

# Joyce Preschool COVID-19 Preparedness Plan



This document is current as of August 11th, 2021 and does not reflect guidance or requirements issued after that date. Joyce Preschool will continue to monitor CDC guidelines and local transmission rates. These policies are all subject to change.

## 1. Frequent Handwashing

- Upon arrival, each child will wash hands or be given hand sanitizer with teacher supervision.
- The daily classroom schedule will include additional handwashing breaks. All children and teachers will wash hands between activities, before and after eating, and after coming in from outside.
- Children will wash hands with teacher supervision after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose or coughing/sneezing on their hands.

## 2. Cleaning and disinfecting

- Joyce Preschool already follows strict DHS guidelines around cleaning and sanitizing toys and surfaces, which we will continue to follow and increase in frequency in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Hard surfaces and frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and sanitized after each use.

## 3. Arrival and Departure

- **Arrival time is between 8:50-9:10 a.m. or 1:20-1:40 p.m.**
- It will be very important for caregivers to be as timely as possible with their pick up and drop offs with the additional procedures staff must take, in order to ensure the safety of staff and kids and to not interrupt the learning environment of the classrooms
- **Pick-up and drop-off will be curbside in the parking lot for the 2021-22 school year.**
  - o **In a car:** caregivers will park in parking lot loop and wait for teacher to come collect child.
  - o **On foot:** caregivers and children will wait at parking lot door for teacher to bring child to classroom. Families are asked to stand at least 6 feet from other families while waiting.

- o Caregivers will ring the door bell or call the office/classroom phone to notify teachers/staff of their arrival for pick up so that teachers can safely bring kids to the door.
- o **All families and staff should do a daily screening at home before coming to school:**
  - Do you (parent/caregiver *and* child) have any common symptoms of COVID-19? Common symptoms are: cough, shortness of breath, chills/fever, runny nose, diarrhea, nausea, headache, body aches, fatigue, new loss of taste or smell. **Joyce will continue to use the MN Department of Human Services' Decision Tree to make decisions about excluding children and staff from Joyce.**
  - Have you had any contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past week? If so, please notify Kate and she will follow up with your family.
- o All children will use hand sanitizer with adult supervision upon arrival to their Joyce site.

#### **4. Plans for sick children, staff, and volunteers**

- All staff and children/families should do a self-screening before entering building
- Staff are instructed to notify their supervisor of any symptoms, and not report to work if experiencing symptoms. They should also seek advice from a medical practitioner and keep their supervisor informed as to when they can return to work.
- Staff who have been exposed to a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 are instructed to stay home. Staff may return to work after 7 days if they have had no symptoms, OR after receiving a negative COVID-19 test result.
- Staff who become ill with COVID-19 are instructed to stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 3 days without medication AND improvement of other symptoms.
- Children with a temperature higher than 100.4 or other symptoms, or who have been exposed to someone with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 will be asked to stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 3 days without medication AND improvement of other symptoms. If a child has COVID-like symptoms that are later diagnosed as something else (strep, flu, etc.) they may return to Joyce sooner than 10 days with a doctor's note and when symptoms have improved.
- In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 among Joyce staff or students, all families, staff, and building partners will be notified immediately. Families are encouraged to sign up for the Remind app to receive Joyce notifications.
- If there are 3 confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Joyce Preschool in the period of a week (7 days), Joyce will close for two weeks to deep clean, disinfect and review

our risk reduction and COVID preparedness plan. The closure will begin from the date of last possible contact with the 3rd confirmed case.

- Classroom volunteers will be permitted during the 2021-22 school year. All classroom volunteers will be required to be vaccinated and wear a mask at all times. Families who would like to volunteer are not required to be vaccinated, but are strongly encouraged to do so. Joyce Preschool will monitor local transmission rates and CDC guidelines on an ongoing basis, and may change its volunteer policy accordingly.

## **5. Closures due to COVID-19**

- In the case of school closure due to COVID-19, Joyce Preschool will notify families and staff via Remind app mass text and email.
- Joyce Preschool will not provide virtual preschool programming; due to the rich in-person nature of our preschool program a virtual option is not developmentally appropriate for our students.
- Joyce Preschool will communicate closure plans for preschool families, on a case-by-case basis, dependent on the reason for and length of closure.

## **6. Social distancing throughout the day**

- Total class sizes may still be up to 18 kids (Flower Class & Sun Class) or 13 kids (Butterfly Class)
- Schedules and movement patterns in the building will be maintained to ensure that groups have minimal to no overlap in hallways, playground/gross motor settings, and bathrooms.

## **7. Source control and cloth face coverings**

- All Joyce Staff will wear face masks when in group settings. The only time that masks are permitted to be taken off is if a staff person is at their desk with no one else around.
- Joyce Staff are not required to wear masks when outside.
- As of September 7th, 2021 Joyce will require students to wear face masks. Families may send their child with a face mask or Joyce will provide children with face masks. Exceptions may be made for children based on needs after a conversation between Joyce staff and caregivers. This is per CDC guidance and in accordance with the local transmission rate.
- Children will not be required to wear face masks during snack, lunch, nap and outdoor playtime.
- Joyce will provide disposable face masks at both sites, should a child need a replacement.
- Joyce staff will maintain 6 feet of social distancing as much as possible throughout the work day.

## **8. Workplace ventilation**

- Windows will be open whenever possible.
- Children will spend time outdoors during each class session, unless weather does not permit (heavy rain, thunder and lightning, or temperatures too hot or cold to safely spend time outside).
- Air purifiers with HEPA (high-efficiency particulate absorbing) filters will be placed in every classroom and office space.
- Classroom doors will be propped open as much as possible to promote air flow.
- Partner buildings will change furnace filters frequently to capture as much air particulate as possible.

## **9. Playground use**

- Park Avenue's natural playground does not include play structures that need to be cleaned in between groups.
- Groups will have their own sets of outdoor toys and materials that they will bring outside with them, and collect to bring back in after use. Each group will also clean and sanitize playground toys between each use.
- Children will wash hands after playing on the playground.

## **10. Meals and snacks**

- Children will bring their own food from home and will not share food, as is consistent with Joyce policies.
- Tables will be cleaned and sanitized before and after meal times.
- Children will wash hands before and after meal times as well.
- If water is poured from a Joyce pitcher, it will be into single-serve paper cups which will be thrown away in a lined bin and the Joyce pitcher will be cleaned and sanitized every day.

## **11. Communications and training**

- The plan will be translated into Spanish and shared with all families in their preferred language.
- The plan will also be posted on our website and on the walls at each site.
- Families will receive additional guidance and reminders about the plan during Welcome Days, as teachers communicate individually with each family.
- All staff will be trained in this plan during the first week back to work for teachers (the week of August 16<sup>th</sup>).

## **12. Other considerations**

- Birthday treats or other outside food for sharing will be allowed for 2021-22 school year. Treats and/or outside food must be store bought and individually portioned/wrapped.

- Joyce Preschool will communicate with families about winter weather closures by 7 pm the night before a closure, class cancellation, or late start. Joyce will be making winter weather closure decisions based on the Department of Human Services [Child Care Weather Watch](#) and [Minneapolis Public Schools' Weather Related Closures Policy](#).