



# 2021-2022 School Year Health Safety Plan

Holy Cross Lutheran Preschool is committed to providing a quality program that is safe for students and teachers, biblically based, educational, child friendly, and fun! The health safety protocols implemented last year were so effective that we did not have a COVID transmission connected to our school. Many of the procedures will be continued this year to ensure that this will still be an environment where children can explore and learn about God, themselves and the world around them in an atmosphere of Christian love and acceptance.

This health safety plan was created by considering guidelines and recommendations of the CDC, St. Charles Department of Public Health, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Plans for St. Charles County school districts and Missouri District Lutheran schools were also considered.

Holy Cross Preschool is addressing these specific strategies for the safety of all:

- Practicing Prevention
- Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures
- Teaching and Learning Strategies
- Handling Illness
- E-Learning with Tuition Considerations

## **Practicing Prevention**

Personal Protective Equipment: As in the past, students are not required to wear masks but may if desired. Learning social emotional skills, behavior cues and speech formation are hindered when students cannot see a teacher's facial expressions. Therefore, masks are optional for vaccinated staff and required for those with no proof of vaccination when they are within 6 feet of students while indoors. Vaccinated teachers may still decide to wear a mask when moving in groups or working in close proximity to students.

Hand Washing: We will teach and monitor proper handwashing during scheduled breaks throughout the day. Hand sanitizer will be in every classroom. Students and staff will wash hands or use sanitizer at arrival, before and after eating and outdoor play, after using the restroom and before dismissal. Posters showing proper handwashing steps are near the sinks. Students should keep fingers out of mouth and nose, turn face away from others and cover nose and mouth with tissue or elbow when they cough or sneeze and then wash or sanitize hands.

Cleaning: The custodian cleans the classrooms, restrooms and highly touched surfaces per CDC guidelines every day before school. All staff members are trained to properly clean, sanitize and disinfect surfaces following licensing standards. Classroom materials and supplies including toys, games, doorknobs, light switches, sink handles, countertops, tables, chairs, cubbies and rest mats will be cleaned and sanitized regularly. Students must have a complete change of clothing in the event of fluid contamination.

Distancing: The American Academy of Pediatricians stated, "In Pre-K, the relative impact of physical distancing among children is likely small based on current evidence and certainly difficult to implement." They recommend focusing on hand hygiene, cohorts (stable groups) and spending time outside. Our small school and class sizes allow for stable cohorts. While distancing is important, we also know that it is important to hold and comfort crying, sad and/or anxious children. Teachers and students will sanitize if they come in contact with bodily fluids.

## **Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures**

At this time, we are limiting large groups in the Preschool area. Drop off at 8:30 and pick up at 11:30 will be under the portico at the side of the building. Because families enrolled in Before School Care and Afternoon Extended Education arrive one at a time, they will be issued a security card and allowed to come to the classroom door. When entering the building wearing masks is optional for those vaccinated and requested for those not vaccinated.

Screening: Parents will need to screen their child using the Health Screening Questionnaire found at the end of this Health Plan, on our Bloomz app and on our website's Parent Page each day before arriving. Staff will ask if you answered "yes" to any of the Health Screening questions and make a visual inspection for signs of illness listed on the questionnaire. Anyone with signs of illness will not be admitted. The importance of keeping sick children home cannot be emphasized enough. Even if the child does not have a temperature, but they appear sick (cough, runny nose, etc.) the Director has the right to deny the child's attendance for that day.

Drop-off: Before School Care (7 – 8:20 a.m.) – Park in a parking space and walk to the Preschool door (the single door on the front of the building). Hold your security card at the bottom of the security panel to the left of the door or ring the bell by pushing 1 and bell buttons, tell name of student dropping off and a teacher will release the door. Walk your child to the Extended Education room door. A staff member will ask if you answered "yes" to any of the Health Screening questions. Students will sanitize hands before beginning play.

Preschool (8:30 a.m.) - From 8:20 – 8:35 a.m. a staff member will be at the Welcome Center door under the portico awning. Drive to the back parking lot and form a line. The first car should pull forward under the portico awning to allow two cars under the portico. Leave an opening for church staff to drive to the back parking lot. The staff member will come to your car, ask if you answered "yes" to any of the Health Screening questions and help your child collect belongings. Students will sanitize hands then play in the welcome center until everyone arrives. If you arrive after 8:35, go to the Preschool door and push 1 and bell buttons to ring the bell. A teacher will meet you at the door to bring your child to class.

Pick-up: Preschool (11:30 a.m.) – Students will sanitize hands then go to the Welcome Center. Drive to the back parking lot and form a line. The first car should pull forward under the portico awning to allow two cars under the portico. When under the portico hold up your sign with your student's name or use a child's clothing clamp hanger to hang it from your rear-view mirror. A staff member will walk your child out to your car. You will buckle your child then pull forward for remaining families to pick up.

Afternoon Extended Ed – Follow the Before School Care Drop-off procedures to enter the building and pick up your child. Child will sanitize hands before leaving school.

## **Teaching and Learning**

Learning activities: Students will be involved in whole group, small group and individual instruction. School supplies have been separated into a box for each child.

Food: Students will wash hands before and after eating. Each student needs to bring a filled water bottle with their name on it as we will not be using the water fountains. It should be cleaned daily.

- Snacks: Snacks will be provided by the Preschool. Students may bring a special treat to celebrate their birthday/half-birthday. You will receive a note of when we will celebrate and what is acceptable to bring.
- Extended Education Lunch: Students will bring their own healthy sack lunch with utensils needed and a drink. Lunches will be put in the refrigerator. A microwave is available.

Chapel & Music: Students will go to chapel once a week with Pastor Gimbel, Pastor Meyer or Director of Christian Education Charity Smith. During our Music Director vacancy, Laura Gimbel and Carolyn Meyer, our Pastor's wives who are very musically talented, have volunteered to teach music class once a week. Both 3 year old groups will attend classes together.

Special Events: The school calendar has special events such as singing in church and parties listed. The health situation will be assessed prior to the event to determine if it can be held as planned. The health situation will be assessed before field trips and special visitors are scheduled and parents will be notified in advance.

## **Illness**

The most important thing we can do to slow the spread of COVID-19 is stay home from school or work when we feel ill. Please contact the Director as soon as possible if your child or family has been exposed to COVID-19 or has possible symptoms. The staff will be vigilant for symptoms of personal and student illness. We will isolate anyone who is sick and inform parents immediately. Please have an emergency plan to be able to pick up your child immediately. We will follow CDC guidelines to clean and disinfect after the sick child or staff have left. Sick children and staff will not return until they have met the criteria to discontinue home isolation. If COVID-19 is confirmed in a child or staff member we will contact the St. Charles County Health Dept. for further directives regarding our operations. We will inform families of the directives with an announcement on Bloomz while maintaining confidentiality.

## **E-Learning and Tuition Considerations**

If the health department or a higher state source decides to close schools, we are prepared to shift to e-learning. Details about the program will be shared at that time. Parents may want to consider purchasing crayons, markers, glue, scissors and paints (watercolor &/or tempera paint) while school supplies are on sale to have available if transitioning to e-learning is required. Families with financial needs that change during the school year, may contact the Director to discuss possible financial assistance.

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## **Health Screening Questionnaire**

Children with any of the following symptoms, indicate a possible illness that may decrease the child's ability to learn and potentially spread illness to others. Students must stay home until symptom free for 24 hours without fever/symptom reducing medications.

Please notify us if your child is experiencing any of these symptoms?

- Temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth in the last 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication
- Headache
- Fatigue, muscle or body aches
- Chills or sweating
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Cough, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough – a change in their cough baseline)
- Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- Loss of taste or smell
- Abnormal temperament (“Not acting themselves”)
- Had close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 min) with a person with confirmed COVID-19 in last 14 days. This will require contacting the County Health Department to determine quarantine protocol.