

St. John Lutheran Preschool and School Age Care Programs

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

(Plan is subject to change)

St. John Lutheran Preschool and School Age Care Programs will reopen on August 31 for K-8. Young 5's will start on September 1, Preschool 3's on September 8, and Preschool 4's on September 9. Below are some new procedures that will be implemented to keep our students and staff safe and healthy.

LARA does not require that your child wear a mask or facial covering while in Care Room. If you would like your child to wear a mask or facial covering while in Care Room, please contact Care Room Director Missy Kauppila at mlacoursier@stjohnrochester.org and we will make sure your child has a mask on.

How will our programs monitor symptoms of COVID-19?

- Please do not send your child to school if they are sick. Please call the school and notify us of the child's absence.
- Staff will take their temperatures daily before attending work, and will remain home if feeling ill.
- Preschool and child care providers are required to check for COVID-19 symptoms upon the arrival of staff and children. This will include a touchless temperature check and visual physical assessment for symptoms, and a few questions about exposure and symptoms within the last 72 hours. Fever is the **key indicator** for young children. If a child or staff member has a temperature of 100.0 degrees or above, the child will be excluded from care and the staff member will be sent home. Cough and/or diarrhea in addition to fever are also suggestive of the COVID-19 virus in children.

What is the procedure for Preschool dropping off or picking up?

- Students will arrive and enter through outside doors #7 which are the doors by Mrs. Prentice's room.
Designated teacher or aide will take the temperature of the child.
- Parents, please answer the following questions each morning:
 - Do you or anyone in your household have a fever, cough, diarrhea, rash on hands or feet, or shortness of breath?
 - Does anyone in your household have any symptoms of a communicable disease like a cold or the flu?
 - Do you live with anyone who has had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

What is the procedure for Pre-Care and K-8 Care Room dropping off or picking up?

- You will be buzzed into the building using the south door, number 3. This is the door that is fenced in by the portables. There will be a walkway available. You will be required to wear a mask to enter the building. You will directly proceed to either Mrs.

Neumeyer's room (Room #4) to pick up for Preschool Care, or the Music/Care Room to pick up for Care Room. If by chance there is more than one parent picking up at the same time, please practice safe social distancing. You will sign out your child or children as done in previous years.

How will our programs practice social distancing, as developmentally appropriate?

- We will be sure there are groups of 10 or less playing together. We will utilize activity centers that limit the number of children participating at one time. Nap mats will be placed 6 feet apart when possible and will be in head-to-toe position. While eating, children will be spaced 6 feet apart when possible and will all be facing the same direction. For specials, teachers will switch classrooms, not students.

How will we ensure hygiene, including regular cleaning and disinfecting?

- Children will wash hands at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water before coming into class, as well as before and after snack. Tables will be cleaned per state guidelines, with our three step system. The amount of toys will be reduced and disinfected daily. No cloth toys (i.e. puppets, dolls or stuffed animals) will be used. Wooden toys will only be used with proper daily sanitizing and disinfecting. Any toys that a child may have put in their mouth will be set aside in a designated bucket and then fully disinfected daily.

What is our policy on face coverings or masks?

- Kindergarten through fifth grade are not required to wear a face mask in Care Room. Sixth grade through eighth are required to wear a mask, unless they are practicing 6 foot safe distancing, in which case they can remove their mask. All children shall wear face coverings or masks (provided by their family) when in hallways and all common areas. Face masks will also be worn in the event a child or staff member become ill. Staff will be wearing face masks at all times while working. If your child does not have a face mask for use where required, a disposable one will be provided as a temporary measure. The disposable mask **must** be thrown out at the end of the day. Cloth face masks **must** be washed at home daily. Anyone entering the building to pick up a child must be wearing a face covering or mask.

How will we communicate our protocol for families to report symptoms or a positive test?

- Protocol will be included in handbooks and posted to view. Students and staff must be fever free for at least 72 hours **without** the use of fever reducing medicine, other symptom must have improved, and it must be at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared. If there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, we will contact the health department and our licensing consultant. St. John will inform staff and any families who may have been exposed, and they will be advised of what symptoms to screen for.

What are our exclusion policies and isolation procedures for children or staff exhibiting symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19?

- If a child becomes ill during the day, the child will be isolated and monitored. The parents will be contacted and the child with symptoms must be picked up promptly. If a staff member becomes ill, they will go home immediately or isolate until able to do so. Families who find out they have been exposed to COVID-19 should inform the office at once.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to have a back-up plan to pick your child up if they become ill during the day. Back-up care may be necessary if their child or family member becomes ill and is required to self-quarantine, or if the child's classroom needs to close on short notice.

How are required staff-to-child ratios maintained in the event a staff member becomes ill?

- In the event that a staff member becomes ill, another staff member will be called in to take their place. We will always maintain the required staff-to-child ratio.

What are the St. John guidelines for returning to school, care, or work?

- If a child, staff member, family member or visitor becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, the individual must stay home until:
 - Fever free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medication
 - Other symptoms have improved.
 - It has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- If anyone shows symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, they should call the office and report the illness. Most children and staff can return to school or work based on improved symptoms and the passage of time. The local health department may recommend that some individuals (i.e. immuno-compromised individuals) receive two negative COVID-19 tests in a row, 24 hours apart.