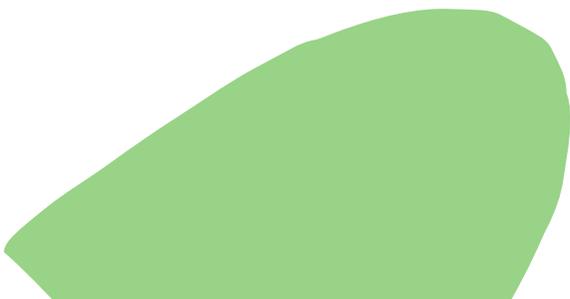
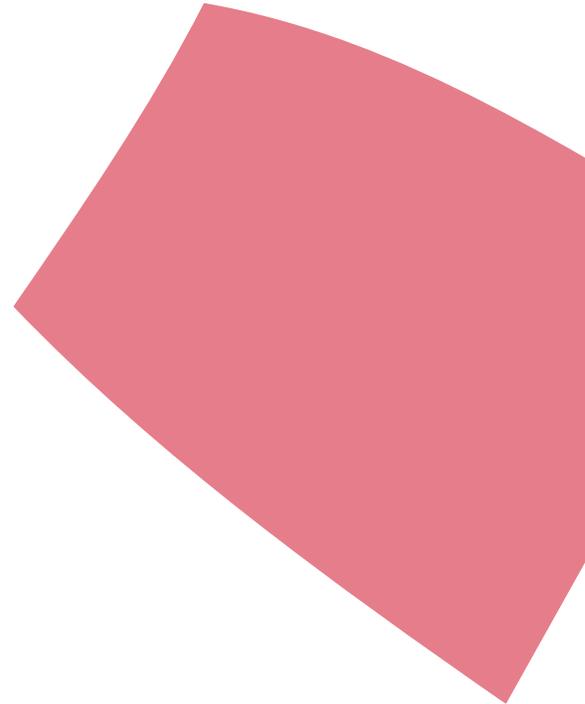




Grace Preschool's Response to COVID-19

LOC#15346

Updated August 2020



Overview and Summary of Grace Preschool's Safety Protocols and Procedures

At Grace, we believe that it is important to open our school for in-person learning provided that it is safe and legal to do so. Preschool plays a critical role in the social and emotional well-being of early learners and by extension the Baltimore Community. Social and emotional health can be enhanced with a partnership between Grace Preschool and our families. Our reopening policies are based on recommendations from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics), and the MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education). Please note that this is a “living” document and will be updated as regulations and guidelines change.

Our goal and promise to you at Grace is to practice preventative behaviors. We believe that this is important and will allow us to open safely and stay open as long as possible. Strategies and room design will be implemented to promote social distancing. We will age-appropriately enforce/encourage cloth face coverings, all Grace stakeholders will practice hand hygiene, and cohorts will be scheduled not to cross-contaminate during the day. We have partnered with a disinfection company (CLEAR-TEAM) that has been in business for 15 years, and they will train our staff on how to properly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces. All hard surfaces will be treated and wiped down throughout the day, before and after use, as well as at the end of each day. Any toys that go into a child’s mouth will be put into the disinfecting process as usual. All surfaces and toys will be sprayed prior to leaving the room throughout the day. All sensory bins, soft toys, pillows, and dress-up clothes will be put away during this phase of opening. Additionally, should there be a COVID-19 positive test for a Grace teacher, student, or family member, the CLEAR team will come in to fully disinfect the room of the affected individual’s cohort.

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Chapter 1 - Guiding Principles

Chapter 2 - Policies - In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and preparations for reopening Grace Preschool, we have included several new policies and procedures. Our goal is to incorporate best practices for Grace and to communicate, educate, and reinforce everyday preventative actions in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our school and by extension our community.

Chapter 3 - What If Procedures

Chapter 4 - Communication - Communication this year is going to be more important than ever! We will communicate with parents frequently about new health measures and procedures that are being put in place at school. We ask that parents communicate with us and are fully transparent should there be an interaction with a positive COVID-19 person.

Chapter 1 - Guiding Principles

1. We have prepared and planned many different scenarios for when and if positive COVID-19 cases and exposure occur at our school. We have academic plans in place to provide in-person learning, distance learning, and a hybrid of the two should it be necessary. Each reopening policy in this document is in accordance with CDC, AAP, and MSDE guidelines.
2. Communication during these unusual times is essential to our reopening plan. Communication with families, local and State Health officials, Grace faculty, Grace board members, and Grace United Methodist Church is essential moving forward.
3. Grace Preschool is a warm, welcoming, and nurturing place. Our main priority as we open our doors this fall is to provide that same welcoming environment for our students. The administrators and teachers at Grace have worked hard to incorporate more outdoor learning, play, and activities that promote social-emotional learning into their daily instruction.

Chapter 2 - Policies

- Cohorts - Each child will be placed into a cohort of approximately nine children and one teacher. Cohorts will be scheduled not to cross-contaminate. Only one cohort is permitted in a classroom each day. No more than one cohort will be on the playground at any given time. All cohorts will consist of one teacher and in some instances, an assistant will also interact with members of a cohort. Assistants will cross-contaminate but for no more than 10 minutes at a time, and gloves, a mask, and a face shield will be worn during any minutes of cross-contamination.
- Sunscreen - Outdoor education will be incorporated into our daily schedule as much as possible. Please put sunscreen on your children before sending them to school. Hats and/or visors are encouraged as well.
- Carpool - Drop-off and pick-up procedures will be different this year. Specific carpool information will be communicated at Parent Night. Each cohort will be dropped off at a designated location. Temperature checks will take place during drop off each morning.

Chapter 2 - Policies (Continued)

- Visitors - We will be limiting visitors entering our building, including parents. Tami James will be happy to provide any updates on your child if required. Any early intervention services, e.g. speech and language, occupational therapy, etc., will no longer be allowed at our facility. You can request a home visit or tele-services. Grace Preschool reserves the right to deny any non-essential visitor access to our building.

- Face Coverings - We will not force a child to wear a face covering but we will encourage it. You are responsible for supplying the face coverings and we ask that you send in 2 extra in a Ziploc bag. Face coverings should be worn by staff and students as feasible, and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Children over the age of 2 will wear masks to the best of their ability during transitions (on the way to the bathroom, on the way back from the bathroom, on the way to the playground, etc.). If a child refuses to wear a mask or has trouble with it, we will not be enforcing it. All faculty members will wear masks when children are expected to as well as when they are in close proximity to the children (comforting, changing diaper, etc.). We ask that all parents and guardians who are picking up and dropping off please wear masks.

Chapter 2 - Policies (Continued)

- Hand washing - As soon as students arrive in the classroom, they will wash their hands properly. Hands will also be washed throughout the day and more frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer will be used for our older classes when soap and water are not available. Sanitizing stations are located throughout the building as well.
- Snack, Lunch, Water Bottles - Grace will no longer provide snacks, and Lunch Bunch is not available this year. Teachers will not prep food during snack or lunch in order to minimize contaminating foods. Please have all snack and lunch items pre-sliced. Each child will have a taped-off section at his or her table spot. Parents will be required to send in a labeled water bottle each day with their child. Grace will not be able to refrigerate snack or lunch bags.
- Due to the age of the children, the teachers and the children in each cohort will not be able to stay six feet apart at all times. Social Distancing will be practiced as much as possible.
- All plans and policies may change as situations and government regulations change.

Chapter 3 -

What If Scenarios

1. What if a student or employee has a fever and/or symptoms consistent with COVID-19...
 - a. The individual should not come to school or will be sent home immediately.
 - b. Before returning to school, the student must be fever free without medication for 72 hours, must not have been exposed to COVID-19, is required to have a COVID-19 test which shows a negative result or present a physician's note stating that the symptoms are associated with a diagnosed non-COVID-19 condition, or self-quarantine for ten days if no doctor is seen/no test is taken.
 - c. The cohort group may continue with in-person instruction at Grace.

Chapter 3 -

What If Scenarios (Cont.)

2. What if a student or employee tests positive for COVID-19?
 - a. Any positive results of a COVID-19 test must be reported to the director of Grace preschool.
 - b. Grace preschool is mandated to notify the County Health Department to initiate contact tracing. Close contacts of the individual with a positive test will be asked to quarantine for 10 days and monitor themselves for symptoms and fever.
 - c. The individual can return to school once they are: fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing Medicine, all respiratory symptoms have improved, and it has been at least ten days since the onset of symptoms.
 - d. Grace Preschool will not disclose the identity of anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 by name, but we will alert the cohort as soon as a positive test is reported.
 - e. The cohort of the affected individual will be quarantined at home and move into distance learning for 10 days.

3. What if the governor of Maryland mandates the closure of all schools?
 - a. Decisions about closing Grace Preschool will be made according to State guidelines and in conjunction with directives from the local Health Department & Governor Hogan.

Chapter 4 - Communication

1. Daily Health Screenings - Everyone who comes to Grace each day will participate in a daily health screening. This includes teachers, administrators, and children. At this time, common signs and symptoms of COVID-19 among children include fever, headache, sore throat, cough, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Because we know that many children are asymptomatic, daily health screening will also pertain to interaction with people who could be infected with COVID-19. There will also be questions related to travel in daily health screenings. Please refer to a sample questionnaire below.

Do you or your child or any member of your household have any of the following symptoms?

- Fever (38.0C 100.4F Or Higher)
- New/Worsening Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing
- Lost of taste or smell
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Chills
- Headache
- Pink eye or conjunctivitis

Chapter 4 -

Communication (Cont.)

Additionally, You will be asked to answer the following questions:

Have you had contact with anyone with acute respiratory illness or who has traveled outside of the state or country in the last 14 days?

Have you had close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19?

2. HiMama - All parents and guardians will need to download Himama's free parent app (iOS & Android) so that they can check in during the day, receive updates throughout the day about your child's activities, add crew members and customize their access so that other family members can be involved in your child's day from anywhere, send messages to your child's classroom and comment on pictures of your child, and record milestones in your child's development! HiMama will also be used for contactless sign-in procedures in addition to daily health assessments.

Grace's Community Promise

In order to keep all stakeholders of Grace Community safe, we need to agree to the following statements...

Sick students and adults will stay home.

If a fever of 100.4 is present, COVID-19 test is mandated, and a negative result along with a note from the pediatrician or other healthcare provider is necessary.

All family member positive COVID-19 test results must be communicated to Grace Preschool.

If travel to at-risk areas occurs, we will quarantine for ten days before returning to Grace Preschool.

We will practice and promote responsible social distancing, hand washing protocols, and we will wear masks.

We will be flexible! :)

Printed Name _____

Signature _____

COVID-19 Waiver

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND DISCLOSURE FOR Grace United Methodist Preschool

Please read and initial each statement below.

_____ I understand that during this COVID-19 Public Health Emergency I will NOT be permitted to enter the Grace United Methodist Preschool facility beyond the designated drop-off and pick-up areas. I understand that this procedure change is for the safety of all persons present in the facility, and to limit, to the extent possible, everyone's risk of exposure.

I _____ I understand that it is my responsibility to inform any Emergency Contact persons of the information contained herein and that they cannot pick up my child unless they also have signed this form.

_____ I understand that IF there is an emergency requiring me to enter Grace United Methodist Preschool beyond the designated drop-off and pick-up areas, I MUST wash/sanitize my hands before entering and wear a mask at all times.

_____ While in the facility, I must practice social distancing and remain at least six (6) ft away from all other people, except for my own child.

COVID-19 Waiver (Continued)

_____ I understand that in order to enter upon the facility premises my child must be free from COVID-19 symptoms. If, during the day, any of the following symptoms appear my child will be separated away from the rest of the children and people located in the facility. I will be contacted by Tami James/or a homeroom teacher as soon as possible, and my child MUST be picked up from the Grace within 30 minutes of being notified. Symptoms include: Cough, Shortness of Breath, Chills, Muscle aches, Headache, Sore Throat, Loss of taste or smell, Diarrhea, Fever of 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Though many of these symptoms can also be related to non-COVID-19 issues, it is imperative that we proceed with an abundance of caution during this Public Health Emergency. These symptoms typically appear 2-7 days after being infected, so please take them seriously.

_____ I understand that Children, Parents, and Emergency Contacts, whom have been diagnosed with COVID-19, had symptoms of COVID-19, or otherwise have reason to believe they contracted COVID-19, and who want to return to Grace Preschool before completing a 10-day self-isolation period, must present the Director with a medical professional's certification of good health that clears the individual for return.

_____ I agree to wear a mask at all times while dropping off and picking up my child(ren) until notified otherwise by Grace Preschool.

COVID-19 Waiver (Continued)

_____ I understand that my child's temperature must be taken prior to their entering the school.

_____ I agree that on the mornings that I bring my child to Grace Preschool, I agree that my child will have their temperature taken by a staff member, and the results will be shared with me on the HiMama app.

_____ I understand that my child will be required to wash their hands using CDC recommended hand-washing procedures throughout the day using warm running water and rubbing with soap for at least 20 seconds.

_____ I understand the importance of complying with state, county or local stay-at-home orders and social distancing orders, even when outside of care, in order to control my child's exposure in the local community.

_____ I will immediately notify Tami James at Grace Preschool if I become aware of any person with whom my child or I have had contact exhibits any of the COVID symptoms listed in this document, is advised to self-isolate, quarantine, or has tested positive, or is presumed positive for COVID-19.

Medical personnel should discuss this protocol with Tami James.

_____ Further, I will immediately notify Tami James at Grace if I am made aware that anyone from my place of employment is presumed positive or tests positive for COVID-19, and I have been physically present in my place of employment within the last 10 days.

Medical personnel should discuss this protocol with Tami James.

COVID-19 Waiver (Continued)

_____ I understand and agree that if my child is diagnosed with COVID-19, Grace Preschool must notify the State's Licensing Agent and the Maryland Department of Health.

_____ I understand that while present at Grace each day my child will be in contact with children, families, employees, and others with access to Grace, who are also at risk of community exposure.

_____ I understand that 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.

_____ I understand that I play a crucial role in keeping everyone in the facility safe and reducing the risk of exposure by following the practices outlined herein.

_____ I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to my child(ren) or myself (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I or my child(ren) may experience or incur in connection with my child(ren)'s attendance at Grace United Methodist Preschool ("Claims") arising from COVID-19 or related illness.

COVID-19 Waiver (Continued)

_____ On my behalf, and on behalf of my child(ren), I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless Grace Preschool, and Grace United Methodist Church, their employees, agents, and representatives, of and from any Claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out from COVID-19 or related illness.

_____ I understand and agree that this release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence Grace Preschool, as well as their employees, agents, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after attendance at Grace Preschool.

_____ I certify below that I have read, understand, and voluntarily agree to comply with the provisions listed herein. I acknowledge that failure to act in accordance with the provisions listed herein, or with any other policy or procedure outlined by Grace Preschool may result in termination of all Grace Preschool services.

_____ I acknowledge that care for my child may be terminated if it is determined that my actions, or lack of action unnecessarily exposes another employee, child, or their family member to COVID-19.

COVID-19 Waiver (Continued)

_____ I understand that I am responsible to pay my child's full tuition should Grace Preschool be closed by the Office of Childcare or due to an increased number of positive COVID-19 cases.

_____ I understand that my child will receive virtual instruction should Grace Preschool be closed by the Office of Childcare or due to an increased number of positive COVID-19 cases.

Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Child's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Parent Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Emergency Contact Name : _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Grace Preschool Director: Tami James