



## School year 2022-2023 COVID 19 & Communicable Disease

### Mitigations & Guidelines **UPDATED 1-30-23**

We will follow Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, ODJFS childcare licensing, CDC & Ohio Public Health orders

Our efforts at Little Shepherds Learning Center over the past several years during the Covid pandemic have been successful. Thank you for practicing these health and safety protocols as much as possible. Our goal is to stay open, to provide quality early education while making every effort to keep our students and staff safe. This document will be posted on our website and any changes will be updated.

**Arrival & Dismissal at Class door – Each class has been assigned a specific doorway for arrival and dismissal.** Parents park their car and walk their child to their teacher at the doorway for arrival and dismissal. We will greet and dismiss each child, thank you for lining up according to traffic flow created by your class. Parents will be invited to participate in occasional class events and are welcome to visit the school, contact school office for assistance. Parents are permitted to use indoor hallways if you have time gaps with staggered arrival and dismissal times.

**Social Distancing** – This is still a recommendation to people in groups if someone is not feeling well. We look forward to bringing back family events throughout the year. This year we have planned Music for Prek & KG, we have planned assemblies with the Costume Parade, Bring the Farm, Japanese Puppet Show, Donuts with Dad and Muffins with Mom. Our Parent Reading in the classroom is once again offered, as well as Parent Teacher Conferences. As always if you are not feeling well, it is advised you or your child to stay home.

**As of February 22, 2022** There is no longer a requirement for students, parents or staff in program at Prince of Peace and Little Shepherds Learning Center to wear a face mask. If your family chooses for your student to wear a mask to school, please email that choice to your child's teacher. If your child is getting over a cold, but still coughing you may choose for your child to wear a mask. Our staff at LSLC are permitted to wear a face mask if there seems to be a lot of respiratory transmission in the classroom, if a teacher is getting over a cold, or a teacher is planning a trip and wishes to protect themselves from any respiratory transmissions.

Wearing a mask to school is optional. If you wish for your child to wear a face mask to school:

- Email your child's teacher to communicate that your child will be wearing a mask.
- Put clean masks in your child's tote or backpack. Include an empty Ziploc to put dirty mask in.
- Teachers will give gentle kind guidance and reminders to children to keep mask on.
- Our children are learning proper ways, and we understand that children need time to adjust and learn.
- LABEL THE FACE MASKS WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME, just like their coats. This helps your child keep track of their belongings.
- At this time, children are permitted face mask breaks at snack and outdoor play.
- A **face mask lanyard** is most helpful to keep that mask nearby. With the breakaway lanyard no masks get put on table, on floor, in toy areas and other places. Please consider purchasing a lanyard. A good one can be found on Amazon - [Chainchilla K1 Mask Breakaway Lanyard for Kids](https://smile.amazon.com/dp/B08GPVJ816/ref=cm_sw_r_em_api_glt_fabc_8CR60D03JY35VQ42QE31?_encoding=UTF8&psc=1)

**Handwashing** please wash your child's hands at home before heading to school. Child will be washing hands at arrival, after playground, before & after snack, at dismissal, toilet and any time in between.

**Increased Cleaning & Sanitation** in the building and classrooms. Indoor playground touch surfaces are sprayed after each class group.

**Electronic communication** – Each class has a gmail account. Teachers will email monthly curriculum plans and class news. Parents please use your class gmail to communicate with your child's teacher. If teachers have concerns or updates they will be sending you an email after school. Collaboration and ongoing communication with help us to help your child to be more successful in the classroom. Feel free to set up a time to discuss in person or phone conference any concerns you may have.

**Daily Health Checks** – Teachers will conduct a childcare licensing daily health check; and be in touch if concerned about your child's health. We get to know your child when they are well. On occasion through the course of the day, a child may become tired or symptomatic, in which case we will contact you to discuss our concern, which may lead to your child going home early to rest or seek medical care.

**Report illness and absence to school office.** [littleshepherdschool@gmail.com](mailto:littleshepherdschool@gmail.com) call or text 614-209-4554 We will follow all protocols and quarantine requirements. LSLC will make every attempt to communicate information to families regarding all childhood communicable disease reports AS WE RECEIVE THEM. Please follow all advice from your pediatrician and medical provider or County Health Department for quarantine and tracking guidance. Contact LSLC school office, director Sue Miller and share any illness, exposure or positivity. Together we can work on the proper steps to take.

#### **WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD STAY HOME FROM LSLC?**

We have a list of recommendations in our Parent Handbook pages 29-30 posted on the website. Most importantly we believe children feel better staying home and recover more quickly with rest. We are being advised to recommend to families to seek medical attention at symptom onset – fever, cold symptoms, runny nose, cough, congestion, which CAN LAST 7-10 days. On Day 3-4 if symptoms are persisting or getting worse contact your pediatrician, they may recommend a Covid test or other screenings.

If a family member tests positive for Covid; we request that your child stay home 3-4 days; if symptoms begin seek medical advice. If you child tests positive for Covid; quarantine will be advised by your medical provider.

TO RETURN TO SCHOOL, YOUR CHILD MUST BE 24 HOURS SYMPTOM FREE, on medication for 24 hours, fever free, vomit free, diarrhea free and Covid negative.

#### **LSLC CLASS CLOSURE due to Covid exposure or positive case**

We are told this virus is the most contagious 48 hours prior to symptoms or positive test. It is most important to inform us to determine if our class was within the 48-hour window of exposure so that we can make the best decisions. The public health department will advise us on quarantine requirements or exclusion plans.