and Class Celebrations, and welcoming Family Volunteers this school year, but will continue to monitor Covid-19 numbers and recommendations and re-assess each of these events closer to their scheduled occurrence. Stay tuned for more information.

Snack Program: A Great Start Preschool will continue to provide snack for each classroom daily. Snacks will be shelf-stable, individually packaged snacks when possible. On occasion, a special event or activity may allow a different snack. If your child has any food allergies or restrictions, please notify the Director and complete the Health Care Plan form prior to the first day of school. The cost for snack is now included in tuition.

Handwashing: Soap and running water will be used for hand washing anytime hands are visibly dirty. At other times when soap and running water is not available, hand sanitizer may be used. At minimum, handwashing will occur upon arrival, prior to entering classrooms, before and after snack, after toileting/diapering, after playground, and at dismissal. We are fortunate to have sinks in all of our 7 classrooms. In common areas such as restrooms, touchless soap dispensers are provided. Please practice proper handwashing at home (liquid soap on hands, rubbing on hands/fingers/wrists- fronts, backs, in between fingers for 20 seconds, rinsing hands, drying with 1-2 paper towels, throwing paper towel in trash).

Illness Plan: Staff/students need to stay home when they are sick (please refer to our Illness Plan for Staff and Students in our Parent Handbook for our complete policy). Students will be reminded to cough/sneeze in elbow, wash hands after coughing/sneezing, use tissues and discard properly (washing hands after). Proper handwashing will take place several times throughout the school day, and hard surfaces will be cleaned between groups and after hours. If a temperature of 100 or higher develops while at school, or other symptoms on the Daily Health Screening list, student will be isolated with a staff member and parent or emergency contact will be contacted to immediately pick up the child from school. Individual may not return until they have been fever-free without the use of fever reducing medication for at least 24-48 consecutive hours without fever reducing medication. The information in this Covid Plan relates specifically to protocols as related to Covid-19. If the student/staff member who has the symptoms has had known contact with someone confirmed or probable to have Covid-19, they must complete isolation or quarantine procedures in coordination with the local health department or provide negative Covid-19 test results prior to returning to the center. If anyone in the household is being tested for Covid, student must stay home until test is confirmed negative.

Please inform the school immediately if a student, household member, or close contact develops symptoms or tests positive for Covid so that we can ensure proper protocols are followed.

Covid Positive Staff/Student: If a staff member or student tests positive for Covid-19, the individual must isolate and remain out of school for 5 days, regardless of vaccination status. The first day of symptoms or positive test starts the count at day 0. On day 6, so long as the individual is symptom free without medication for 24 consecutive hours prior, the individual may return to school wearing a properly fitted mask at all times for 5 more days, to complete a total of 10 day quarantine. During snack, the individual will sit separately from other students so they can safely remove their mask to eat. If symptoms or positive test developed within 48 hours of the individual being at school, those who were in close contact with the individual will be notified of the possible exposure. If the positive test or symptom occurred within 48 hours of being at school, we will notify families/staff who have been within 6 ft of contact for 15 minutes, and conduct additional cleaning measures and deep sanitation. If there is an outbreak within the center, we will need to contact the Health Department for further instruction.

Close Contact (student's household member): If someone in the student's house tests positive for Covid-19, the student must remain out of school for 5 days, regardless of vaccination status, unless the student had a documented positive covid test within 90 days prior. The first day of contact starts the count at day 0. On day 6, so long as the individual tests negative or has not developed any single symptom during quarantine, the individual may return to school wearing a properly fitted mask at all times for 5 more days, to complete a total of 10 day quarantine. If the individual develops any single symptom or tests

positive during that time, refer to the Covid Positive protocols for guidance. During snack, the individual will sit separately from other students so they can safely remove their mask to eat.

Close Contact (outside of household): If someone the student/staff member had close contact with outside of the home (meaning contact was limited to a specific occasion, not ongoing) tested positive for covid, the individual is required to self-monitor for symptoms for 10 days and stay home should they develop any single symptom or test positive. The individual is encouraged but not required to wear a facial covering during this time, especially if not fully vaccinated against Covid. Testing is recommended on day 5 after contact.

If a student needs to miss school due to Covid or Covid exposure, please inform the office if you would like a Work Packet prepared.

This addendum was developed using the guidelines of the CDC, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Child Care Rules and Regulations, and Responsible ReStart Ohio Guidelines. As these agencies update protocols, our policies will be updated as appropriate to ensure the health and safety of our staff, students, and families.

A Great Start Preschool, Inc. is licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services as a part-time child care center. Although we do not offer any daycare services, we are governed by Child Care Rules and Regulations.

Please keep in mind that all plans are fluid and could change rapidly based on the spread of virus in the community, Montgomery County Health Department Protocols, Ohio Department of Health Guidance, Governor's Orders, or Child Care Licensing Rules and Regulations.

This Addendum should be used in conjunction with the existing A Great Start Preschool Parent Handbook; however, the policies in this Addendum may override any that may conflict with existing policies, e.g., illness policies, Arrival/Dismissal policies, class size/ratio rules, etc.

These policies have been developed to ensure the safety of our staff, students, and families, and are based on the guidelines of the CDC, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Child Care Rules and Regulations, and Governor's Orders. As these agencies update protocols, our policies will be updated as appropriate. By enrolling in our program, you are acknowledging the risk of your child's participation in a group environment, and A Great Start Preschool, Inc. will not be held responsible or liable for personal injury, disability, death, illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that the Participant or their parent/guardian may experience or incur in connection with participating in any of A Great Start Preschool's programs.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html#print>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html#print>

Covid Protocols not currently in place that could be re-implemented based on high number of cases in the school or community, or based on state or local guidance and mandates:

Possible Closure due to Illness:

If there is an outbreak of Covid within our center staff or students, we are required to contact the Montgomery County Health Department for further instruction. The Health Department will instruct AGSP for the next course of action. This will likely include notifying families/staff who have been within 6 ft of contact for 15 minutes in a 48 period, additional cleaning measures, deep sanitation, and possible closure of that class, room, or entire center for a specified length of time as directed by the health department. If class/center quarantine is necessary, the health department encourages those exposed to be tested. It is our understanding the health department will give us their recommendation or order based on a number of factors, including number exposed, number of cases within the center, community cases within the zip code at the time of positive case within the center, and other factors.

If AGSP is forced to close an entire class, room, or center for *2 weeks or longer* due to Health Department or Governor's Order, the affected classes will move to Remote Learning for that time period. If the class/room/center is forced to close for MORE THAN 2 weeks, tuition for that time period will be reduced by 50%. If a family chooses to withdraw from A Great Start Preschool at any time, at least one month's notice of withdraw is required. No withdraws will be accepted after Spring Break.

Remote Learning: In the event a class, room, or the center is required to close for 2 weeks or longer, the affected groups will move from In-Person to Remote Learning. Our plan for Remote Learning includes Facebook Live Videos, Class Zoom Calls, At-home Activity Packets including art, math, social studies and/or science, Skills/goals for what students should be working on during that time, Specific instructions/details for parents, Large Motor/Movement Activities, and lists of books/songs activities families can do at home to enhance the skills/themes the class is working on. *If we are forced to close a classroom or the entire center for longer than 2 weeks, tuition will be reduced by 50% for affected classes.*

Travel Plan: Has the staff member/student traveled to a Covid "hot spot" area as recognized by the CDC in the past 10 days? If so, is quarantine required or suggested per Governor's mandate at the time returned home? Please speak to the Director regarding any travel plans, to determine required quarantine or safety protocols upon return. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html>.

How will AGSP operate if absenteeism spikes among staff:

It is understandable that absenteeism may increase in staff, those who stay home to care for sick family members and those who must stay home to be with their children if dismissed from childcare programs and K-12 school due to the pandemic.

- AGSP will plan to monitor and respond to absenteeism at the center to provide consistency for families and children.
- AGSP will prepare to institute flexible workplace and leave policies.
- AGSP will cross-train remaining staff and substitute staff to perform essential functions so the center can operate even if key staff are absent.
- AGSP will make every effort to have a pool of qualified substitutes available in the event of multiple staff absences at once.

Infection Control Practices Outside of AGSP

Remember: there is no such thing as zero risk.

Protect yourself and your family:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap/water (as much as 20 times a day)
- Use hand sanitizer with least 60% alcohol if you don't have access to soap and water.
- Sanitize frequently touched surfaces.
- Practice social distancing and stay 6 feet away from others who are not in your household or in your bubble.

Protect others:

- Restrict your whereabouts that bring risk back to AGSP
- Adhere to mandates requiring face coverings when in public settings.
- Stay home if you or someone in your family is sick
- Notify AGSP of any travel plans or high risk activities.

Daily Health Screening for Staff/Students:

SECTION 1: Symptoms

If child/staff member has any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check for these symptoms:

- Temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Fever or chills
- Sore throat;
- **New** uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for individuals with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, or abdominal pain; or
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss or taste of smell
- Congestion or runny noses not diagnosed as allergies or sinus
- Individuals who potentially have been exposed should follow quarantine and other recommendations from local public health officials.
- Student must be symptom free for 48 hours without medication before returning to school

SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19: OR
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to SARS-CoV-2; OR
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person exhibiting symptoms above (without other diagnosis) or awaiting test results
- Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases as described in the [Community Mitigation Framework](#)
- Live in areas of high community transmission (as described in the [Community Mitigation Framework](#)) while the school remains open

Return-to-School Policies

If answering YES to any question in Section 1 but NO to any questions in Section 2, the student/staff member would be excused from school in accordance with existing school illness management policy (e.g., until symptom-free for 48 hours without fever reducing medications).

If answering YES to any question in Section 1 and YES to any question in Section 2, the student/staff member should be referred for evaluation by their healthcare provider and possible testing. CDC strongly encourages local health departments to work with local school systems to develop a strategy to refer symptomatic individuals to an appropriate healthcare provider or testing site. State, Tribal, territorial, and local health officials and/or healthcare providers will determine when testing for SARS-CoV-2 is appropriate. Students/staff members who have received a negative test result should be allowed to return to school once their symptoms have otherwise improved in accordance with existing school illness management policies.

Students/staff diagnosed with COVID-19 or who answer YES to any question in Section 1 and YES to any question in Section 2 without negative test results should stay home, isolate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department. Staff and student families should be advised that the local health department may contact the family for contact tracing. If contacted, families should notify the contact tracer that the student attended school.

Students/staff diagnosed with COVID-19 or who answer YES to any component of Section 1 AND YES to any component of Section 2 without negative test results should be permitted to return to school should be in line with current CDC recommendations in "[When Can I Be Around Others](#)". A negative test or doctor's note is **not required** for return. Questions regarding return to school should be jointly decided in consultation with school personnel and the student/staff member's healthcare provider.

School Isolation Protocols

Some students/staff members may develop symptoms of infectious illness while at school. Schools should take action to isolate students who develop these symptoms from other students and staff.

- Students/staff members with any of the symptoms in Section 1 should follow their school's current illness management policy to minimize transmission to others, to optimize learning opportunities, and to allow for these symptoms to resolve (at least 48 hours without fever reducing medications or in accordance with existing school illness policy).
- Students/staff members who develop any of the symptoms in Section 1 while at school should be placed in an isolation area separate from staff and other students:
 - School staff (e.g., workers, teacher aides, school health staff) who interact with a student who becomes ill while at school should use [Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions](#) when caring for sick people.
 - Students who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow [CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others](#) who are sick.
- Students identified at school who develop any of the symptoms in Section 1 AND answer YES to any of the questions in Section 2 should be placed in an isolation area separate from staff and other students (e.g., a nurse's office) and then sent home or to a healthcare facility if symptoms indicate a need for further evaluation:
 - If a school needs to call an ambulance or bring a student to the hospital, they should first alert the healthcare staff that the student may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.
 - After the student is placed in an isolation area, school staff who work in the isolation area should follow CDC's [Considerations for Cleaning and Disinfecting your Building or Facility](#).
 - **Note:** In developing plans for placing students with symptoms in an isolation area, schools should be mindful of appropriate safeguards to ensure that students are isolated in a non-threatening manner, within the line of sight of adults, and for very short periods of time.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2067-DM33891

3/7/21

When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19

I think or know I had COVID-19, and I had symptoms

You can be with others after

- At least 5 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
- At least 48 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
- Symptoms have improved
- Wear a properly fitted mask when around others for 5 more days (10 days total from onset of symptoms)

*NEGATIVE TEST RESULTS NOT REQUIRED FOR SCHOOLS

I tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms

If you continue to have no symptoms, you can be with others after:

- 5 days have passed since test
- Wear a properly fitted mask when around others for days 6-10.
- *NEGATIVE TEST RESULTS NOT REQUIRED FOR SCHOOLS

If you develop symptoms after testing positive, follow the guidance above for “I think or know I had COVID, and I had symptoms.”

I have a weakened immune system (immunocompromised) due to a health condition or medication. When can I be around others?

[People with conditions that weaken their immune system](#) might need to stay home longer than 5 days. Talk to your healthcare provider for more information.

For Anyone Who Has Been Around a Person with COVID-19

It is important to remember that anyone who has close contact with someone with COVID-19 should self monitor for symptoms for 10 days **after exposure** and immediately isolate if any symptoms develop or test positive. Testing is recommended on day 5 after exposure.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html

7-16-22

[Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs during COVID-19 \(cdc.gov\)](#)

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/responsible-restart-ohio/Sector-Specific-Operating-Requirements/Sector-Specific-Operating-Requirements>