

SYC Pandemic Plan 9/3/2021

Please note: These plans supersede information provided in the Parent Handbook and are the most current plans as of 9/3/2021. Families will be notified in writing of any addendums to the Pandemic Plan.

These policies are based on the best information we are able to gather right now. As the information about the pandemic changes and the advice of Ohio Public Health, Columbus Public Health, Ohio Division of Jobs and Family Services (our licensing agency), and the Centers for Disease Control change, we will update our policies and keep families/teachers informed.

Please direct any questions or concerns about these plans to Susan/Amy at director@sycolumbus.org.

Goals

- To keep children, families and teachers as safe as possible while meeting children's developmental needs

Emotional Health and Safety

- We will spend as much time as possible in free play.
- Children will decide where to play and with whom - there will be no requirement to social distance from other children.
- We will focus on trusting relationships - teachers will comfort, hug, console children... and wash hands!
 - Before schools starts we plan to offer ways for children, families and teachers to connect, which may include:
 - Parent Orientation:
 - Part 1: Video to be sent out before 9/12
 - Part 2: Parent/Caregiver visits the evening of 9/12
 - Each class will meet separately, outside, masked
 - One adult per family, no children
 - Teachers will introduce themselves, tell a little bit about the class, and give you an opportunity to meet each other and explore the space for about 30 minutes
 - Children's First Day Visits:
 - On the child's first scheduled day of class, they will be invited to come for a 30 min visit to the classroom space with one caregiver, to meet the teachers and some of their classmates and begin to become familiar with the space.
 - See Parent/Caregiver Engagement section below.

Health and Safety:

Again, these policies are based on the best information we are able to gather right now. As the information about COVID improves and the advice of OPH, CPH, ODJFS, and the CDC change, we will update our policies and keep families/teachers informed. By being strict about enforcing health and safety standards, we will be able to allow children the freedom to play.

Masks:

- We require that all children, teachers, and caregivers wear masks while children are present at SYC. We understand that children's ability to wear a mask correctly and for long periods of time will vary to some extent from child to child.
- We cannot guarantee that every child will have both their mouth and nose covered for every moment of the school day, but we can guarantee that we will work with children to wear their masks to the best of their ability, as safely as they can, for as much of the day as they are able.
- If a child takes off their mask, pulls it down off their nose, forgets to put it on or otherwise struggles with wearing their mask at school, adults will gently remind or help the child, as we would any time a child is learning something new.
 - Caregivers can help by helping their child learn to put their mask on by themselves, trying out different styles of masks (if needed) to find one that fits well and is most comfortable, and modeling how and when to wear a mask.
- Children should arrive at school wearing a mask, and will need two or more backup masks in their backpack. ****Please label all masks with your child's name.****
- Caregivers are asked to wear a mask at pick up and drop off and for caregiver gatherings such as orientation, both for the safety of our community and to model mask-wearing for children.

Handwashing:

- Teachers will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer often.
- Children will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer (kept out of reach of children) often, as they have before, with the addition of after coming inside and prior to departure.
- We will teach and use healthy handwashing habits.

Illness Policy

- **Diligently following these rules helps us keep each other safe.**
- ***We will use our best judgement to identify when children are ill, however, we are not trained medical professionals. Our goal is to keep our SYC community including children, families and teaching staff safe and healthy. Please note that we will be VERY careful in following through on these Centers for Disease Control Recommendations. Please help us by keeping your child home if they, or another member of your family, is ill.***

- Parents agree to notify school of any conditions or changes in their child's health status, and to inform the school if their child tests positive for COVID, if someone in their child's household tests positive, or if someone the child has been exposed to tests positive.
- SYC agrees to keep your child/staff member's identity confidential regarding illness, exposure, or testing.
- Teachers and children will be screened daily for health conditions and covid symptoms.
 - Teachers will **not** be taking children's temperatures at drop off. We ask that caregivers be alert to signs of a fever as well as other symptoms before heading to school.
 - Teachers will ask caregivers if their child has exhibited any of [these symptoms](#) or if they have been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for covid.
 - If your child has had any of those symptoms, please follow these [OPH guidelines for exclusion](#).
 - ****Note:** If you suspect that your child's symptoms are due to something that is noncontagious (ie allergies), they will need a recent alternate diagnosis from a medical professional to come/return to school.
 - If a parent has any of the above, please consider keeping your child at home unless symptoms are explained by an underlying condition (allergies, asthma).
 - If a child or teacher exhibits any of the symptoms during class, they will be taken to an area away from other people and will need to go home.
 - Parents must pick up their ill child within 30 minutes.
 - *Be sure your contact information is current in the office and that your voice mailbox is activated and not full.*
 - As always, children may be excluded from school for any communicable disease on the communicable disease chart
<http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/num/JFS08087/pdf/>
- Teachers and children will be welcomed back to SYC:
 - Following [ODH guidelines](#) and suggestions for quarantine or isolation.
 - When it has been 72 hr since any symptoms without medication AND
 - Improvement in respiratory symptoms
 - OR they have been cleared by a doctor noting that they do not have COVID, have a negative COVID test or have a different diagnosis and have met the criteria for that condition to be able to return to school (a doctor's note may be required *If you are unable to get a doctor's note, please come talk to Susan or Amy.)
- **If a student or teacher has tested positive for COVID:**
 - They must follow the guidelines of the CPH which may include a 14-day quarantine including 3 full days after symptoms are gone.
- **Exposure, Suspected, or Positive case in the household of child or staff:**
 - If an unvaccinated child is exposed to someone with a positive test result, the person will be required to quarantine for up to 10 days under advice of the CPH.
 - [Quarantine Guidelines Following Exposure](#) (under guidance of CPH)

- The second page of [this document](#) from CPH has a very helpful calendar for determining when to start counting days of quarantine if someone in your household has tested positive.
 - A vaccinated teacher who is exposed to someone with a positive test result will require a negative covid test 3-5 days post-exposure to return to school, and will continue to monitor for symptoms, under the advice of CPH.
 - If a household member is quarantined but does not show symptoms or test positive, the child/staff member does not necessarily need to quarantine but is suggested that they stay away from the quarantined household member. CPH will advise.
 - If a household member tests positive, the student is considered a close contact and is required to quarantine for 10 days from the date of exposure. If the student is unable to avoid close contact with the positive family member, the 10 days of quarantine does not begin until the positive family member's isolation has ended, under the advice of CPH. Please see the [second page of this document](#) for a helpful graphic.
- ***Being strict allows us to be the most SYC we can be - to play and learn together - while being as safe as we can be.***

School/Classroom Closures for Student/Teacher Testing Positive for COVID:

- If a child, teacher, or administrator who has been in the classroom in the last 48 hrs tests positive, classroom and/or school closure may occur under advisement of the CPH. Closure may include any or all of the following:
 - Identifying all of the people (children, teachers, administrators) who have been in close contact (within 6 ft for more than 15 min cumulative in a 24 hr period) with the person.
 - This could be some members of a class or all of the class.
 - Notifying them of potential exposure and requiring quarantine under the advice of CPH which may be up to two weeks. That particular class may not meet for two weeks depending on the exposure and advice of CPH.
 - Testing may be suggested.
 - Other families in the school will be notified of a positive case in the building and it will be suggested that they monitor their children for symptoms.
- For closures of less than two consecutive weeks, teachers will maintain contact with their classes and provide some online programming. Contracts and tuitions will still be in effect.
- For closures of more than two consecutive weeks, contracts and tuition will be on pause and no programming/contact with teachers will be expected.

Parent/Caregiver Engagement

- At this point, no adults are allowed in the building except teachers, and office staff. We know this may be hard for you and your child - it will be hard for us!! But every person that comes in is an increased risk for exposure and for a need to close down should that

person become ill. We will be working hard to build relationships in other ways and welcome your ideas and suggestions!

- You may drop off papers for Holly in the drop box or hand them to a teacher.
- Parent education, parent coffees, home visits, and conferences are important. They may be outside with masks, virtual, or hybrid. We will do our best to offer options that meet everyone's safety needs.
- You will not be able to come in to use the restroom. We know this will be hard!! Please plan ahead.
- The SYC playgrounds will be available for families to use after 4pm on weekdays and on weekends when the church is not using them.
 - Please follow the guidelines for playground use laid out in the Parent Handbook (see link on your family portal page on Jovial).
 - We trust you will explore this option based on the safety precautions that feel right to your family and the families you gather with.

Drop Off / Pick Up

- Timeliness will be especially important with this phase of drop off and pick up, as teachers will be escorting children to their classrooms. We also understand that occasionally on some days, things happen. If you are not able to arrive at the designated time please contact the office to arrange for drop off.
- ****NOTE: Below are the plans we had for the 2020-21 school year and the summer 2021 Playcamp. We don't expect them to change dramatically, but have not worked out the details yet. We expect to have the details worked out and will send a video/description of the process to you sometime during the week of 9/7. We will update this document with the new plans once they are settled. Thank you for your patience! We *do* know that caregivers will not be coming into the building for drop off / pick up at this time.**

- **Drop Off/ Pick Up**

- 4s:

- Children in the 4s classroom will use the SYC parking lot off of High street and pull around to the curb at the designated drop off time.
- A classroom teacher will greet you in the parking lot. Teachers will ask you several health screening questions. Parents, wearing a mask, will open the car door and help the child out of the car seat.
- The teacher will then have the child sanitize their hands, say goodbye to you, and escort the child to the classroom.
- 4s students will enter the classroom through the outdoor playground door.
- At the end of class children will wash hands/use hand sanitizer and then be escorted with any of their belongings by the teachers to the designated drop off curb line.

- 3s:

- Families in the 3s classroom will use the Weisheimer lot, park, and walk their children through the brick courtyard, the memorial garden, and the 2s playground.
 - Caregivers are asked to wear masks and maintain distance while waiting.
 - At the gate between the 2s and 3s playgrounds, a teacher will greet you and ask several health screening questions.
 - After saying goodbye, the teacher will guide the child into the bathroom to wash hands/use sanitizer, put their belongings away, and then head out to the playground.
- **Supporting Separation:**
 - Everyone experiences separation differently, and teachers have many resources to help both children and caregivers who are having a hard time separating. This may look different at curbside drop off than it does in the classroom, though a lot of the same techniques will help.
 - We will help prepare you and your child both with a video (coming soon) of what dropping off looks like.
 - We can reassure you that we will still support and care for your child by sitting with them, writing notes, calling or sending a picture of how they are feeling. As always, we will work with you and your child to find a plan that works for everyone.

Keeping Children/Teachers Safe During Play

Outside Play

- As always, the health and safety of the children is our top priority. In an effort to minimize the risk of spreading the coronavirus as well as to promote healthy movement and engagement with nature, we will spend as much time as possible outdoors. We will monitor the children's behavior, activity levels and comfort, adjusting our time in/outside as appropriate while prioritizing outdoor play.
- Cold weather:
 - "Feels like" 25 degrees and up: outside much/most of the day
 - "Feels like" 10-25 degrees: outside for less total time and for shorter periods, longer and more frequent indoor breaks
 - "Feels like" less than 10 degrees: any trips outside will be optional, very short and children will be bundled up. Examples: a few minutes to run off some energy, a trip outside to gather icicles, a quick walk outside to see tracks in the snow.
 - Temperature is only one factor that will be considered; wind, sun, moisture, lightning and ice will also be taken into account.
 - [This chart](#) has guided our plans. It is widely used in other states/programs and our licenser has agreed that it is appropriate.

- The temperature and conditions change during the course of the day/class, so it may be too cold to go out at the beginning but warm enough by the end.
- The different playgrounds present different environmental factors which may affect decisions about going outside. The 2s and 3s playgrounds are shadier in the morning, windier and often wetter which may affect those classes' ability to spend longer periods of time outside. The 4s is sunnier and more sheltered from the wind but has more room for ice.
- Please plan to send the appropriate weather gear regardless of the temperature. If you would like assistance in obtaining the necessary gear, please talk to your teachers or to the directors.
- When we are inside, we will use the doors and windows to maintain some fresh air in the rooms but will not let the temperature go below 65 degrees. Layers under snowsuits are still advised, as 65 indoors can still be chilly.
- We also have air purifiers in each room.
- Hot weather:
 - Cold water and shade will be provided at all times. Please remember to bring your own water bottle.
 - Teachers will monitor children for signs of overheating and provide opportunities to cool off.
 - Teachers cannot apply sunscreen or insect repellent but encourage families to do so before coming to school.
 - Air conditioning or fans will be used to maintain an indoor temperature of no more than 85 degrees.

Limits on Materials

- The intense cleaning regimen will require that we limit quantities of materials in the classroom both in number and in type. Nevertheless, teachers will remain attune to children's interest and needs, and will provide what children ask for.
 - Some items will not be used at this time due to exposure risks: ie anything that goes on the face or in the mouth
 - Some items will not be used at this time due to the difficulty in sanitizing them: soft toys/animals, bedding/pillows, area rugs, dressups. If there appears to be a need for some of these items, teachers will work with the child and the family to find ways to be sure the items are washed frequently.
- Consumable/replaceable sensory materials (playdough, water, shaving cream) will not be shared between classes. Less-easily-replaceable sensory materials (rice, beans) will be put in quarantine for 48 hrs after each use.

Cleaning

Toys/Manipulatives:

- Will be sanitized after each group/class, more often if they have been mouthed or used for a long period of time or by a group of children
- For many items, each class will have their own set that will be rotated out and cleaned between classes. This means that there may be less quantity and variety of items, but teachers will be attuned to children's interests and needs and will pull out other items as needed.

Surfaces:

- Handles, tables, chairs, cubbies, bathroom, cabinet handles, etc - will be sanitized after each class
- Bathrooms will be sanitized after each use when possible

Cleaning Supplies:

- We will use cleaning/sanitizing products approved by the EPA for use against COVID-19.
- Our cleaning company will do a thorough cleaning of all SYC spaces each evening.

Playground:

- Sanitize non-wood items, high-touch areas

Snack

- We know that children are often hungry and some kids just aren't ready for breakfast before they leave the house. We also know that it's important for children to learn to listen to their own bodies to decide when they're hungry. As a result, here's how we'll be handling snack:
 - bring one baggie/small container that the child can open themselves with one kind of snack ** A full meal is not needed, just one or two items.
 - bring a water bottle that is easily opened/closed
 - When a child is hungry, they will wash up, get their snack, eat it at a designated place, put their snack away, and wash again. Some classes may choose to eat at the same time, especially when it is cold and snack can provide an opportunity to warm up.
 - We will make an effort to spread out and have fewer kids eating in close proximity, spreading out tables and picnic blankets when having snack, particularly if it's too cold or wet to eat outside. However, it is unlikely that they will be six feet apart.

Ratios/Staffing:

- **Every effort will be made to reduce the number of people your child comes in contact with. As much as we can, your child's class will be treated like a "bubble" with minimal contact with other children/adults.**
- Groups/classes may not mix with each other and spaces/materials must be cleaned and sanitized between groups. We must have at least one teacher dedicated to that group of children at that time.