

SAFELY TOGETHER 2020-2021

A Guide for The Children's Circle at Myers Park United Methodist Church



The Children's Circle
at Myers Park UMC

704-376-5208

<https://thechildrenscircle.org/>

TCC COVID – 19 RESPONSE

Based on the Myers Park UMC Medical Advisory Team’s guidance the changes to protocol included in this document will be enacted for Fall 2020. TCC is also following the guidelines of the CDC, federal and local governments, NC Department of Health and Human Service and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

To ensure the safety of our preschool community, we will continuously monitor COVID-19 information and make any changes necessary based on the recommendations set forth by the Medical Advisory Team.

A safe return, will require the full engagement of each individual in our community.

Our response is limited to the boundaries of our campus. All we can do is modify our institutional risk.

We will depend on you and your family to help us keep everyone safe. It is your responsibility to observe best practices during this season. Please adhere to recommended guidelines from government and research organizations.

Social distance...wear a mask.....wash hands!

1

Daily health screenings of individuals entering the building.

These screenings could include, but are not limited to, temperature checks and questions about the health of your child and family members. These will be done by a staff member wearing proper PPE.

Screening question may include the following:

1. Have you or any of the children you are dropping off had close contact (within 6 ft. for at least 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, or has any health department or health care provider been in contact with you and advised you to quarantine?
2. Do you or do any of the children you are dropping off have any of these symptoms?
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - New cough
 - New loss of taste of smell
3. Since they were last at preschool, have you or any of the children you are dropping off been diagnosed with COVID-19?

- If there is no fever and all questions can be answered “no”, child may proceed to the classroom.
- If there is a fever and any questions can be answered “yes”, child will need to stay at home.

Parents are required to inform the preschool office of a COVID19 diagnosis or any known exposure to the coronavirus.

2

What if my child shows symptoms?

Anyone showing signs of illness of any kind, or who may have been exposed to Covid-19 should not be at preschool.

Symptoms of Covid-19 include:

°Fever °Cough °Shortness of breath °Loss of taste or smell

Additional symptoms include cold-like symptoms, such as:

°Congestion °Runny nose °Sore throat °Headache
°Fatigue °Body aches °Chills

FEVER is determined by a thermometer reading of 100.4 or higher.

If your child has a fever, he/she will be readmitted to school after being fever free for 72 hours without medication.

TCC reserves the right to exclude any child or staff member from entering the building who shares a home (including siblings) or has been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19.

Families will be required to sign a COVID-19 liability waiver and class covenant.

If a child is exposed to COVID-19, the case will be reported to the Mecklenburg County Health Department. MCHD will help the church leadership and preschool administration determine a course of action for the school.

If a child gets sick at school, he/she will be cared for by a teacher in a designated area, separated from others.

- Parents will be called. It is imperative that you come immediately.
- Contact the preschool office when you arrive in the front circle.
- A teacher will bring your child and siblings (if applicable) to your car.

Inside the Building

3

Entry into building is limited to students and staff.

- All children will use the carpool line. No walk-ins.
- Please review the carpool procedures that you will receive separately.
- It is important that families make every effort to arrive at school during the designated carpool times due to the additional screening protocols necessary this year.
- If a child needs to be dropped off late or picked up early, please remain in your car in the front circle of the church. Call the preschool office (704-376-5208). As soon as a staff member is available, we will come to your car. Morning – We will complete screening and escort your child to the classroom. Afternoon – we will escort your child from the classroom to your car.

4

What should your child bring to school?

- TCC issued backpack
- Individual snack
- Refillable water bottle
- An extra set of clothes, including underwear, in a gallon ziplock bag.
- Child size face covering (mask) of your choice (please send at least 2 a day)
- Please make sure that each item is clearly labeled with your child's name
- In order to minimize spread of germs, please do not send any items that are not on this list!



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Protocols

- Children and staff will continue to wash hands frequently throughout the day.
- Children will spend much of the day in our newly developed outdoor classrooms. We have identified 4 outdoor spaces to use as outdoor classrooms.
- Children will be required to wear masks at school.
- Mask breaks will be offered throughout the day. Brief mask breaks will occur when we are outside or can socially distance.
- Group sensory play and playdough activities will be replaced by individual sensory experiences.
- Materials that are not easily sanitized have been removed from the classroom (i.e. dress-up clothes, upholstered chairs, pillows, etc.) Books are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection.
- Community water fountain is closed. Bottled water will be available for children to refill their individual water bottles.
- Classroom furniture and learning centers will be arranged to encourage optimum space.
- Staff will routinely clean, sanitize and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched.
- Staff will clean and sanitize all toys and workspaces at the end of the day.
- We will use products approved by the CDC and safe to use around children.
- MPUMC building facilities department will sanitize and disinfect all used spaces on Friday.

Sanitation and Safety Protocols

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Minimizing cross-contamination

- All staff members will wear masks.
- Only our oldest children (4s and 5s) will attend preschool at this time.
- Staggered playground time. One class per space, per time slot.
- Each class will have their own playground toys.
- Each child will have his/her own pencil box with art supplies, sit-upon, clipboard, etc. (provided by TCC.)
- Smaller classroom sizes.
- A support teacher has been added to each classroom to replace our school-wide floater.
- Reduced clutter in classrooms, bathrooms, common spaces to make daily sanitation easier.
- No lunch. Individual snacks and water bottles. Snack will be available outside, weather permitting.
- Birthday/party treats will need to be commercial items that are individually packaged.

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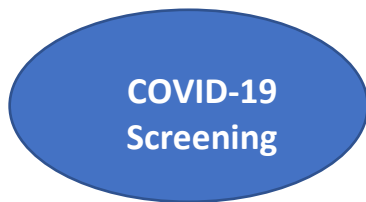
Other Changes

Open House and Teacher Communication

- Teachers will contact families and entire class via virtual platforms.
- Information that is usually distributed at Open House will be sent digitally.

Carpool

- You will receive revised carpool procedures soon with more detailed information.
- Everyone in the car is required to wear a mask during arrival/screening and dismissal
- Please display your carpool number at arrival and dismissal.



NO FLAGS	EXPOSURE, NO SYMPTOMS	DIAGNOSIS, NOT SYMPTOMS	AT LEAST 1 SYMPTOM
<i>Proceed to preschool</i>	<i>Cannot attend preschool</i>	<i>Cannot attend preschool</i>	<i>Cannot attend preschool</i>
	Stay at home 14 days since exposure	Stay at home 10 days since first positive COVID-19 test	Stay at home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 days since first symptoms • No fever for 3 days (without fever medicine) • 3 days of symptom improvement, including coughing and shortness of breath.