

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for Licensed and Certified Child Care Programs Deemed Critical Businesses during Peacetime Emergency

Zion Pre-K has developed a COVID-19 preparedness plan with the goal to protect staff, children, families, the church body, and the community around us. This preparedness plan is in addition to the health and safety requirements already imbedded within our program. This plan is designed to meet the unique circumstances of operating a preschool during a pandemic.

1. Frequent Handwashing

Healthy Hand Hygiene: All children, and staff should engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

- Arrival to Zion Pre-K
- Before and after preparing food/drinks
- Before and after eating
- After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
- After contact with bodily fluid
- After playing outdoors
- After handling garbage

What is healthy Hand hygiene?

Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty, hand sanitizers can be used if soap and water are not readily available. Supervise children when using hand sanitizer to prevent ingestion.

2. Cleaning and disinfecting

Cleaning:

Surfaces that appear dirty or are known to have been used by students will be wiped down with soap and water using disposable paper towels. Followed with disinfecting.

Disinfecting:

Hydrogen peroxide in concentrations of about 3% can be used as is, or diluted to 0.5% concentration for effective use against coronaviruses on surfaces. It should be left on surfaces for one minute before wiping.

Spaces used by multiple groups of children (ie: bathrooms, playroom) will be sprayed with a disinfecting agent and left to sit for 10 minutes or more before the next group.

Classroom toys and materials will be switched between groups and at a minimum cleaned and disinfected via commercial dish washer.

Each child will be provided with a labeled pencil box/cup that they will use exclusively including markers, scissor, pencil, glue stick, dry eraser etc. Items considered "one and done" ie: paintbrushes, dry erase markers, glue bottles, or other special tools will be used by one child and be put aside for disinfecting before being used by another child.

Items removed from the classroom to be returned at the conclusion of pandemic

- Dress up clothes that pull over their heads (vests and skirts are allowed)
- Sensory tables will be limited to items that can be sprayed with a sanitizer daily thus excluding: rice, pasta, water, and other porous items

3. Arrival and Departure

Arrival and departure from pre-k will be done via curbside. Classroom A and B will use door 4. Classrooms D and E will use door 3. Teachers or staff will meet the children at the car and hand them over to their teacher inside the building. Once all children have arrived the classroom groups are to remain separate for the remainder of the day.

4. Plans for sick children, staff, and volunteers

Upon arrival temperatures will be taken for students and staff. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 will not be allowed to stay onsite. Persons exhibiting a temperature over 100.4 will be allowed to return once their fever and or symptoms have subsided for 48 hours. Decisions on COVID testing and attendance will be referred to the Stay Safe MN decision tree published by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Children that show signs of illness as the day progresses will be taken from the classroom and to an infirmary room where staff will take re-temperatures and assess symptoms. The child will remain isolated with an approved staff person until the parent or guardian can pick them up. Staff that supervise the ill child will be required to wear a mask and a face shield. Upon child's departure staff should thoroughly wash all exposed skin and change teaching smocks before returning to their classroom or office.

Children will be excluded from class if they have tested positive for COVID or have had a direct exposure with a person that is positive for COVID. MDH decision tree will be used for determining when a student may return to class.

5. Social distancing throughout the day

Upon arrival at Zion Pre-K groups will be divided by classroom. Room A and B will use door 4 for curbside. Room D and E will use door 3. Children will be assigned to classrooms based on registration preferences. All lunch bunch children will be assigned to one morning class as much as possible. Teachers will stay with their primary group unless it is necessary to maintain ratio and move to a secondary group.

When classes need to use a common space disinfecting procedures will be used between classes.

Space within Zion Lutheran Church licensed area will be "closed" to outside visitors. With the understanding that parents may need to drop in all other visitors will be by appointment only. Church staff needing to speak to pre-k staff will need to first contact via email or phone call and meetings will adults will take place outside of the pre-k licensed area.

6. Source control and cloth face coverings

Masks for adults:

- All adults in Zion Lutheran Church and Pre-K are to wear face masks over their mouths and noses.
- Teachers will be allowed to remove masks once they are in their classrooms with their student group

Masks for children:

- Children at Zion Pre-K will not be wearing masks while at preschool.
- It is preferred that masks be left with parents/guardians. If a child needs a mask while at preschool a disposable one will be provided.

7. Workplace ventilation

Ventilation at Zion Lutheran Church is primarily handled by air exchangers on the roof. The Air exchangers have been fitted with an ionizing unit to provide the cleanest air possible. Different areas of the building have different units. In classrooms that only use radiating heat a portable ionizing unit has been installed. Open windows in this classroom will assist in ventilation.

8. Playground use

Use of the green space at Zion will be scheduled for each class between 9:00-12:00. Typically students in Lunch Bunch and High-5 students would use the green space to finish their day.

9. Meals and snacks

Snack at Zion Pre-K will now be provided by Zion Pre-K and not the family of the student. Lunch will be continue to be provided by individual family for their student only. Food or beverages will not be shared. 1% milk will be provided and served in disposable glasses. Refills of milk or water will be served in a fresh disposable glass. Zion Pre-K will continue to purchase and provide 1% milk for all students.

10. Field trips and events

No field trips or presentations are scheduled for Zion Pre-K. Chapel held monthly with Zion's associate pastor will be held in the sanctuary of Zion Pre-K. Classrooms will all attend chapel and socially distance in the sanctuary.

11. Communications and training

The preparedness plan will be presented to all staff. Paper copies will be posted in each classroom. Upon request the plan will be available to all. The plan will be made available electronically on our website.