



Covid-19 Plan of Action

Updated: September 01, 2022

INTRODUCTION

Maple Hill Preschool is a parent cooperative that originated as a playgroup, which gives us all a unique opportunity to grow and learn together. This makes it even more imperative to cultivate a safe and healthy environment for our students, teachers, and families, while upholding the mission of the preschool and wishes of the collective families.

There are many strategies and recommendations in the slowing and stopping the spread of COVID-19. To be clear we are a license-exempt childcare parent cooperative, that always has a parent in the building. Because of this we are not mandated or included the current set guidelines or mandates, however we the Board review them all, while keeping in mind the mission of the preschool and co-op aspect.

Due to the continued risk of Covid-19 and given our location within The Sisters of The Resurrection we will continue to monitor the way we operate and update the health and wellbeing policies in the Parent Handbook as needed.

Please keep in mind that the CDC and Department of Health guidelines are ever changing. We will continue to closely monitor the infection rate, recommendations and the feedback from our teachers and parents.

GENERAL UPDATES

- We will continue to not require our little learners to wear masks.
 - o It is at the discretion of each family if they would like to send their learner in a mask.
 - o Should a family choose to have their child wear a mask, everyone at the cooperative will provide a supportive environment encouraging proper wear and handwashing when they touch it.
 - o Should an adult choose to wear a mask please wear it appropriately and wash hands after touching it to set a good example.

SCREENING & MORNING DROP OFF

We will continue our low touch check in process via Brightwheel. There will be mandatory health screening question at every check in. Failure to complete the check in process may result in you being called to discuss the screening and could result in you needing to pick up the child.

No person shall go beyond the entrance/ “holding tank” without completing a health screen.

- Temperatures:
 - o Are no longer a requirement in the screening process.
 - o If an individual has a temperature of greater than 100.0°F during class time, the individual will be sent directly to a dedicated area with a teacher to be sent home.

- Health screening
 - o The purpose of the daily screenings is to identify individuals who should not go to school and should be referred to their health care provider for further evaluation and potentially tested for COVID-19.
 - o The screening:
 - Electronic screening: will be utilized to maximize our efficiency
 - Should a parent not be able to access the electronic version, a tablet will be at the front during health checks which can be utilized to check in their child.

- Health screening questions
 - o Brightwheel will provide an electronic statement confirmation where you will need to confirm/ verify:
 - To the best of your knowledge your child(ren), yourself and family are healthy
 - o If the response is unchecked (which means no/ decline) the Chair of the Board will receive an alert and will be in contact ASAP.

Once the health screen is completed, backpacks and jackets can be hung on their designated hook in the holding tank. From there the parent/ caregiver is to usher the child into the bathroom for toileting and good handwashing.

REVISION IN HEALTH INFORMATION

Especially in these unprecedented times, to maintain a healthy environment at Preschool, we ask that you do not bring your child to school if he/she is showing any signs of illness. Prior to the pandemic, minor cold symptoms or cough did not impair your child from attending school. However, we need to be exceptionally diligent in preventing the spread of germs.

If your child becomes ill or the teacher(s) suspect an illness, during school hours you will be contacted immediately and requested to pick him/her up.

Please see the MHPS Attendance Protocol addendum that addresses our current pandemic circumstances.

HAND WASHING & TOILETING

Good hygiene starts with proper hand washing. We will continue to build routines of hand hygiene into the daily school schedule for all students and staff, including handwashing and sanitation breaks during or between classroom activities. Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol by staff and students.

- The use of sanitizer will always be under the supervision of an adult
 - o We will monitor to ensure that children and staff with sensitivity or skin reactions to hand sanitizer have access to soap and water.
- Handwashing will be reinforced during key times including but not limited to: arrival and dismissal; before and after eating food; after using the bathroom; after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing; after touching objects with bare hands that have been handled by other people.

Proper and consistent hygiene practices is critical to stopping the spread of germs. There will be decals on the floor for distancing guidelines when the bathroom is occupied. Hands free/ low contact soap and paper towel dispensers have been implemented. All high touch surfaces in the bathrooms will be routinely cleaned multiple times throughout session.

DAILY CLASS SESSION

The teachers will be diligent around classroom cleanliness, as well as our parent volunteer who is contracted to deep clean the classrooms twice a week. Two things we will continue on since the pandemic are:

- Playdough is an exceptional development tool, however impossible to clean. Therefore, we will have the Playdough Committee making individual labeled bags for each student to have their own and change it every 3 weeks, or sooner if needed.
- The Board of Maple Hill Preschool and the teachers will remain in close contact monitoring the local infection rate; assessing comfort and safety of remaining open.
 - o For monitory- <https://forward.ny.gov/covid-19-regional-metrics-dashboard>

SNACK

- In previous years, snacks were provided daily by the “parent volunteer/ snack parent”. Due to Covid-19 it is recommended that snack is either prepackaged or provided ahead of time.
 - o Therefore, snack will be provided through the preschool through shelf stable goods, fresh fruit, etc.
 - o The “parent volunteer/ snack parent” will assessable the indicated snack as per the calendar during their time there

- When it is your child's birthday, a special treat can be provided that day, as long as it is prepackaged/ store bought.

VOLUNTEER(S)/ SNACK PARENT

As a parent cooperative the key to our success is parent/caretaker involvement.

- Should an additional parents like to stay for the day and participate in the class we will need to limit the classroom to 2-3 parent volunteers per day in the class.
- The volunteer will be critical in helping us maintain the classroom cleanliness and will follow our classroom cleaning procedures.
 - o Examples: wiping tables and chairs down after snack, gathering soiled toys to cleaning, assisting with handwashing

CLEANING PROCEDURE UPDATES

Maple Hill Preschool will strictly utilize the United States Environmental Protection Agency, "List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) for proper cleaning supplies to ensure proper disinfection.

- Once all the cleaning supplies have been obtained a Material Safety Data Sheets (SDS) binder will be available for any parent to view. A comprehensive list of cleaning supplies will also be provided.
 - o Please note cleaning supplies may change throughout the school year due to availability.
- Windows will be open whenever possible to increase classroom ventilation.
- Prior to entering the classroom all children and adults will wash their hands.
- Tables and chairs will be wiped down and children will wash their hands before and after snack time.
 - o Tables and chairs will be cleaned with disinfecting wipes while class is in session and sanitized after students have been dismissed with a bleach and water solution.
- All toys with hard surfaces can be set aside for cleaning by putting them into a dish pan labeled "soiled toys." This dish pan can contain soapy water to begin removal of soil, or it can be a dry container used to bring the soiled toys to a toy cleaning area later in the day.
- End of day cleaning includes:
 - o High touch surfaces (light switches, handles)
 - o Individual student kits/ supplies
 - o Check in, toys, cabinets, tables, chairs, coat hooks
- **IMPORTANT:** cleaning products and disinfectants will not be utilized near children. Proper ventilation will be ensured to prevent inhaling any fumes. These products will always be securely stored away from children.

SUSPECT & CONFIRMED POSITIVE SCENARIOS

OUR HOPES

We hope that everyone is excited to watch their child learn and grow here at Maple Hill Preschool. With that said, we also hope that everyone will be responsible and play their part in keeping our school a safe and healthy place to be so that our children can experience preschool in the fullest capacity. We know these times are trying and release a lot of passion. Please be patient and kind while we all adapt to these changes and we hope that everyone can remain agile as it is inevitable that circumstances can and will change.

Sincerely,

The Board of Maple Hill Preschool