

Temple Emanuel ECDC

Protocols and Procedures (rev. 8/12/21)

Introduction

These protocols describe safety practices conforming to recommendations by the PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Due to the fluctuating nature of the pandemic, the measures described below are subject to change. Updates will be distributed and posted as needed.

While practicing heightened safety procedures, our intention is to provide a relaxed and warm environment where children can socialize and learn. We continue to offer a school environment influenced by the Reggio Emilia approach. The key feature is a collaborative curriculum built upon the natural themes that arise in our environment – whether by children, teachers, parents or events – and with skill development carefully embedded throughout the day.

Shared Responsibility Statement

On behalf of our Temple Emanuel Community and in the spirit of Kehillah -

Our commitment to one another is heightened in this time of the coronavirus pandemic. To protect our collective health and safety and minimize risk of exposure and infection within our school community, we ask our teachers, students and family members to abide by the following guidance:

- 1) Wear masks properly in public at all times where required
- 2) Avoid crowded places and events
- 3) Avoid high risk travel (see [Allegheny County Health Department Travel Guidance](#))
- 4) Please notify the ECDC Director of any possible exposure or signs of illness among family members.

We understand that risk can only be minimized, not eliminated, and we appreciate your diligence in maintaining these safeguards. We will keep you informed of all matters impacting the health of our community and of new guidelines as conditions evolve.

Daily Health Check

A daily health check will occur during the course of drop-off. Children will be admitted to school after a daily health check which will include these four parts:

1. Asking the parent/guardian to confirm that the child has had no symptoms of illness including fever, shortness of breath and cough
2. Asking the parent/guardian to confirm that no one living in the household is in quarantine.
3. Making a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness
4. Temperature screening with a temporal thermometer.

Temperature checks and hand sanitizing will occur inside prior to children entering the classroom. We encourage you to check your child's temperature before bringing them to school. Children with temperatures of 100.4 or over or symptoms of illness will not be admitted to ECDC.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

To accommodate curbside drop off, the following traffic pattern has been implemented. Parents will enter at the traffic light and make two right turns to follow the road in front of Temple Emanuel and will continue around to the rear in one traffic line.

Pick up will be inside. Anyone entering the building must be properly masked, regardless of vaccination status. Doors will open at 11:27am and dismissal will occur at 11:30am. Please wait in the hallway as your child is dismissed. We ask that you exit the building as quickly as possible once your child has been dismissed.

Late Arrival

Please provide prior notice to arrange late drop-offs or early pick-ups for purposes such as doctors' appointments. Please schedule by sending an email to the ECDC Director or calling 412-279-7687.

Hygiene

Children will use hand sanitizer upon arrival to school. They will wash hands with soap and water before eating, after playing outdoors, after using the toilet and whenever hands are visibly dirty. Hands will be washed for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. When hands are not visibly dirty, hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) will be used with supervision for supplemental washing.

Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting

Temple Emanuel is following a cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting schedule which delineates frequency and role of maintenance, cleaning staff and teaching staff.

Our cleaning schedule includes:

- Daily disinfecting of hard surfaces such as counter tops and door handles
- Additional disinfecting of hard surfaces such as bathroom fixtures after use
- Disinfecting of playground equipment between classes
- Sanitizing of classroom materials daily and immediately when soiled

Masks and Other Protective Equipment

In accordance with CDC recommendations, teachers will wear masks when interacting with parents, children and other staff. Teachers will wear gloves when assisting in the bathroom and when handling food.

Based on the PA Department of Health requirement of July 6, 2020, **children ages 24 months and older will wear masks at school**. In accordance with the requirement we will:

- Support children in mask-wearing
- Educate children regarding the purpose and importance of mask-wearing
- Allow breaks while drinking, eating or playing at a six-foot distance from others

Physical Distancing

- Curbside drop-off will be implemented to avoid crowding in the school hallways.
- Mixing of groups of children will be limited. Groups of children will not mix in indoor areas.
- No indoor special events that require gathering (such as assemblies) will be scheduled.
- Visitors will not be permitted during school hours.

- Crowding in the classroom will be avoided by restricting the number of children allowed at a table or in a section of the room at one time.
- When children are unmasked indoors (e.g. when eating), they will be physically distanced from their peers.

Child Health and Immunization Policy

On an annual basis, ECDC requires a Child Health Report, including health history, an immunization report and a signature by the Health Care Provider. ECDC requires all immunizations, including an annual influenza vaccine, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (a committee of the CDC).

Illness and School Attendance

Children should not attend school:

- When presenting with symptoms of fever, cough, chills, fatigue, body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- If diagnosed with a contagious disease, for example: pink eye, strep throat or chicken pox
- If diagnosed with a parasitic condition: head lice, scabies or pinworm
- If anyone in the family is in quarantine or has tested positive for COVID-19

Returning to School After Illness

- Children with pink eye or strep throat must be on medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Children with head lice, scabies or pinworms must have signed clearance from a medical professional before returning to school.
- Children with chicken pox must have all skin lesions crusted and dry before returning to school.
- Children with vomiting and diarrhea may not return to school until they are free from vomiting and diarrhea for 24 hours.
- Children with a runny nose resulting from an allergy may attend school with clearance from their medical provider.
- Children with runny noses may return to school when fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- Children with a cough may return to school after 10 days and when fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication **or** when they have a negative test for Covid-19. Wearing a mask properly, fully covering nose and mouth, will be especially important for children who have remnants of cough following a cold.
- Children who have been exposed to COVID-19 may return to school after two negative tests and/or 10 days of quarantine without symptoms.
- Children who have tested positive for COVID-19 may return to school after a minimum of 10 days of quarantine and with clearance from the medical provider.

Illness Occurring at School

If a child should become ill during the school day, the child will be moved to a designated area to rest while waiting to be picked up. We contact parents immediately to report the onset of an illness that occurs at school. Parents are asked to keep their phones on and by their sides for the entire school day so that they can be reached immediately as needed. When illness occurs at school, we complete an incident report and provide copies to parents at their request.

School-Family Communication re: Illness

As a measure to prevent the spread of contagious illness, ECDC monitors attendance and the reason for absences. If your child will be absent from school, please call the ECDC office or send an email to the ECDC director to report the reason for absence. If a child has a contagious disease or a parasitic condition, we advise other families in the classroom that their children may have been exposed to that illness or condition.

COVID-19 Reporting

If a child who has been present at ECDC tests positive for COVID-19, we will immediately contact the Allegheny County Health Department and the Office of Child Development and Early Learning. We will then follow the recommendations of the Health Department including short or long term closure of classes as needed. We ask families to notify the ECDC Director immediately if a child or family member has been exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 so that we can follow the applicable CDC protocols. **Please note that if an immediate family member of a child or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, we will inform families of children attending in the same classroom of a possible exposure.**