



Gulf Beach Baptist Preschool OUR COVID-19 POLICY

We have prepared the following information to help assure you that we are doing everything we can to keep your family healthy and safe and to help prepare your family to return to routine and most of all Back to School!

STEPS WE ARE TAKING TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD AND FAMILY

First and foremost, the health and well-being of our families and staff are our highest priorities. We are following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and local state childcare licensing authorities. Our company policies, described below, are derived from best practices and expert guidance.

Health Screening & Temperature Checks-Upon arrival

To ensure our school community stays healthy, we must screen Staff, children and any adults who enter the building. We ask that anyone exhibiting any signs of illness stay home. Those who come to the school will be asked a few simple health questions such as:

- Do you have any of the following symptoms? Cough, lethargy, sore throat, muscle aches, drainage from the eyes or nose, wheezing or shortness of breath, loss of your sense of taste or smell, a recent fever within the past 24 hours, or headache?
- Has any medication been taken (or given to your child) within the past 24 hours?
- Have you had any interaction with anyone known to be COVID-19 positive in the last 14 days? For healthcare professionals, have you interacted with anyone known to be COVID-19 positive within the last 14 days when you were NOT wearing the appropriate personal protective gear?
- Is there anyone in your home showing signs of illness or who have any of the symptoms listed above?

Slightly different or additional questions may be added over time or as required by local licensing and health departments. A member of our staff will also visually inspect for any signs of illness such as shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, tiredness, flushed cheeks, rash, runny nose, etc.

Finally, a member of our staff will take your temperature (and your child) with a touchless thermometer. Anyone with a fever of 100.4 degrees (F) (or the state mandated screening temperature, if different) will be asked to leave and stay home for 72 hours.

Church Foyer Morning Drop-off

Staggered time for classes will be assigned. (TBA). Entrance will be on the north side of the church. (Signs will be posted.) Adults must wear a mask when entering the foyer. Masks will be available for adults who do not have one. Upon entrance, adults and children will be required to use hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer stations will be set up in the foyer for your convenience. A member of our staff will greet families and complete the Health Screening described above. Please sign-in your child using the connect preschool app on your phone. Next, you or a teacher will walk your child to their classroom using the back hallway. If your child has a backpack, lunch box, water bottle / cup, or a bag with sleeping items for after care, please leave them outside your child's classroom for sanitizing. **ALL ITEMS MUST BE LABELED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.** We are requesting that parents do not enter the classroom, to minimize the spread of germs. We understand this may make for a harder drop off but hope you agree that this practice will further protect the health and safety of all our children, teachers, and families by limiting the number of people to which your child is exposed. If possible, to further limit exposure, we ask that you identify one parent, guardian or other individual to be the authorized person to always drop-off and pick-up your child. Finally, we recommend that you refrain from having any individual who is at high risk for COVID-19 participate in pick-up or drop-off.

Church Foyer Afternoon Pick-up

Staggered time for classes will be assigned. (TBA) Teachers will bring their class to the church foyer at their designated pick-up time. Parents will remain outside the church foyer door and children will be released one at a time.

Lunch Bunch Pick-up

Lunch Bunch Pick-up time is 1:30. Pick -up will be at the main preschool entrance. The teacher will release your child at the door.

After Care Pick-up

After Care pick-up times are different for every child. Pick-up will be at the preschool main entrance. Parents, as you arrive, ring the doorbell, and a teacher will release your child through the door.

Face Masks- Adults

The CDC and AAP have both issued guidance regarding wearing face coverings in public when there is concern of community spread of COVID- 19. Unless required by state, local, or licensing authority to wear them at all times, we require that our staff wear face coverings whenever they are completing health or temperature checks, during close care routines such as diaper changing and/ or toileting, food service, when escorting children to and from their classrooms at drop off and pick up time, and whenever in public areas of our schools.

Face Masks- Preschoolers

Face coverings should not be used on children if they pose a choking or strangulation hazard, if the child is sleeping, cannot independently put it on or take it off and wash hands, or if wearing the mask causes the child to touch their face more frequently. Therefore, we will not be providing masks for children or requiring that children wear masks, unless directed to by state, local, or licensing authority. HOWEVER, you would like your child to wear a mask, please provide them with one.

Limited Visitors to the School

For the duration of the current health crisis, we must limit visitors to our school. Classroom visitors will be limited to teachers/school staff and certain pre-approved essential service providers like early intervention specialists and social workers providing services to children and licensing specialists as required. These approved visitors will have to successfully clear the Health and Temperature Screenings before entering.

Enhanced Cleaning and Sanitizing Protocols

Teachers and school staff will be cleaning and sanitizing throughout the day, paying close attention to high-touch areas such as doorknobs, toilet flushers, faucets, and countertops. Toys such as sensory bins and sand play will be removed for the time being. We ask that home toys be left at home. Playground equipment, if in use, will be sanitized between each group of children using it. Toys will be carefully sanitized at the end of every day. All bedding will be kept separate, individually stored, and sent home every Friday to be washed. Prior to the school reopening, and then nightly, professional cleaning will be completed using EPA approved disinfecting products.

Innovative Bioanalysis Filtration System-Ionization Air Purifier

Installed throughout the church this system is designed to:

Control dust, odors, pathogens, and other nuisance airborne particles. This solution is ideal for schools, daycare, health and dental offices, grocery stores, fitness facilities, lunchrooms and cafeterias, hospitality, entertainment, and manufacturing. The units have a four-stage filtration system, MERV 10 pre-filters, and MERV 15 multi-pocket main bag filters, 2-inch carbon odor banks, and the patented GPS Needle Point Bipolar Ionization (NPBI) final stage. The media style filters provide active filtration for the dirty air passing through them, while the ionizer projects ions into the clean airstream. This NPBI technology uses an electronic charge to create a plasma field saturated with a high concentration of + and – ions that replicate those commonly found in nature. As these ions travel with the airstream, they attach to particles, pathogens, and gases/odors. The ions neutralize pathogens by robbing them of life-sustaining hydrogen. According to a study published on June 2, 2020 by Innovative Bioanalysis, positively charged hydrogen ions generated from NPBI technology and binding to the COVID-19 virus can render 99.4 percent of viral particles inactivated on a surface after 30 minutes. The NPBI technology has achieved the UL 867 Electrostatic Air Cleaner Standard, and UL 2998 Ozone Free Certification.

Social Distancing

It is not easy to provide a loving and caring environment for children from 6 feet away; nor is it easy for kids to understand social distancing! Despite those challenges, we are committed to creating the safest possible childcare environment and will be changing some of our practices to reduce contact and promote safe distancing between children. We will take local and CDC guidance on the maximum number of persons (children and teachers) allowed in one group or classroom into account, so you may see smaller class sizes. We will maintain consistent groupings of children and teachers whenever possible to reduce movement around the school and unnecessary exposure to different individuals. If your child stays for lunch bunch, lunch will be held in the church fellowship hall. Table and chairs will be arranged by classes, and seating staggered. At nap time, cots or mats will be arranged so children are sleeping 6 feet apart and in “head to toe” configurations. Only one group at a time will use the playground or any common enrichment areas in the school to reduce contact among groups of children.

Hand Hygiene

Everyone who enters the building will have access to hand sanitizer and is required to apply it upon entry. Children will wash their hands immediately upon arrival into a classroom (teachers will help the children!). Hand washing will also occur before and after preparing food or beverages, before and after eating or handling food or feeding children, before and after diapering, after using the toilet or helping a child use the toilet, after coming in contact with any bodily fluid, after handling any school pets, after center play, throughout the day, playing outdoors and of course, after handling any garbage. We will ensure that hand washing procedures are thorough and consistently followed.

Enhanced Exclusion and Isolation Practices

Any symptom related to COVID-19 (cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, or lethargy) or fever requires the student or staff member to be symptom and fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medication (acetaminophen or Ibuprofen) before returning to school. Any child who becomes ill during the day will be isolated from other children and will be required to be picked up within one hour of notification.

Exposure to COVID-19

Your household must remain out of the center if any member of your household has or has been in close contact with anyone who has:

- (A) A suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19
- (B) Traveled
 - Internationally or domestically
 - from any area which is the subject to travel restrictions under applicable state local guidance

14 days after the last potential exposure, your household may return provided these three things have happened:

- At least 10 days have passed since any household member first experienced symptoms
- Symptoms have improved for any household member that experienced symptoms (for example, cough or shortness of breath has improved.)
- The household has been fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

Please note, depending on the circumstances we may require you to obtain medical clearance before return to the center will be allowed.

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS: include individuals who may not live in the household but may be staying there or are otherwise present in the household on a regular basis (e.g. nannies, caregivers, home health workers, contractors, etc.) and includes anyone with pick up or drop off privileges at the center.

CLOSE CONTACT: is defined by the CDC as (1) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time and can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case, or (2) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on). Considerations when assessing close contact include the duration of exposure and the clinical symptoms of the person with COVID-19.

In the event there is a known or suspected case of COVID-19 within our school, we will notify local health officials and follow their guidance. The school will notify families of any cases as well, and share the guidance given by local health officials. The school is prepared to close when necessary to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19. The duration of closure will be at the guidance of local health officials.