



Trinity Preschool 2020-2021 School Year COVID-19 Mitigation Policies

Trinity Preschool will offer our school year program beginning August 24th, 2020 through June 4th, 2021 as long as Santa Barbara Public Health keeps our county in a Stage 2 or higher phase of the SARS-CoV-2 virus reopening plan. The health and safety of our staff, families and the community is our top priority and throughout the school year we will continue to monitor these guidelines to ensure that protocol is followed. We will follow the key principles as outlined by the American Academy of Pediatrics:

- *School policies must be flexible and nimble in responding to new information and administrators must be willing to refine approaches when specific policies are not working*
- *It is critically important to develop strategies that can be revised and adapted depending on the level of viral transmission in the school and throughout the community and done with close communication with the state and/or local public health officials and recognizing the differences between school districts*
- *Policies should be practical, feasible and appropriate for children's developmental stage.*
- *Special considerations and accommodations to account for the diversity of students especially for our vulnerable populations with the goal of safe return to school.*
- *School policies should be guided by supporting the overall health and wellbeing of all children, their families and their communities. These policies should be consistently communicated and modified as appropriate.*

The Family's Responsibility

While medical experts agree that the risk to the individual child while at schools such as Trinity Preschool is very low and reasonable and thorough precautions are being taken, there is a risk that a child could become infected when in contact with others including while attending Trinity Preschool. We are asking that parents make the decision and accept responsibility that enrolling their child at Trinity Preschool is appropriate. We ask that families closely monitor the health of their children and keep them home if they are



experiencing any possible symptoms of COVID-19. These symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea. We also ask that families keep their children at home if ANY member of the household has contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected to have COVID-19. This self-monitoring will be the first basis of protection of the students, staff and families at Trinity Preschool.

Plan for Reopening

Our new protocols are subject to change with additional or adjusted guidance from government agencies. Please contact brittney@trinity-preschool.org with any questions. All of our previous safety and hygiene protocols outlined in our Parent Handbook will remain with some additional program considerations. The following summarizes our current plan for school re-opening based on the available evidence as well as guidelines set out by the [Center for Disease Control](#), [California Department of Public Health](#) and [Community Care Licensing](#).

- **Health Screening** to prevent symptomatic individuals from entering school
- **Practicing hand hygiene**
- **Physical Distancing**
- **Cohorting**
- **Shared spaces**
- **Staff Health Policies**
- **Environment** (Cleaning and Ventilation)
- **Class or School Closure**

Health Screening

In order to prevent the spread of infection, students, teachers and other employees who have signs/symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and decisions about testing and return to school should be guided by the CDC and California Department of Public Health in consultation with local Public Health officials. In addition, return to school decisions for those who have had exposure to SARS-CoV-2 should be in accordance with local public health recommendations. Trinity Preschool implements a strict exclusion policy for symptomatic students and employees. Parents and caregivers are ultimately responsible for the screening of their children, daily, at home, prior to entering



campus. A checklist will be provided for families to do daily screening before arriving at school to be cleared for entry.

- Upon arrival, staff will ask individuals if they have had any exposure to another individual with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases. No student will be admitted to the facility in the case that they have been in recent contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Upon arrival, staff will ask about any symptoms (primarily fever, cough, difficulty breathing or other signs of illness within the last 24 hours) – that they, or someone in their homes, might have. No student will be admitted to the facility in the case they are experiencing signs or symptoms of COVID-19.
- Staff will take temperatures of all students at drop off with a no touch forehead thermometer, students with a temperature at 100 or higher will not be admitted to the facility. Students who have had a fever and taken tylenol or other fever reducers will not be admitted to the facility.
- If a student is not feeling well during the day or has a temperature of 100 or higher, they will immediately be isolated from other students and sent home
- If anyone in a student's household tests positive for COVID-19 or they have been in contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 that student will not return to school for 14 days AFTER the ill household member has recovered (length of the Sars-coronavirus-2 incubation period) *Parents are required to inform the preschool Director of potential exposure as soon as possible.
- If a student or staff member tests positive, we will work closely with officials to make decisions on class versus school closure.

Practicing Hand Hygiene

SARS-CoV-2 and other respiratory viruses are almost exclusively spread by respiratory droplet transmission. As a result and because virus shedding may occur prior to symptom onset or in the absence of symptoms, routine, frequent and proper hand hygiene (soap and water or hand sanitizer) is critical to limit transmission. In fact, proper hand hygiene is one of the most effective strategies to prevent the spread of most respiratory viruses including SARS-CoV-2, particularly during the pre-symptomatic phase of illness.



- Teach, model, and reinforce healthy habits and social skills. Handwashing posters for preschool age students are hung by the sinks in the bathrooms and will be used in conjunction with direct teaching of proper handwashing techniques.
- Practice **frequent hand washing** on a regular schedule by teaching a song or counting to 20 (hand washing should last 20 seconds)
 - Before and after meals
 - After using the bathroom
 - After sneezing or coughing
 - Between transitions of outdoor and indoor play
- Encourage students to use tissue to wipe their nose and to cough inside their elbow.
- Encourage students to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.

Physical Distancing

The objective of physical distancing is to reduce the likelihood of contact that may lead to transmission and has been a widely used strategy during the pandemic. However, strict physical distancing will not be emphasized as it is not practical and could hinder the social and emotional development of our students. Close interactions such as playing and socializing is central to child and student development and will not be discouraged. However we will be limiting the contacts of children to their own small class cohort.

- At this time our large group events will be amended or cancelled, please refer to the all school calendar. As we move closer toward each event date, you will be notified of any changes or cancellations based on our ability to gather.
- Student Drop off:
 - Make drops offs as brief as possible.
 - **Parents must wear masks at drop off.** We ask that caregivers wash their own hands and assist in washing the hands of the children before drop off. Sink stations are available on the front patio.
 - Drop off will take place in the Community Room with families lined up outside. Social distancing is marked on the ground for ease of maintaining 6ft distance.



- Hand sanitizer will be available for caregivers at drop off.
- As a result of the new drop off procedures, **students will be checked into school between 8:15-8:45 each day. Students arriving after that time may not be admitted** unless you have previously cleared a late arrival with the preschool director who can meet you in the designated drop off space and complete drop off procedures.
- Student Pick up:
 - Pick up will be a drive thru with students in socially distanced groups outside on the front patio.
 - **Parents must wear masks at pick up.** We ask that caregivers wash their own hands prior to coming for pick up.
 - Sandbox software is developing contactless check in and check out that we will use when it is available. Until that point teachers will check students out using school iPads.
 - If a longer conversation needs to happen with caregivers, Trinity Preschool staff will ask for a time to connect by phone or maintain social distancing and wear a mask.
- During school hours, students may come in closer proximity such as walking down a sidewalk, building a sand castle or other outdoor play activities within their class cohort and with their designated teachers.
- When students are in the classroom, to the extent possible, Trinity Preschool will arrange the classroom furniture to leave as much space as possible between students. We will be creative about encouraging social distancing with children by moving activities outdoors when possible, assigning seats at tables and group time as well as creating socially distanced lines and personal belonging storage, etc.

Cohorting

The purpose of cohorting is to limit the mixing of students and staff so that if a child or employee develops infection, the number of exposures will be reduced.

- Students will remain in their class groups, placed by age and schedule.
- Students will not mix between classrooms or be in close contact with any staff besides those designated to their classroom and the school director.



- Any shared spaces will be disinfected between use by each class group (i.e. bathrooms, play ground, bicycles)
- At this time it is NOT required for students to wear masks while at preschool; however, students may wear masks if their parent/guardian chooses.
- All preschool staff will wear face shields and/or masks for the protection of students.

Shared Spaces

Though students will be kept in their class groups throughout the day there are areas of campus that will be shared between classes. Those areas, like the bathrooms and playground, require additional mitigation strategies.

- **Bathrooms:**
 - Students will use bathrooms with their own small group, avoiding multiple classrooms in the bathroom at once. Bathrooms will be cleaned between class groups.
 - Stools are placed in each individual stall as well as at each sink to avoid touching or moving stools to assist in reaching.
 - Stall handles, toilet flushing handles and faucets will be cleaned between each student use and between use of each class group.
 - Touchless paper towel and soap dispensers have been installed to limit the surfaces touched in the bathrooms.
 - Students will wash their hands immediately after using the bathroom.
- **Meal times**
 - **Children will bring all their own food (morning snack and lunch)** and keep it in their own personal space.
 - As much as possible, please give children containers that they can open independently. This will reduce the times staff interact directly with students' food.
 - Most mealtimes will be outside, picnic style. If eating in the classroom, students will be spaced out at the table with a space between them.
 - Practice proper hand washing before and after eating.
 - No sharing of food.
- **Playground**



- Trinity Preschool has set up a variety of outdoor centers, stretching from our playground, through the grass yard and the upper patio. This will allow class groups to gather outside for activities while still social distancing.
- Materials in these centers like bicycles, hula hoops, legos, etc will be cleaned between use by the various classrooms.
- First Aid protocol:
 - If a student requires first aid, our staff will properly administer the procedure, first by putting on a mask and gloves.
 - Immediately following administering first aid, the staff and student will wash their hands.
 - All used first aid materials will be properly disposed of.
- Limited Sharing
 - **Label all belongings (jackets, backpacks and water bottles)**
 - **At this time, we will not be allowing other items besides what is contained inside the students backpack into school.** Backpacks are stored in the classrooms with physical distancing between each child's belongings.
 - Sunscreen - children will come to school in the morning with sunscreen applied by their caregivers. If a re-application needs to happen, children will use their own labeled sunscreen. Teachers will help with application of sunscreen using gloves that will change between applications.
 - Students will receive their own personal supply of frequently used materials (i.e. markers, crayons, etc).
 - Toys will be cleaned daily and removed from the classroom in the case of being placed in the mouth.

Staff Health Policies

- Beyond our typical staff training our staff will receive additional training in:
 - How to assess if they or their students have signs and symptoms
 - Proper disinfecting procedures
 - Proper hygiene for bathrooms and meal times
 - Creating playful environments with social distancing



- Staff will complete daily temperature checks and health assessments upon arrival to work.
- In accordance with state regulations, our teachers will be wearing masks and/or face shields at all times. Preschool staff are provided clear face shields that will allow children to see their teacher's face. This is important as facial expression is an important part of communication that children should not be deprived of.

Environment

In addition to our previous policies, a regular cleaning schedule will be used throughout the school year with additional emphasis on high touch surfaces. Maximum efforts will be made to reduce the need to touch objects (no-touch trash cans, no touch soap dispensers, no touch paper towel dispensers, propping a door open, etc.).

- When inside the classroom (weather permitting) all windows will be open to increase ventilation. Activities that can easily be moved outside will be.
- One door of each classroom will be propped open for ventilation and to reduce the need to touch the door knob.
- All bathrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected each day and frequently touched surfaces such as toilet flushing handles and sink knob will be disinfected between each use.
- Toys in the classrooms have been replaced with items that are easy to clean and will be cleaned each day along with all shelf, table and chair surfaces.
- Frequently touched items will be cleaned between transitions.
- Teachers and staff will regularly reinforce "no sharing" of food or water bottles.
- Students will have an individual supply of items such as markers, crayons, and watercolor, as well as an individually labeled carpet square, chair and table space.
- Any toys that are placed in the mouth will be removed from the classroom and cleaned before use by another child.

Class or School Closure

- If at any time Santa Barbara county moves back into quarantine, or in any stage lower than Stage 2 of reopening, Trinity Preschool will close. If SB Public Health



recommends we change protocols or deem it necessary to temporarily close our program, we will work closely with the department to ensure community safety is our top priority.

- If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 among our children or staff, we will follow the Department of Public Health Acute Communicable Disease Program for guidance on steps we need to take to minimize risk for other children and staff. This may include closing the school for 2 or more days. **If this occurs, we will not be refunding tuition for those days.** We will continue to provide online content, when possible, for those days. Should we be closed for a full month, we will refund 50% of the tuition for that month.

I acknowledge receipt of and agree to the above program considerations for the Trinity Preschool 2020-2021 school year. All of these considerations are in addition to the policies in the Trinity Preschool Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

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