

Glacier Way Westside Cooperative Nursery COVID-19 and Illness Reduction Protocol 2022-2023

Glacier Way Cooperative Preschool is taking many steps to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and other illnesses in our classrooms by:

- Staying home when sick
- Engaging in frequent handwashing and regular classroom cleaning
- Physical distancing when possible
- Increasing ventilation in classrooms
- Being a mask-friendly environment
- Encouraging testing when indicated
- Encouraging COVID vaccinations

Many of these are things that we were always doing. Each of these are described further in this document.

1. Staying Home when Appropriate

We require children, parents and teachers not come to school under the following situations:

- Teachers, parents and children should stay home if they are sick.
- Teachers, parents, and children should stay home if they have tested positive for or are showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Teachers, parents and children should stay home if they cannot pass the COVID and Illness check (Listed below)

2. Hand Hygiene

- Teachers and parents will instruct children in good hand washing procedures and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among all children and staff. Make sure hands are thoroughly dry after washing using either a clean, dry towel or air drying.
- If soap and water are not readily available, teachers, parents and children (over age 2) can use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Make sure all surfaces of hands are covered and that hands are rubbed together until they feel dry. Hand sanitizers should be stored up, away, and out of sight of children and should be used only with adult supervision for children under age 6 years. Hand sanitizers might not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy, handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds is recommended.
- Assist children with handwashing. After assisting children with handwashing or helping them put on or adjust their mask, staff should also wash their hands.

- All children and staff should wash their hands with soap and water at the following key times:
 - Arrival
 - Before and after preparing food or drinks
 - Before and after eating or handling food or feeding children
 - Before and after helping a child put on or adjust their mask
 - Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
 - Before and after diapering a child
 - After using the bathroom or after helping a child use the bathroom
 - After having contact with body fluids
 - After handling garbage
- Signs will be posted in visible locations (entrances and restrooms) to remind families and children of how to stop the spread of germs.

3. Regular Cleaning

- At the end of each school day, the cleaning protocol for tables and chairs will be followed. The cleaning protocol is posted in the classroom for reference.
- Throughout the day, toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated through contact or other body fluids will be set aside until they can be cleaned. Clean with water and detergent, rinse, and sanitize with an EPA-registered disinfectant, rinse again, and air-dry. They can also clean in a mechanical dishwasher.
- Set aside toys that need to be cleaned. Place in a dish pan with soapy water or put in a separate container marked for “soiled toys.” Keep dish pan and water out of reach from children to prevent risk of drowning. Washing with soapy water is the ideal method for cleaning.
- Children’s paperback books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional procedures for cleaning or disinfection.
- Deep cleans will be scheduled at a minimum of once per month or more often if determined by the Board or the teacher.
- Deep cleaning may also require bins of toys to be sent home with families on a more regular basis for cleaning following a cleaning protocol which is given to each family.

4. Modified Layouts

- Child seating areas will be physically distant when possible.
- Learning stations and activities will be modified to keep children physically distanced, when possible.

5. Snack Time

- Children will eat snack spread out between the two classrooms.

- Teachers, assist parents and children must wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol before and after handling, preparing, serving or eating food.
- Children will bring their own water bottle

6. Wearing Masks

- We will remain a mask-friendly environment, but masking will be optional for Fall 2022, except for a few situations outlined below.
- Per Washtenaw County Health Department's (WCHD) guidelines, masking is strongly recommended:
 - During outbreaks/clusters
 - During periods of higher community transmission. COVID-19 Community Levels (low, moderate, high) are defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and are updated late in the day on Thursdays.
 - Masks are strongly recommended indoors when CDC Community Level is 'HIGH'- Red
 - Masks are encouraged indoors when CDC Community Level is 'MEDIUM' - Yellow
 - Masks are welcomed indoors when CDC Community Level is 'LOW' - Green
- Masks will be required in the following situations:
 - Students and staff who test positive are required to isolate at home for 5 days and may return on days 6-10 after a negative test from day 5. Students and staff must wear a mask on days 6-10 of illness.
 - Students and staff must wear a well-fitting mask for the 10 days post-last exposure to the individual who tested positive. Close contacts should also test on day 5 post-exposure, or sooner if symptomatic, and follow isolation guidelines if testing positive.
- Surgical masks will be available in the classroom for parents and children who have forgotten their mask or that has gotten dirty
- Masks must be well fitting and worn properly, covering the nose and mouth

9. Testing

Use of home testing can quickly identify COVID cases.

- According to WCHD, "The best practice is to use multiple tests over a certain time period, such as 2-3 days. If performing serial antigen testing, wait 24-48 hours between tests. If it is only possible to test once, that is preferable to not testing at all."
- We require testing:
 - With any onsets of COVID symptoms
 - On day 5 of positive COVID illness if planning on returning to school on day 6. Students must have a negative test to return. If you do not wish to test, you may return after a full 10 day quarantine.

10. Vaccination

The WCHD recommends COVID-19 vaccinations for all students and staff aged 6 months and above, including boosters for anyone aged 5+.

11. Parent Drop-Off and Pick-Up

- At drop-off, parents/guardians must sign in their child and also initial the COVID-19 health check, verifying the child has passed the COVID screening. More details about the screening are below.
- Assist parents will also sign in and initial that they also passed the COVID screening.
- Hands must be washed by the children and any assist parents before going into the classrooms. Hand washing in the bathroom with soap and water is preferred. Hand sanitizer will also be available.
- Parent/guardian pick up will be on the playground most days.
- In inclement weather, parent/guardian pick up will be in the hallway outside of Classroom A or in Weiss Hall.

12. Designated COVID-19 Point of Contact and Communication

- Co-Chair I and our Lead Teacher are responsible for responding to parent COVID-19 concerns. This person will handle communication between the school and the parents.
- Teachers and families will self-report symptoms to either Co-Chair I or the Lead Teacher by email or a phone call to the school, if a teacher or child has symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19.
- Families and Teachers will be notified by email within 24 hours of reporting of COVID exposure and any closures or additional restrictions in place to limit COVID-19 exposure.

13. Leave (Time Off) Policies and Parent Volunteer Absences

If a scheduled assist parent has symptoms of COVID-19 or cannot pass the COVID-19 screening question, they should notify Co-Chair I and the Teacher as soon as possible so an emergency assist parent can be found.

- A list of emergency assist parents with days of availability will be kept by Co-Chair I to assist in filling the absence.

14. Back-Up Staffing Plan

In the event of illness or COVID exposure of our lead teacher, a substitute teacher will be hired to cover the absence.

15. Teacher and Parent Training

All teachers and parents/guardians and anyone else who intends to assist in the classroom will be trained in the COVID-19 safety protocols covered in this document prior to the first day of school.

16. Recognize Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19

The best way to prevent the COVID-19 spread is to keep the virus from getting into the school. It is important for parents, guardians, or caregivers to monitor their children every day for signs of infectious illness including COVID-19. Children who have symptoms of any infectious illness or symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend school.

Daily health screenings will be conducted for any person entering the school, including children, teachers, assist parents, and other visitors, to find those with symptoms, diagnosis, or exposure to COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can have symptoms ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms can appear 2–14 days after exposure to COVID-19.

COVID-19 Health Screening: Screening for symptoms and for possible exposure to the virus are important.

- Prior to coming to school, parents/guardians should evaluate their child for the following symptoms of COVID-19 and other contagious illnesses. If any of these symptoms appear, the child may not come to school:
 - Sore throat
 - Upset stomach, vomiting, diarrhea
 - Persistent cough
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - A yellow or green discharge from the nose
 - Rash
 - New loss of taste or smell.
 - Headache or Body ache
 - Fever equal to or higher than 100.4 °F
- If the child or assist parent has been in close contact with someone with known COVID-19, the child or assist parent must wear a well-fitting mask for the 10 days post-last exposure to the individual who tested positive. Close contacts should also test on day 5 post-exposure, or sooner if symptomatic, and follow isolation guidelines if testing positive.
 - Close contact is considered being within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period of a person who has symptoms of COVID-19 or anyone who tested positive for COVID-19
- This child or assist parent should not come to school if
 - If the child is being tested for COVID-19
 - If the child has been diagnosed with COVID-19
 - Students and staff who test positive are required to isolate at home for a period of five days and may return on days 6-10 if

- fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication
 - symptoms have significantly improved
 - able to wear a tight-fitting mask indoors through the 10-day period
- At any time, Co-Chair I and the lead teacher may ask these questions of parents/guardians at drop off to ensure the correct procedure was followed.

17. When Someone is Sick with COVID-19

When someone is sick at school

- If children, teachers or assist parents begin to have COVID-19 symptoms while Glacier Way (or any symptoms of serious illness), the individual will be isolated from the other children and assist parents. The ill person will be taken to the room next to Classroom A. If the weather is warm enough, the windows should be opened to add ventilation.
- If the ill person is a child, one assist parent will remain with that child and a parent/guardian will be called to pick up the child.
- If the ill person is an assist parent or a teacher and is physically able, that person will be asked to immediately leave the school and return to their home.
- If necessary, medical attention will be sought for severe symptoms for the child, assist parent or teacher, if showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- The room will be closed off after use by a sick person until it can be cleaned and disinfected. The room will be cleaned after being ventilated for at least 24 hours.

Home Isolation and Quarantine Criteria

- Sick teachers, assist parents or children should quarantine at home until they meet the Return-to-School criteria described below.
 - Return-to-School Policies

Teachers, children, or family members may return to the school on days 6-10 after symptom onset or positive COVID test if

 - fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication
 - symptoms have significantly improved
 - able to wear a tight-fitting mask indoors through the 10-day period
 - have tested negative on day 5 of illness

18. For Anyone Who Has Had Close Contact with a Person with COVID-19

Anyone who has had close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should wear a well fitting mask for 10 days after their last exposure to that person. Close contact is defined as within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. Testing is recommended on day 5 after exposure.

19. Notifications and Possible Closure of Facility

- In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, the school will notify the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) of any case of COVID-19.
- Per WCHD guidelines:
 - 10%: If 10% of the classroom tests positive within a seven-day period (at least 2 cases), WCHD recommends serially testing at least three times after notification. Masking is recommended for those old enough to mask.
 - 20%: If 20% of a group is sick within a seven-day period, report this to WCHD as an outbreak/cluster as soon as the school becomes aware this is an outbreak via the Outbreak Reporting Form. Continue or begin masking if not already masked and ages 2+, especially indoors. Continue or begin testing.
 - 30%: If 30% of the classroom tests positive within a seven-day period, consider closing the classroom for three days and then test for two more days (or, alternatively, close the classroom for five days).

References:

WCHD:

<https://www.washtenaw.org/DocumentCenter/View/27352/COVID-19-Guidance-2022-23-for-Schools-and-Childcares?bidId=>

AAPS:

<https://www.a2schools.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&ModuleInstanceId=17841&ViewID=7b97f7ed-8e5e-4120-848f-a8b4987d588f&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=23609&PageID=11460>