



Creation Kids Preschool (CKP), the Little Lambs (LL) program, and St. John's Lutheran Church are committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for our staff, our children and families we serve. These strategies continue to be guided by the CDC and MN Department of Health guidance, as well as mandates through the Department of Human Services Licensing Division, and Minnesota's relevant and executive orders. Our ultimate goal is to mitigate the potential transmission of COVID-19 within our preschool, childcare program, church, and community. This will require full cooperation and understanding among our staff, families, and students to ensure we maintain a safe and healthy environment. Staff have been informed of additional changes as they are being made and determined by the State of Minnesota. This preparedness plan addresses the general guidance from the governing bodies listed previously and also industry specific guidelines applicable to our business.

The following plan will be a **requirement** and is fully supported by CKP/LL and St. John's Lutheran Church and will be enforced. **PLEASE carefully read through this entire plan as well as talk with your child about our new procedures. Creation Kids and Little Lambs health and exclusion policy detailed below reflects CDC/MDH guidance currently required of school and child care settings. In the event that the current situation in our area changes, please know we will continue to assess and revise our policies and procedures accordingly to protect our business and our families we serve.**

This plan has been implemented using a combination of our knowledge and from these resources: Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), federal OSHA standards related to COVID-19, and mandates through the Department of Human Services Licensing Division.

- A. Handwashing and healthy hygiene
- B. Cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation
- C. Social distancing practices
- D. Arrival and departure
- E. Meals, snacks, drinking fountains
- F. Field trips, fundraisers, events
- G. Plans for identifying and excluding sick staff or children
- H. Required notification to CKP and return to CKP policies

A. Handwashing and healthy hygiene

- **As of March 10th 2022, masks will be optional for all staff, children, parents, and visitors entering the CKP/LL wing of the building.**
- We will continue to encourage and support masking for those families who would prefer to have their child mask while at CKP and/or LL.
- If you do not choose for your child to wear a mask, we ask that you talk with your child (ren) about supporting others who do, as well as understand that there may be occasions when they may be required to mask (ex. illness).
- At home COVID test results, rather than lab based PCR tests, will be accepted in most cases.
- Children and staff will practice proper hand washing routines, including washing hands upon arrival, before and after eating, after using the bathroom, upon entering indoor

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- and outdoor, having been at public places, after blowing noses, coughing, or sneezing.
- If it is not an option to wash with soap and water, a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be used. For use for off-site activities readily available hand sanitizer will be available.
- When using hand sanitizer, children will be supervised, and sanitizer will be placed in an inaccessible location.
- Staff will teach healthy habits when washing hands and properly sneezing, coughing, etc.
- Encourage staff and children to avoid touching their face and instruct staff to monitor for this.
- Reinforce no sharing of food, water bottles, or drink containers.
- Staff will wash hands in between assisting children with breakfast, snack, and lunch items.

B. Cleaning, disinfection and ventilation

- We will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (such as tables, chairs, sink, handles, door handles, and railings) several times a day, including before and after morning and afternoon snack, lunch, and at the end of the day. St. John's custodial staff will also be assisting with the cleaning of rooms utilized by CKP.
- All shared objects such as art supplies, toys, games, gym equipment, cots, etc. Will be cleaned and disinfected. They will be clearly labeled when things are being switched out of a classroom such as toys or supplies and if not properly disinfected.
- We are allowed to visit off-site playgrounds.
- We continue to provide increased ventilation and will keep doors and windows open with safety to do so in order to increase circulation of outdoor air.
- If persons suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 have been in the program, we will implement the following procedures for cleaning and disinfecting.
- All equipment, toys, and items the person may have been in contact with will be cleaned and disinfected.

C. Social distancing practices

- Check in and check out procedures for families and staff have been updated (see below under arrival and departure).
- Group sizes have returned to a maximum of 30 kids, rather than 15. When indoors CKP, we will continue to keep our groups cohorted as much as possible, as such, and will rotate through the various spaces as a consistent group as much as possible. An exception to this may be for special small group activities and projects, during which time individuals from different groups may intermix for the duration of the activity or project. In addition, children attending LL before or after care will have exposure and intermixing among different groups.
- Movement of kids throughout the building will continue to be staggered, including in and out of the cubby room, bathrooms, lunches, snack times, halls, and individual play areas.
- Mixing of groups will occur during outside play when children can more readily practice social distancing and do not have to mask.
- Seating continues to be at a minimum 3 feet apart around tables to create space during table activities and meal time.
- During quiet rest time, cots will be spaced apart and placed head to toe to further reduce the potential for viral spread.
- In general, outdoor space will be utilized as much as possible and when weather permits.

D. Arrival and departure

- Parents and other approved pick-up people are now allowed to enter the building for

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drop-off and pickup. Those experiencing symptoms should attempt to find an alternate pick-up or drop-off person. We also ask that pick-up and drop-off be as brief as possible and parents attempt to maintain social distancing with other children and families.

- Drop-off and pick-up will only happen at the CKP entrance on the west side of the building.

E. Meals, snacks, drinking fountains

- Drinking fountains will be off-limits. Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle that will be kept in their cubby. **Please label their water bottles.**
- Breakfast snacks will be offered for students arriving before 7:30 a.m. If your child prefers a specific granola bar or something simple, you may bring that. You are welcome to bring in a box of granola bars, etc. and keep them in their classroom.
- Before and after each meal, all staff and children will have properly washed their hands and tables will be cleaned and sanitized.
- Snacks will be served in the morning and afternoon.
- Lunch will be served with distancing in each room. You may bring a cold lunch or a simple lunch to be warmed up.
- Please send lunch items or pack in a way your child can easily open independently.

F. Field trips, fundraisers, events

- Field trips, fundraisers, and events have been implemented again utilizing outdoor space as much as possible and adhering to the current policy.
- **Plans for identifying and excluding sick staff or children**
 - Children and staff will no longer be screened daily. We expect parents/guardians to closely monitor children's health and screen their children daily before arrival. Screening should include taking a daily temperature when needed, as well as observing children closely for symptoms such as a cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, congestion, headache, etc. Please refer to [MDH Schools and Child Care page](#) for guidance regarding how symptoms should be handled, when symptomatic individuals and/or siblings are allowed to attend or when they must remain home, and when a healthcare provider should be contact. You can also visit [If You Are Sick or Test Positive](#) and [Close Contacts and Quarantine](#).
 - Staff or children's **temperatures must be less than 100.4 to attend. We would prefer that families use 99.5 as a threshold.**
 - If a staff member or student becomes ill with one of the "more common" symptoms or two or more of the "less common" symptoms while at CKP, they will be asked to immediately monitor and report symptoms, and contact their healthcare provider.
 - MDH health officials, staff, and families will be notified immediately of any suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19 at CKP. Individual health information will remain confidential. Any students sent home should be encouraged to contact their health provider for further guidance. For more information, visit the Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 webpage (health.mn.us.gov), or call the COVID-19 hotline at 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903.
 - CKP staff will stay current daily on state and local health department notices regarding the spread of COVID-19 in our area and may make sudden adjustments accordingly. Any adjustments will be communicated to families and staff immediately.

Keep in mind if any of these symptoms seem apparent or worsen throughout the day, please

keep your child home, or you may be called to pick up your child. It is an expectation if staff call that your child is to be picked up within 30 minutes. Please be aware that staff may ask the child to mask until picked up and outside of the building with a parent/guardian.

- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Temperature of 100.4 or greater
- Headache
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Fatigue
- New loss of smell or taste
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

IF ALL THE ABOVE ARE NO, the staff or child may then enter the child care space and immediately wash hands or apply hand sanitizer.

Change to COVID-19 Related Licensing Requirements

No Longer Required

On Friday, February 25, 2022, the CDC released **COVID-19 Community Levels** that can help communities and individuals make decisions related to public health guidance and masking based on their local context and their unique needs. The COVID-19 Community Levels move beyond looking just at cases and test positivity to look at factors that reflect the severity of disease – including hospitalizations and hospital capacity— and help to determine whether the level of COVID-19 and severe disease are low, medium, or high in a community. According to Dodge County Community Levels, as of March 3rd our community transmission level went from HIGH to MEDIUM recommending those individuals at most risk consider masking indoors. This is a metric that we will continue to monitor, and should we feel it necessary to adjust our policies in the future we will do so.

Continuing Requirements

All licensed child care providers are still required to report COVID-19 cases to MDH, inform families of COVID-19 exposures, and isolate positive COVID-19 cases as follows:

- **Report Cases:** Report cases of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Minnesota Rule 4605.7070 requires any person in charge of any institution, school, child care facility, or camp to report cases of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Use the [COVID-19 Case Report Form for K-12 Schools, Childcares, and Youth Programming \(Camps, Sports, Extracurricular Activities\)](#) to report each child or staff member who receives a positive test result.
- **Notification:** Notify the parent/guardian of a child who is identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19. DHS is not prescribing a format for how providers make this notification.
- **Isolation of Positive Cases:** Exclude children and staff who test positive for COVID-19 based on [MDH guidance](#). Questions can be directed to MDH at health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us.

Required Notifications to CKP and Return to CKP policies

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****We require that CKP be notified immediately in any of the following scenarios:**

Unmasked Requirements:

1. **CKP/LL child or staff regardless of vaccination status tests positive for COVID-19, must stay home for 5 full days after one's first symptoms or positive test result. Masking indoors will be required through Day 10. If the individual is unable to wear a mask reliably. They must complete a full 10 day isolation before returning to CKP/LL on Day 11.**

Masked Requirements:

1. **You/Child Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)**

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

- Stay home for 5 days and isolate a minimum of 5 days after the start of symptoms or a positive test result, (Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the date of a positive PCR viral test for asymptomatic persons).
- You/child must be asymptomatic or almost ALL symptoms resolved.
- You/child must test on Day 5 with a home antigen test and receive a negative result to return. If the test indicates positive, test 48 hours later Day 7 with a home antigen test. A picture of a negative test will be expected to return.
- Examples of acceptable antigen tests are Abbott Bianix, Access Bio Carestart Covid-19 home test, Acon FlowFlex, BD Veritor, Ellume Covid-19, On/Go, Quidell QuickVue, SD Biosensor Covid-19 at home test, Siemens Clinitest Rapid Covid Self-Test.
- **Masking will be required through Day 10 to return to CKP/LL.** Isolate yourself from others as much as possible.
- *If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.*

2. **You/Child Were Exposed to A Household Exposure with COVID-19 (Quarantine)**

If you:

Have been boosted

- OR -

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months

- OR -

Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

You are not required to quarantine as long as symptoms are not present. Masking will be required through Day 10 to return to CKP/LL.

- Should monitor for symptoms to develop and test no earlier than 5 days after the last day of exposure.
- Test on day 5. Preferred PCR viral test. Indicates highest viral load.
- If you use a home antigen test, serial testing on Day 5 and 7 per MDH guidelines may be done.
- *If you develop symptoms, you must get a PCR viral test and stay home.*

3. **You/Child Were Exposed to A Household Exposure with COVID-19 (Quarantine)**

If you:

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted

- OR -

Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted

- OR -

Are unvaccinated

- Stay home for 5 days regardless of a negative test. (*Day 0 of the quarantine is the last day of exposure to the infected person*).
- Must provide proof of a negative **PCR viral test** before returning to school or a negative **home antigen**

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test on **Day 5 and Day 7.**

- **If symptoms persist despite 2 negative home tests, confirm testing with a PCR viral test.**
 - The test should be taken no earlier than 5 days after the last day of exposure.
 - If you/child develop symptoms, get a test immediately and stay home.
 - **Masking will be required through Day 10 to return to CKP/LL.**
 - If a test cannot be provided, a quarantine of 10 days will be expected.
- 4. If you/Child Previously Tested Positive for Covid-19, completed isolation and recovered in the past 90 days or is vaccinated.**
- You/Child are **NOT** required to quarantine but must provide proof of past positive results.
 - Should symptoms become present, the person must stay home, isolate and consult outside health-care professionals.

In addition, pre-existing conditions, such as a chronic asthmatic cough, do not exclude children or staff from care. If you are concerned about any pre-existing conditions, please let us know. We have trust in your family and staff that this policy will be followed. Any determination that these requirements have not been followed is grounds for immediate and permanent dismissal from CKP and Little Lambs.

The plan has been shared with all families and staff and is posted in the workplace. It will be updated as necessary by the center director and in accordance with all MDH and CDC recommendations and the determinations made by the State of Minnesota. CKP will continue to monitor how effectively this preparedness plan is implemented and will update the protections, protocols, work-practices, and training as necessary.

In the case of extensive community transmission

In the event that our community experiences a major outbreak of COVID-19, we would collaborate with the local public health department and MDH.