

## Kids' Co-op Preschool COVID-19 Protocols and Procedures

As we begin to reopen for in-person classes, the Kids' Co-op is dedicated to providing the support that our families and children need. We are also committed to providing the best practices for the health and safety for our children, families, and communities. We believe that attending school is the center of a child's mental health, physical health, and social life. For many children, it is their only support system. We have been in close contact with our state licensing and health departments, and have been actively following CDC guidelines for preschools.

Our school has established a planning committee, composed of staff and parents, that carefully considered the current research, guidelines and recommendations, and our community needs. The following procedures and FAQ's will provide an overview of our current protocols, however, the minutes to our meetings are also available for those that have more questions on how we arrived at our decisions. The committee will continue to meet on a monthly or bimonthly basis throughout the year to accommodate changes that will occur.

### Daily Procedures

#### Pick up and Drop off

- ❖ Children will be picked up and dropped off on the patios at the exterior classroom doors. Teachers will sign children in and out. Parents must answer a short health survey every day, prior to their child's entry into the building.
- ❖ All people entering the building will have their temperature taken at entry.
- ❖ All people entering the building must wash hands or use hand sanitizer immediately upon entry.
- ❖ Nonessential visitors, including parents who are not volunteering, will be limited. We encourage parents to mail tuition checks, and limit their time spent inside the building.
- ❖ Throughout the day, children's health and behaviors will be closely observed. Children or adults who are feverish, seem lethargic, or seem generally unwell will be asked to go home.

#### Increased sanitation and cleaning

- ❖ Hands will be washed before and after meals and snacks, before and after outdoor play, after using the bathroom, prior to going home, after blowing nose/assisting a child with blowing nose, after coughing or sneezing, and after sensory or art activities.
- ❖ If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer will be used.
- ❖ Teachers and parents will have designated times throughout the day to clean and sanitize frequently touched surfaces including tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, toilets, faucets, water dispensers, sinks, and large outdoor toys.
- ❖ The Kids' Co-op will provide PPE, including disposable gloves, disposable masks, sanitizer, and eye protection to parent volunteers.
- ❖ All toys will be sanitized at the end of the day.
- ❖ Air filters and ozone disinfection will be done at regular intervals.

## Daily routines

- ❖ Outdoor activities will be increased, including the use of our patio spaces. Daily routines, such as circle time, may be moved outdoors if weather permits.
- ❖ Doors and windows will remain open to increase airflow within the building.
- ❖ Items on shelves will be limited, but frequently rotated.
- ❖ Individual sensory trays will be offered in lieu of sensory tables
- ❖ Fabric items, including carpet squares, dress up clothing, and stuffed animals are removed from classrooms.
- ❖ The number of children in each center will be limited to 4.
- ❖ During art, craft, and sensory activities, children will be offered their own tools instead of sharing bowls, trays, and tools.
- ❖ During circle time, children will sit at assigned spaces to encourage social distancing. Children will also be encouraged to wear masks during circle times.
- ❖ Outside activities will be staggered to limit interactions with children in different classes.
- ❖ Children's belongings will be placed in a ziptop bag in their cubby instead of carrying a backpack to and from school each day.

## Snack time

- ❖ Children will bring a personal water bottle labeled with the child's name. Disposable water bottles will be provided as necessary.
- ❖ An adult will serve all snacks, using gloved hands.
- ❖ Children will sit at assigned spaces at snacks tables, to encourage social distancing.

## Parent volunteer requirements

- ❖ Parents will seek to maintain a safe distance (6 feet) from each other.
- ❖ Parents must wear a face covering while inside the building (mask, shield, or buff).
- ❖ Parent volunteer requirements will remain the same as is listed in the handbook.
- ❖ Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be shared at Orientation.
- ❖ Orientation will be held virtually instead of in person.
- ❖ Business meetings will have a virtual option available.
- ❖ Committee requirements may be adjusted for the health and safety of families.

## FAQ

### **What happens if I'm sick? What happens if my child is sick?**

*If you or your child are sick and have NOT had close contact with a person with a positive COVID-19 test AND do not have a positive COVID test yourself, please stay home for at least 48 hours after symptoms are completely resolved without the use of medication. For example, if you become ill on Monday, but don't feel completely well without medication until Wednesday, please wait an additional 48 hours (until Friday), to return to school.*

*If you or your child has symptoms of COVID-19, AND have had close contact with a person with COVID-19, please self-isolate for 14 days at home. The CDC strongly recommends that people with COVID symptoms who have been exposed have a COVID-19 diagnostic test administered.*

Symptoms of COVID-19 include a fever above 100.4, sore throat, new uncontrolled cough, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, or new onset of a severe headache. Close contact is defined as within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes. Please refer to the CDC website for more detailed information about COVID-19 at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

### **What happens if I have been exposed to COVID-19?**

If you, your child, or a family member who lives in your household, has had close contact with a known COVID-19 patient, please isolate at home for 14 days prior to returning to school. If you receive a diagnosis of COVID-19, please notify the school immediately.

### **What will we do if someone at school is diagnosed with COVID-19?**

In accordance with CDC recommendations, if a child or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, that classroom will be closed for 48 for cleaning and disinfecting. The families in the classroom will be notified of the potential exposure.

### **Do I have to wear a mask?**

Yes, Nevada regulations require that all adults over the age of 9 wear a face covering while inside a commercial building. You may wear a mask, shield, buff, or combination of these. The CDC and Nevada Health Department recommend a minimum of a cloth face covering. Adults will be required to wear a mask at any time while in the building, even if just coming in for a minute. You may temporarily remove your mask if it is necessary for instruction. Disposable masks are available in the office.

### **Does my child have to wear a mask?**

Your child is not required to wear a mask, but may wear one if you desire. We do ask that all children bring their mask to school to wear during circle time. At indoor circle times, children will wash their hands, place their masks on their face, and be asked to wear it throughout the circle time. They will then re-wash their hands and remove their masks. The committee spent quite a bit of time talking about this. We considered many different options (please see the minutes for more information), but decided to require children to wear masks during circle time for 3 main reasons:

1. This is the only time of day when a larger group of children will be occupying a smaller indoor space. Masks can protect all children and adults while in this more vulnerable space.
2. Wearing a mask for a short period of time is a self-regulation skill that is necessary for the foreseeable future. Children and adults are currently required to wear masks in other spaces, and children can practice this skill in a safe environment at school.
3. Wearing a mask is currently an important part of our social contract. Opening dialogue about masks can enable us to teach empathy and awareness of others.

**Will my child get to play with children in other classes?**

At the beginning of school, the 2s and 3s classes will co-mingle outdoors only. The 4s classes will have limited contact with the 2s and 3s. This means that our schedules may look different than they did last year. We still see a lot of value in having children play with people of different ages, and will continue to monitor our state recommendations to when it is safe for larger groups to gather.

**Will the teacher/child ratio remain the same? Will my child's class increase in size?**

We will maintain our normal adult/child ratios of 1:4. We are currently enrolling at our normal class sizes, which fall well below the American Academy of Pediatrics, CDC, and SNHD recommendations for class sizes during the pandemic.

**Will lunch bunch still be available?**

Due to high community numbers of COVID-19 in Nevada, we are currently limiting contact as much as possible between classes. With this in mind, we will be postponing the beginning of lunch bunch to October 1. This will also allow us to consider staffing requirements. We will reevaluate as this day comes closer.

**Do I still have to volunteer in the classroom and on a committee? Will the time commitment remain the same?**

Yes, you still need to volunteer in the classroom and a committee, although your duties and responsibilities may look a little different this year. We are closely looking at the expectations, and trying to maintain a similar time expectation. Many of the cleaning and disinfecting duties will be given to staff to limit the extra time they will take a parent volunteer. You are still welcome to use the volunteer or committee buyouts as listed in the handbook. We encourage you to speak to the board or staff if you feel unable to complete your duties.

**Will school be moved to all online if we go back to Phase One?**

The information we have is changing daily, and it is impossible to predict what the future may bring. However, we believe that the social and hands-on aspects of learning at our school are best done in-person. Our committee will continue to monitor our school and community needs. If the committee determines that the benefits of in-person learning no longer outweigh the health risks, our school-wide community will be surveyed to determine the needs of our families. We are looking at options such as blended classrooms (with multiple age groups in one class), lowered tuition for online-learning, limited class size, and online streaming of lessons if necessary to return to online learning. We are currently planning on returning to our normal operating hours and in-person classes beginning on September 1st.