

**Summary of the Peace Lutheran Preschool Health and Safety Reopening Plan:** In times of uncertainty, we can all be certain that God is steadfast and with us always as affirmed in Matthew 28:20. We want to assure you that our goal is to maintain our commitment to excellence and best practices in all we do, especially now with an extra heightened commitment to health and safety during this pandemic. Our positive and proactive approach to our early education ministry will continue to be Christ-focused and child-centered, offering students the safest and most fun, learning filled environment that we can. We are blessed with a great staff that is willing to go above and beyond to support these extreme safety measures!

**Reopening Plan Responsibility:**

- \*Pastor and director to oversee including training, communicating with staff, parents, and state inspector.
- \*Evaluating compliance and correcting any deficiencies.
- \*Attestation form is on file with the state to reopen in compliance with mandated guidelines.
- \*Date reopened, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Promoting Healthy Hygiene and Group Sizing:**

- \* Staff is required to wear a mask and/or face shield unless health issues inhibit. \*When feasible and appropriate, students are encouraged to wear a cloth face mask. They are **required** for entry into the building. They will be worn when in close proximity when physical distancing is challenging (Examples: story time, lining up for the bathroom). Masks are not required for staff/students when outside. Additional class areas will be set up outside for plenty of fresh air experiences. \*Student groups will not exceed a maximum of 15 children, will include the same children, and to the greatest extent possible, the same staff member each day. \*Groups will be separated by 6ft tall partitions, when not in a partitioned area and groups are present, groups will remain 10 feet apart. The partitions will be used to define a fun, learning-filled classroom. \*Shared entry ways and restrooms will be controlled so that 6ft social distancing can occur between students and staff (one way for entry-no exiting at the same time in doorways) and bathroom breaks will only be for the same student group members. \*Bathrooms will be cleaned between each use. Sink handles, light switches, door handles, tables, countertops etc. will be cleaned frequently throughout the day with CDC approved products. \*Two groups can use the playground simultaneously when separated by partitions and cleaning between use of playground equipment for the next group. \*Toys will not be shared between groups on the same day with the exception of playground items once disinfected according to CDC guidelines. \*Handwashing will take place frequently throughout the day and will specifically include washing hands before entering class, after coming inside from playing, after using the bathroom, before eating, before going home, and of course when touching noses, sneezes, etc. We will be germ fighters to the max!

**Screening and Admittance:**

- \*Masks are required for entry to the building for all.
- \*Touchless screening for students will be conducted before entry to class. Persons with a fever of 100.4f or exhibiting other signs of illness will not be permitted to stay. Screen at home for an added safeguard.
- \*Screening area will be in our narthex. Look for the big smiley face!
- \*Screening will follow CDC guidelines (gloves, touchless temp check).
- \*Hand sanitizer and hand washing stations will be available. Hand washing is required to enter the classroom and before returning home.
- \*Parents/Visitors are not permitted in the classrooms at this time. We hope you can join us for a "Peek at Preschool" time the week prior to school starting so that you can visit our class and see our new set up. More info on that to follow.
- \*Socially distance at drop off and please stagger drop off times (see full policy for more information). Only 4 families can enter at one time. Feel free to wait in your car or outside and enter as a family leaves.
- \*Students must stay with you until hand washing is complete. Use soap/water for 20 seconds!

**Additional Risk Mitigation**

- \*Windows opened frequently
- \*No plush toys (nappers may bring from home and will be sent home to be laundered for the next nap time)
- \*Spacing of groups at nap will be 6 feet and bedding will be alternate head toe, toe head between children
- \*All bedding sent home at end of week for laundering
- \*All bedding stored in closeable bag (parents provide) bedding stored so as not to touch other bedding
- \*No fieldtrips at this time
- \*Visitors are currently limited to emergency repairs to HVAC, emergency personnel in an official capacity, or state and local inspectors who only operate on a 9-5 schedule, at which time students would be distanced from them and those visitors would be subject to a touchless temp screening
- \*Meal time will be in our groups and teachers will follow state/cdc guidelines to set up meals wearing gloves
- \*We cannot leave groups to heat items up in the microwave so please use a thermos to keep items hot. We cannot make any exceptions.
- \*Enhanced cleaning and use of government approved disinfectants
- \*Any student who exhibits signs of illness will be safely separated from the group with a staff member observing them and parents called to pick up.
- \*A doctor's note is required to return to school
- \*Any confirmed case or suspected exposure will be reported to our inspector and the local health dept.
- \*Staff, parents/guardians, students testing positive must immediately inform our center
- \*The health dept. will advise us on steps to take
- \*Parents will be informed in writing of a confirmed case of a student or staff member causing exposure to other students
- \*All rooms used by the infected person(s) will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance of CDC guidelines
- \*Health officials will determine if our center should close or if just a specific group is out for a determined period of time.

Returning to school: \*Staff or children that contract Covid will have to meet home isolation and transmission based precautions according to the NJ or Atlantic County Health Department. Those agencies and/or your physician will best be able to walk you through this as the criteria changes as more is understood about this virus  
\*Confidentiality will be strictly adhered to and no one will be made to feel ostracized or the subject of gossip.

Playing and learning: \*Children/staff will be discouraged from hugging, high-fiving, and other traditional forms of physical greetings BUT you can be sure that we have developed some creative alternative ways to show care, concern, and love to each other \*No child will be disciplined for hugging or invading body space in a time that body space is extended beyond the scope of a preschoolers understanding. We will gently remind them that we are all being extra careful at this time to help with the fight against germs \*Please do not fear that a teacher will not comfort your upset child but if you see us grab a towel to shield our clothing or skin, we are doing this to provide protection for both ourselves and the student as advised by the health dept. Staff will even have a spare change of clothing on hand if the need arises. We do not operate in a spirit of fear. We operate in the best interest of our student's and staff's safety.

We want you to feel connected so please check Brightwheel for photos and messages. We cannot guarantee we can get a photo out every day at first with all of the safety measures we have to be conscious of but we welcome your words of encouragement too with feedback. It will be great for our morale as teachers teaching in unprecedented times. We plan to have virtual field trips and virtual visitors while visitation restrictions are in place.

The good news: \*Transmission rates for our age groups are the lowest of all age groups. Yay!  
\*Studies show that preschool -age children being diagnosed with Covid is generally uncommon and without serious complications. Yay! \*This encouraging news combined with stringent adherence to CDC/State Health Guidelines gives us hope for a safe and happy school year and hopefully gives you some peace of mind.

Fun events: \*We will put all of our normal events on the calendar with hopes of observing them in safe ways (Harvest Parade outdoors for example). We want to offer the students as much normalcy as possible and will be viewing each activity with a lens of what is permissible and what is not and how we can celebrate, observe a holiday, and have the most fun in creatively safe ways. Covid has not cancelled fun!

What you can do to help us: \*Be patient as we navigate these new waters! \*Send in at least two extra masks to leave on site in a small zip lock bag. Please label the masks too. \*Dirty masks will be sent home in a ziplock bag. Please replenish the supply. We will have extra disposable masks but don't want to exhaust our supply. \*Send in at least one container of wipes that are labeled 99% bacteria and virus killing and two boxes of tissues. We have invested a lot of funds in preparing the school for the new guidelines so these extras would help greatly. \*Trust us to follow the safety guidelines without losing sight of loving on your children, teaching them, and pointing them to Jesus! Covid can't cancel those either. We are required to provide you with this exhaustive policy but don't let it discourage you. We hope you are encouraged that we love what we do so much that we are on board 100% and we will do our best at it.  
Sincerely, "Miss" Patti and Pastor Alan