

AJ Preschool Healthy at School COVID-19 Guidelines

August 2021

COVID-19 & Variants

As you are aware, new information on the spread and prevention of COVID-19 and its variants continues to be released through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), American Academy of Pediatrics, and many others. AJ Preschool continues to update our policies regarding COVID as new information becomes available. We consult regularly with pediatricians and epidemiologists, as well as receive guidance from Kentucky's Cabinet for Health and Family Services. By enrolling your child in our school, you are contracting with us in ensuring the safety of our school community together. We will do our best to regularly keep you informed of our expectations and policies. Please do your part by keeping us informed on the health of your family members and any travel or expansion of possible exposure beyond your immediate family bubble. Our expectations are as follows:

Adath Jeshurun Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

All employees of Adath Jeshurun are required to receive the COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of employment. Reasonable accommodations are given for disabilities and/or sincerely held religious beliefs where the accommodations do not cause an undue hardship or pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others.

Mandatory Mask Use for All Adults

At this time all preschool staff, parents, guardians, or other visitors to the preschool building, regardless of their vaccination status, will need to wear a mask. This is non-negotiable while our students remain unable to have the opportunity to be vaccinated. We also ask that masks be worn in carpool. Our hope (and recommendation) is that all adults and children (regardless of vaccination status) will continue to wear masks when inside public spaces, even when around town (i.e., the grocery store, etc.).

Mask Use Recommendation for Some Children

It has been recommended recently by several health professionals and agencies that all children 2 and older wear face masks. If your child has turned two (2) and you would like them to wear a mask, please know that, as per The Cabinet for Health and Family Services, our staff is agreeing to supervise your child while wearing the mask to ensure their safety. The CDC, however, does recognize that wearing masks may not be possible in every situation or for many children. Appropriate and consistent use of masks may be challenging for some children, such as children with cognitive, intellectual, developmental, sensory and behavioral disorders or for children in different stages in development.

We as staff, however, cannot enforce that your child keeps the mask on if they are unwilling. Your child will need to be able to put on and keep a mask on their face without constant readjusting or touching it. Children will be required to take the mask off while playing outside, eating or drinking, or napping. The mask will need to have your child's name written on it, and it will need to be replaced or washed by you daily. It is likely that many of our children are not independent enough to be responsible for their own mask throughout the day, and if that is the case with your child, please do not send them with a mask. We do not want to discourage safe

masking wearing, and yet we ask that you use your discretion about your child's ability to mask and consider the risks vs. benefits regarding their communication and speech. We will support your decision whether you decide to have your child wear a mask.

[Click Here for Face Mask Permission form](#) if your child qualifies and you decide you would like them to participate. Please email me a signed copy of the attached form, or it can be sent to school in your child's bag. Please let your child's teacher know if you plan to have your child wear a mask to school so that she will be prepared to supervise them with it.

It is likely that most or all children in your child's classroom (and throughout the school building) will not be wearing masks, our guidelines regarding quarantine timelines & other policies within our COVID-19 guidelines remain unchanged.

Entering the Preschool Building

As you may know, entry to our school this past year was limited to preschool staff, repair/service companies, and developmental specialists only. Parents were asked to refrain from entering the building. This year we are welcoming our families back into the building, but under limited situations that restrict large numbers of individuals in the building at one time. Until further notice we will not be hosting full-school events inside the preschool building.

Parents and guardians will be able to enter the preschool for drop-off and pick-up *during non-carpool times*: Early Care (7:30a-8:50a) and Late Day (3:05p to 4:50p). Please see your Parent Handbook for more information on carpool times & procedures. During morning, noon, 3pm, and 5pm carpool, please utilize carpool or use the walk-up route along the ramp side of the entrance. Teachers will be there to escort your child to class during carpool times. We have seen positive results in how children adjust to being dropped off at school when they say their goodbyes during carpool, so we anticipate this continuing to be a healthy transition for them.

Early Care & Expanded Play Groups

To offer Breakfast Room and Late Day while still maintaining COVID safety, your child's "bubble" will be expanded to include all children within the age group. (For example, if your child is in a Threes class, then they will have Early Care with all the other Threes class students, regardless of classroom placement for the year.)

In addition to expanding play groups during Early Care & Late Day, we might be expanding our play groups during our outdoor playground time to combine children of the same age group, (up to approximately 30 children outdoors, compared to last year's max of 10 per group). For example: all Pre-K kids will be together on the playground together; all 3-year-old classrooms will combine outside on the playground. We will start the school year with playground areas divided among "bubbles," but may expand the play groups during the school year.

Parents and other caregivers should be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and keep them home when they are sick.

Illness Requirements

Any person who has a temperature of 100.4° or above, or other signs of illness will not be admitted to the building.

- When a child shows a fever or other contagious symptoms, the child must be removed from the classroom immediately and placed in a safe, secluded area. The parent or guardian must remove the child from the childcare program within one (1) hour.
- The AJ Preschool Handbook states that no child should attend if they have taken a fever-reducing medication within the past 24 hours.
- Staff members who demonstrate symptoms of COVID-19 must be tested for the illness.

If a Confirmed Case of COVID-19

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 has entered the building, AJ Preschool would implement a short-term closure in a class or school-wide, depending on the circumstances, with these steps:

1. Local health officials, staff, and families will immediately be notified.
2. AJ Preschool will work closely with the local health officials to help determine a course of action.

Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness
400 East Gray Street, 40202
Phone: (502) 574-6530

3. Students and most staff will be dismissed while local health officials decide whether an extended dismissal duration is necessary. Staff and AJ Preschool families would be discouraged from further gathering or socializing until further notice.
4. Children or adults that test positive for COVID-19 must follow the recommendations of their local health department on when to return to AJ.
5. On-going communication with staff and parents would continue; self-reporting of symptoms would be communicated directly to Sara Gambrell, Preschool Director; notification of exposures and closures would come directly from Sara Gambrell, Preschool Director through phone texts and emails.
6. AJ Preschool is required to notify enrolled families and staff of a diagnosed case of COVID-19 in the program, while still protecting the privacy of the diagnosed individual.
7. The entire preschool would be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly during the duration of its closure.

Travel & Quarantine Guidance

If traveling, please be mindful of the airplane travel policies regarding COVID-19 and the rapidly increasing cases of variants. AJ Preschool continues to follow the CDC's guidance that is also echoed by Kentucky Public Health.

At this point, being vaccinated does not change the general guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19, including quarantine if you have been exposed to the virus. In the case of exposure, a fully vaccinated person who meets certain criteria may still be advised to quarantine by public health officials given the details of the exposure. In this case, the school will defer to such public health guidance. AJ Preschool students or non-fully vaccinated

household members who are exposed, travel by plane, or travel to states on the self-quarantine list must follow the quarantine guidelines.

Note: Regardless of vaccination status, inform Sara Gambrell, Preschool Director, if you or a family member is exposed, travel by plane, or travel to a state on the self-quarantine list, so we can monitor the situation and consult public health if necessary.

Social Distancing & Cleaning

To the greatest extent practicable, staff members will be encouraged to conduct group activities that can be performed while observing social distancing and limiting sharing of space with other play groups. These additional steps will be taken to ensure a clean and safe environment:

- Traffic in the hallways will be modified, to the greatest extent practicable, to minimize contact between employees and children outside of their classroom grouping.
- Restroom visits will be limited to classroom groupings and will be regularly cleaned and sanitized with appropriate disinfectants, in accordance with Kentucky childcare standards.
- Staff members and children will practice hand hygiene frequently, including but not limited to upon arrival for the day, after breaks, upon returning from outside, after toileting or assisting a child with toileting, after each diaper/pull-up change, after contact with bodily fluids or cleaning up spills or objects contaminated with bodily fluids, after cleaning or sanitizing or using any chemical products, before & after eating, serving or preparing food/bottles/feeding a child, before and after completing a medical procedure or administering medication, when visibly soiled (must use soap and water), and prior to departure. This may require facility staff to assist children with hand hygiene.
- AJ Preschool will follow CDC guidelines of cleaning and disinfecting when an individual is identified, suspected, or confirmed as a COVID-19 case.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements

- Adults must wear a face mask while inside AJ Preschool unless doing so would represent a serious risk to their health or safety or they are more than 6 feet away from any other individual.
- If an older sibling (over five (5) years of age) must enter the building, it is recommended that the child wear a mask.
- Masks will be made available to parents and custodial adults where in-school interaction is necessary. Entry to the school will be denied to a parent or custodial adult, supplier, or vendor who refuses to wear a mask.
- Staff will use gloves, along with any PPE normally used for routine job tasks of cleaning equipment, toys play spaces, workspaces, and high-touch areas of the school, and while handling products during drop-off and pick-up as well as during any shipping and receiving.