



FIRST UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL

COVID-19 ADDENDUM - REVISED

The Health and Safety of the staff and children is our number one priority during this COVID-19 pandemic. It is our desire for the children to be able to experience their first years of education in a positive, developmentally- appropriate learning environment while still being safety smart. We have compiled strategies and guidelines for childcare centers/schools from The Office of Early Learning, the Florida Health Department, the Center for Disease Control and the Department of Children and Families and believe that we have produced a plan to achieve our goal. The following will be implemented to ensure the health and safety of staff and children at First United Methodist Church Preschool.

- During school hours, there is no access through the front office door. This is for the safety of staff and children.
- Access to the facility will be through our drive-thru only. We will no longer be using the Walk-up gate.
- **The Walk-up gate **WILL BE OPEN in the morning only on the first day of school** so that parents can take their “first day of school” picture **at the classroom door. Parents will NOT be permitted to enter the classroom.** We respectfully ask that you bring the least amount of people with you as possible. Pick-up will be through the drive-thru line.
- Children who have chronic allergies will need to get a doctor’s note for their file. If they have a runny nose or cough with discharge because of allergies, **they will be required to wear a mask** in class until the symptoms clear up.
- The teacher will greet your child at the classroom door in the morning. Upon entering the classroom, the children will be required to wash their hands. Handwashing will continue before and after bathroom, snack and playground use as well. We have purchased touchless soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers as added protection from the spread of germs.
- We have purchased UV Sanitizing lamps for each classroom that will be used daily once children leave the premises. This will help aid in the killing of unwanted germs and bacteria. Hand wands will be used to disinfect toys, cubbies and other surfaces.
- Classrooms and toys will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily after each use and prior to departure by staff.
- The playground will be disinfected after each class use.
- The water fountain will be closed to students. We recommend that you send in a separate water bottle for extra hydration. We will also have cups on hand to give out water to those who need it while out on the playground. Please make sure your child’s water bottle is labeled clearly with their name as there may be some duplicates.

- We will not be requiring students to wear masks. In early education for early language development, it is important for children to be able to read and see your lips for proper sound pronunciation. In addition, facial expressions are important to see as part of sense of security and for learning and identifying feelings. If you wish to have your child wear a mask, you may do so. You will need to provide them with one and speak with their teachers about best practices.
- Classroom birthday celebrations with parent involvement have been suspended at this time. If you still wish to send in a treat for the class to celebrate, your child's teacher will provide you with photos and video (if able) via the REMIND App.
- Videos will be provided for training for proper drive-thru procedures and to help children feel at ease with the process.
- We ask that **ALL** families **sign up for the REMIND APP** so that they can receive instant notifications, pictures, or anything of importance from your child's teacher. This is the quickest and safest way to receive information and you will not be placed on any mailing lists or receive solicitations. Your child's teacher provided you with the information to be able to become a member of your child's classroom REMIND family. Just download the REMIND app on your device and follow the directions. If you need assistance, please let us know.
- **Students will not be permitted to start unless we have a current Immunization and Physical record (or Religious Exemption) on the State of Florida school entry forms. Your doctor's office will be able to provide the forms.**
- Symptoms of COVID-19 include (but not limited to):
 1. Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
 2. Dry cough
 3. Shortness of Breath
 4. Chills
 5. Loss of taste or smell
 6. Sore throat
 7. Muscle Aches
 8. Any other symptoms identified by the CDC as associated with COVID-19.
- While we understand that many of these symptoms can also be related to non-COVID-19 issues, they are listed on our Health Policy as issues that you need to keep your child at home for. COVID-19 related symptoms typically appear 2-7 days after being infected so please take them seriously. For negative COVID-19 test but experiencing any of the above symptoms, your child will need to be symptom free without any medications for 72 hours before returning to school.

Recommended protocol for a confirmed case of COVID-19 by a child or staff member in a classroom (as outlined by the Florida Health Department and supported by DCF):

1. If a case of COVID-19 is identified among the students or staff, we will identify all close contacts associated with the infected person who may have had exposure to the case during the infectious period. A case is typically considered to be infectious from 48 hours before symptoms first appeared or the date of the first positive lab test up to 10 days later.
2. Students or Staff who have been in contact with the infected individual will not be allowed to return for 5 days from their last day of exposure. They must be symptom free.
3. Anyone who was in close contact who develops symptoms within the 14 days, will not be able to return until after 5 days have passed and their symptoms have been resolved.
4. Cases of COVID-19 should be allowed to return to the school after meeting the following criteria:
 - At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **and**
 - At least 24 hours have passed since their last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
 - Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved.
5. Your child will be in contact with children, families and staff who are also at risk of community exposure. No list of restrictions, guidelines or practices will remove 100% of the risk of exposure to COVID-19 as the virus can be transmitted by persons who are asymptomatic and before some people show signs of infection. Please understand that the members of your family play a crucial role in keeping everyone in the facility safe and reducing the risk of exposure by following CDC guidelines and the practices outlined herein.

These are scary and unprecedented times. We are committed to doing our part to make sure that your child has a safe, healthy and happy school year. We ask that you do your part by following CDC Guidelines and best practices at home as well.

Thank you for entrusting your child with us. God's got this and so do we! It is going to be a wonderful year of learning and exploration!

Peace,

Denise Dunn
Director

REVISED 7/26/22