

COVID-19 Amendment to St. Peter's Preschool's 2022-2023 Parent Handbook

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Peter's Preschool is making an amendment to its 2022-2023 Parent Handbook to incorporate the following policies.

As a condition of your child's enrollment at St. Peter's Preschool, all parents are required to sign the enclosed Acknowledgement of Handbook Amendment and COVID-19 Release and Waiver of Liability.

Please be aware that these protocols may change during the year due to changes in guidance from MSDE and CDC. **Only the last page needs to be returned to the director.**

Enhanced Safety Procedures

- Only 1 class at each age level
- Masks optional while indoors, not recommended outdoors
- Daily symptom screening at home by parents before entry into school
- Family events like Pizza Ice Cream Social held outdoors when possible
- Increased outdoor time
- Open windows/run fans
- HEPA air purifiers
- Waterbottles brought in and sent home daily
- Snack and milk served by teachers
- Lunches brought from home in lunchboxes with ice packs

Enhanced Cleaning Procedures

- Frequent handwashing
- Hand sanitizer used by staff, supervised limited use by children
- Cleaning/disinfecting high touch surfaces multiple times a day
- Cleaning/disinfecting toys daily
- Cleaning/disinfecting bathrooms daily

Drop-Off Procedures

- Symptom screening will be done at home by parents prior to coming to school.
- Check-in will start around 9:25 outside double red doors. School doors will open at 9:30.
- Children will wash hands immediately upon entering the classrooms.
- The playground will not be available before school starts but can be used under parent supervision after school ends.
- Please do not allow your child to play on the wall/steps next to the building for safety reasons. Thank you!

COVID-19 Symptoms

Please make sure your children are healthy before coming to school. Students must be free from any symptoms of COVID-19 and other illness, including but not limited to the following:

- Fever (100.4° F or above) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Diarrhea

If your child develops any of these symptoms during the school day, they will be separated from other children/staff, and you will be required to pick them up within 30 minutes of being contacted.

What to do if Your Child is Sick

- If your child exhibits COVID-like symptoms, we require a negative COVID test or a note from the pediatrician stating a different diagnosis before they are allowed back to school.
- Either a PCR test or rapid test is acceptable.
- Home tests are acceptable.
- Please share negative COVID test results with me (either text/email or hardcopy is fine).
- If you take your child to get COVID tested, please let me know ASAP. Do not wait for the results to come back to inform me.
- If you choose not to get your child tested, they can return to school when all their symptoms have resolved and they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication.
- If your child does not have any specific symptoms but just "isn't themselves" please keep them home. We play hard at school, and they will have a better experience if they are feeling their best.
- **PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME IF THEY ARE SICK!**

If Your Child Tests Negative

- If your child tests negative, they may return to school when symptoms have improved and they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without medication.
- They do not need to mask upon return.
- Please share a picture of the negative test result with me (email, text, or hardcopy).
- This applies to all individuals regardless of vaccination status.

If Your Child Tests Positive

- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, they will need to isolate at home for at least 5 days.
- The day symptoms start or the day of positive test is considered Day 0.
- After Day 5, they may return to school if symptoms have improved and they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without medication.
- They do not need a negative test to return.
- Must wear mask while indoors for Day 6-10.
- If unable to wear mask, must remain home for Day 6-10.
- This applies to all individuals regardless of vaccination status.

If Your Child Has Been Exposed to COVID-19

- Test to Stay Program
- MSDE guidelines no longer mandate quarantine after exposure.
- Vaccinated individuals can continue attending school, but need to provide a negative test result on/after Day 5.
- Unvaccinated individuals can also continue attending school, but need to present a negative test result on Day 1, 3 and 5 from exposure.
- Everyone must mask indoors for 5 days after exposure, regardless of vaccination status.
- Please share a picture of the negative test result with me (email, text, or hardcopy).
- Classroom closures will be determined by the Howard County Health Department.

Siblings, Travel, and Vaccinations

- We will consider COVID exposure and the need to quarantine in siblings on a case-by-case basis. Please discuss your specific situation with the director.
- We are currently following CDC recommendations for travel. St. Peter's is not placing any restrictions on travel or requiring testing upon return.
- We strongly encourage all students to get vaccinated for COVID. As of this point, this is not a requirement, only a strong encouragement.
- All teachers, substitutes, and parent volunteers are required to be vaccinated against COVID.
- While not required, we encourage all students and staff to get the regular flu vaccine.
- If your child is vaccinated, please provide a copy of your child's vaccine card to the director.

Required Forms and Immunizations

Per MSDE guidance, all student immunizations must be up to date to start school. All required school forms, including health forms, are due at/before Meet the Teacher Day.

Parent Handbook Amendment Acknowledgement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the COVID-19 Amendment to St. Peter's Preschool's 2022-2023 Parent Handbook and that I agree to abide by the policies included. I acknowledge that failure to act in accordance with the provisions listed in the Amendment or with any policy/procedure outlined in the St. Peter's Preschool 2022-2023 Parent Handbook may result in termination of services. I acknowledge that care for my child(ren) may be terminated if it is determined that my actions, or lack thereof, unnecessarily exposes another employee, child, or their family member to COVID-19.

Tuition payments for school closures up to 2 weeks will not be refunded, closures over 2 weeks will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

COVID-19 Waiver of Liability

I understand that while present in school my child will be in contact with children and teachers who are also at risk of community exposure. I understand that no list of restrictions, guidelines or practices will remove 100% of the risk of exposure to COVID-19 as the virus can be transmitted by persons who are asymptomatic and before some people show signs of infection. I understand that I play a crucial role in keeping everyone in the school safe and reducing the risk of exposure by following the practices outlined in the Amendment.

I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to my child(ren) or myself (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I or my child(ren) may experience or incur in connection with my child(ren)'s attendance at St. Peter's Preschool ("Claims") arising from COVID-19 or related illness.

On my behalf, and on behalf of my child(ren), I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless St. Peter's Preschool and St. Peter's Episcopal Church, their employees, agents, and representatives, of and from any Claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out from COVID-19 or related illness.

I understand and agree that this release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence by St. Peter's Preschool, as well as their employees, agents, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after attendance at St. Peter's Preschool.

Child/Children's Name(s): _____

Parent's Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____