

## 2025-2026 COVID PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

**This information is a living document and may be adjusted due to changing needs or revisions to guidelines and recommendations from the Governor of California, the San Diego Office of Public Health, and the state of California Community Care Licensing.** The health and safety of the children, the families and of our staff are high priorities for us and effect all decisions we make. We will continue to adjust as needed while responding to the ever-changing orders, guidelines, and recommendations. We now have the success and experience of running a preschool safely during the pandemic.

### Social Distancing Strategies

Staying healthy requires a community effort. For your children to attend the Village Church Preschool, all families need to comply with the CDC recommendations that limits your child's risk for exposure. Your child's enrollment may be terminated if it is determined that your actions or lack of action unnecessarily exposes another employee, child, or family member to COVID-19.

Children will be assigned to one classroom and stay with that stable group of children and teacher the entire time they are indoors. Each classroom will join one class while outside on the playground. Chapel time will be held in the Chapel with a total of four classes for a duration of 15 minutes or less, once a month.

### Face Coverings

- **Masks are a choice for our staff indoors and outdoors.**
- **Masks are a choice for parents when they are attending chapel or a special event indoors and outdoors.**
- **If you would like your child to wear a mask, we will help in reinforcing this.**
- **We will only require masks if your child tests positive for COVID and returns on the 6<sup>th</sup> day with a negative test result. They will be required to wear a mask both indoors and outdoors upon return for a duration of 10 days from positive test result.**
- **It is recommended that all *exposed* children 2 years or older wear an appropriate well-fitted mask around others through day 10.**

### Drop off and Pick Up

Parents will be permitted to enter the school and drop off their child at the classroom door. **We ask that this procedure last no more than 10 minutes to assure an easy transition and to lessen indoor exposure.**

At arrival and before pick-up time, students will wash their hands.

Current drop-off time is between 8:55am-9:10am. Pick-up time will be at either 12pm or 2pm. We ask that parents are on time to avoid a late fee of \$1.00 per minute after pick-up time.

## **Communication**

Please note that drop-off and pick-up time needs to be done promptly and is not the ideal time for long discussions with your child's teacher. This communication with on-site staff should be done via classroom email or the school telephone number (858) 756-2394. Teachers will be available to keep families updated, answer questions, and address the needs of students in our care.

## **Student Supplies**

- **Snacks and lunches should be brought in a labeled lunch box.**
- **Every child will need a labeled water bottle.**
- **Each child will need a change of clothes in a labeled gallon Ziplock baggie.**
- **NO toys may be brought to school.**

## **Monitoring and Illness**

During the day, if any of the following symptoms appear, your child will be separated from the other children in their classroom and brought to the main office. We will contact parents, and you **MUST** pick up your child from preschool within 30 minutes of being notified.

### **Symptoms include:**

- Fever of 100.4 or higher
- Dry Cough
- Shortness of Breath
- Chills
- Loss of Taste or Smell
- Sore Throat
- Muscle aches
- Lethargy
- Congestion/Rhinorrhea (runny nose)

Your child will need to be **symptom-free without any medications for 48 hours before returning** to preschool. If your child's symptoms continue longer than 12 hours after leaving school, you will need to take your child to the doctor and immediately notify the school of the outcome.

- **If a child or staff member tests positive for CV-19, then the child will need to go into quarantine for a total of 10 days. They may test on the 5<sup>th</sup> day, returning on the 6<sup>th</sup> day with a photo-proof of at-home or antigen test and must wear a mask both indoors and outdoors until the 11<sup>th</sup> day. If the result remains positive, they will need to stay home for the completion of 10 days, returning on the 11<sup>th</sup> day.**
- **If a child or staff member is exposed to CV-19 within a household (parent, sibling, etc.) then they will need to remain at home and can test on the 5<sup>th</sup> day and may return on the 6<sup>th</sup> day with a photo-proof of a negative test result.**
- We require that all children exposed to a positive case in the classroom be monitored closely for symptoms daily for the next 5 days and that we are notified immediately if any symptoms should arise.
- Parents are encouraged to have their child tested and can choose to stay home at their own discretion with all classroom exposures.
- **It is recommended that all exposed children 2 years or older wear an appropriate well-fitted mask around others through day 10.**
- A classroom may need to close if 3 children test positive within 14 days.
- There will be no compensation given due to lost time if a classroom is put into quarantine as per stated in the Parent Handbook, as these funds are directly allocated to staff and program costs.
- As with anything related to CV-19, families choosing to send their children to school do so at their own risk, and families should familiarize themselves with such risks by consulting the CDC website and their own doctor.

## **Healthy Handwashing Efforts**

The Village Church Preschool will take every precaution to keep children healthy. Students will be required to wash their hands multiple times throughout the day. We have installed touchless soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers and touchless faucets at each sink.



- Children's hands will be sanitized upon arrival before entering the school grounds at our hand sanitizing station.
- All children and staff will, at a minimum, wash at the following times:
  - Arrival on campus and after breaks
  - Before and after preparing food or drinks
  - Before and after eating, handling food, or feeding children
  - After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
  - After playing outdoors or in the sand
- Handwashing will include soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Children will be supervised when they use hand sanitizer.

## **Cleaning and disinfection**

We routinely clean, sanitize, and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially toys and games. This will also include cleaning objects/surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, tables, and playground structures.

## **Parent Agreement form to return**

Parents must verify they have read the Village Church Preschool Handbook and the COVID Preschool Liability Release Agreement. Each family must sign both forms to attend the Village Church Preschool.

## Tips for talking to children

Children may worry about themselves, their family and friends getting ill with COVID-19. Parents, family members, school staff and other trusted adults can play an important role in helping children make sense of what they hear in a way that is honest, accurate, and minimizes anxiety or fear.

- **Remain calm.** Remember that children will react to both what you say and how you say it. They will pick up cues from the conversations you have with them and with others.
- **Reassure your child that they are safe.** Let them know it is okay if they feel upset. Share with them how you deal with your own stress so that they can learn from you how to cope.
- **Make yourself available to listen and talk.** Let your child know they can come to you when they have questions.
- **Avoid language that might blame others** and lead to stigma.
- **Pay attention to what your child sees and hears** on television, radio, or online.
- **Provide information that is truthful and appropriate** for the age and developmental level of your child. Children may misinterpret what they hear and can be frightened about something they do not understand.
- **Teach your child everyday actions** to reduce the spread of germs. Remind your child to wash their hands frequently and stay away from people who are coughing, sneezing or are sick. Also, remind them to cough or sneeze into a tissue or their elbow, then throw the tissue into the trash.
- **Discuss with your child what will happen during** drop-off and pick-up time (Maintaining 6 feet distance, temperature checks, saying goodbye at the gate and walking into their class with a teacher). Remind your child that these practices are to keep the children and staff safe.

Check out this website for helpful information on how to discuss Coronavirus with your child:



Germs, Germs Go Away | Daniel Tiger s Neighborhood | PBS KIDS

**We thank you for doing your diligence in keeping our school a healthy and safe place for children to learn, play and grow!**