

Covid-19 Policies and Procedures:

The goal of First Friends is, and always has been the health and safety of our children, families, and staff. First Friends adheres to all Covid-19 guidelines and safety regulations set forth by the Department of Early Education and Care and the Department of Public Health.

What we are doing to keep children, families, and staff safe:

- Daily health attestations are completed by all children and staff members before being entered into the program
- Parents must call when they arrive for drop-off and pick-up and wait for staff to admit you into the lobby area.
- Staff will actively monitor children throughout the day for symptoms of any kind, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting, and abdominal pain. If a child has severe symptoms emergency services will be called and notified if the individual is suspected to have Covid-19.
- A separate space will be designated to isolate a sick child from the group. The child will remain in this space until the parent arrives. The door will remain closed, and staff may not enter unless wearing the appropriate PPE. A call will be placed to the local Department of Public Health. Masks or other cloth coverings will be made available for use by children and staff who become symptomatic, until they have left the premises of the program. If a child has been exposed to an individual who is COVID-19 positive or presumed to be COVID-19 positive, then they may not return to childcare for 14 days. If the child has symptoms but not otherwise exposed, they may not return to childcare until the symptoms abate.

Hand Washing:

- Upon entry
- When coming in to the program space from outside activities
- Before and after eating
- After sneezing, coughing, or nose blowing
- After toileting or diapering
- Before handling food
- After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated
- After using any shared equipment like toys, keyboards, mouse, climbing walls
- After assisting children with handwashing
- Before and after administration of medication
- After contact with facemask or cloth face covering; and
- Before and after changes of gloves

Wearing a mask is suggested but not required, when possible and at the discretion of the parent or guardian of the child, for children age two and over who can safely and appropriately wear, remove, and handle masks.

Masks will not be worn while eating/drinking, or sleeping. Physical distance will be practiced during these times. If wearing a mask causes the child to touch their face more frequently, staff must reconsider whether the mask is appropriate for the child.

Families must provide their children with a sufficient supply of clean masks and face coverings for their child to allow replacing the covering as needed. There must be a plan in place for routine cleaning of masks. Masks must be clearly marked with the child's name, and clearly distinguish which side of the covering should be worn facing outward so they are worn properly each day. Staff will be reminded to follow the CDC guidelines regarding masks while out in public. Staff will be required to wear a mask when physical distancing isn't possible: feeding an infant, comforting for naptime, conducting first aid.

Strategies to Reduce the Risk of Transmission

A. Physical Distancing: We have implemented routines and created spaces that promote 6 feet of physical distancing at all times. (1) Children and staff will maintain physical distance at all times, including but not limited to: a. During transitions (e.g., moving from inside to outside spaces); b. During meal times; c. During all indoor and outdoor activities; d. During sleep, rest, or quiet play time

B. Discrete Groupings: Children will remain with the same group of children and staff each day and at all times during the day while in care.

Cleaning and Sanitizing:

A bleach solution will be made daily in each classroom prior to the arrival of children. Surfaces will be cleaned with soap and water first, then bleach and water.

Surfaces will be allowed to air dry. Careful supervision will be ensured so that children are not able to touch the surface until it is completely dry.

All cleaning products will be kept out of reach of children.

The program's cleaning and sanitizing will be intensified. We will pay extra attention to frequently touched objects and surfaces, including door knobs, bathroom and sinks, keyboards, and banisters.

Playground equipment that is touched often including, railings, climbers, and tables will be sanitized after each group.

Machine washable cloth toys will not be used. Toys that are mouthed or contaminated by body secretions will be set aside until a staff member can clean them by hand, wearing gloves.

Cleaning and Sanitizing After a Potential Exposure:

We will close off all areas used by the ill person. We will open all outside doors and windows and use ventilating fans to increase air circulation to the area. We will wait twenty-four hours before beginning cleaning and sanitizing. If an alternate space is not available during this time, a classroom may need to be closed.