First United Methodist Church Preschool
Covid-19 Guidelines

The health, safety, and well-being of GFUMC Preschool students, staff, and families is always of the utmost concern in our operations and is a driving force for establishing health and safety policies and procedures. As we face this unprecedented public health emergency of COVID-19 Coronavirus, GFUMC Preschool will require that all staff and families abide by these newly established policies and procedures. These policies and procedures are set up as a means of supporting and protecting our children, families, and staff. Because the COVID-19 pandemic is a fluid situation, GFUMC Preschool recognizes that these policies and procedures are subject to change as they may need to be revised in response to changing trends and/or knowledge about the virus. Any changes will be communicated to families and staff. All questions regarding these policies and procedures should be directed towards Kris Hopkins by email: khopkins@fumcgreensboro.org or by calling 706-453-7064 ext 216. Thank you for partnering with us to be able to continue to safely care for your child and help them thrive during this pandemic.

General COVID-19 Information

- COVID-19 or CORONAVIRUS is an infectious disease that is spread through the air by persons coughing or sneezing, through close personal contact, and/or by touching your eyes, nose, or mouth before washing your hands. This virus can result in a mild to severe reaction and can cause the following symptoms:
    - Fever (100.4 or higher)
    - Cough
    - Shortness of Breath
    - Difficulty Breathing
    - Respiratory Symptoms
    - Any 2 of the following: Chills, Repeated Shaking with Chills, Muscle Pain, Headache, Sore Throat

  Research shows that children are likely to have milder symptoms than adults, but this is not always the case.

- **People who may be at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 include:**
  - People aged 65 and over
  - People of all ages with underlying medical conditions
  - Any person who is immunocompromised
  - People with severe obesity
  - People with diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, liver disease
  - People who are pregnant

- **Tips for Parents:**
  - Practice and reinforce good hygiene habits with your family.
    - Wash your hands often for 20 seconds (sing Happy Birthday) with warm, soapy water, but especially after going to the bathroom, before and after eating, and after blowing your nose, sneezing, or coughing. Use Hand Sanitizer with 60% alcohol as a substitute for soap and water when needed.
  - Keep your child home if they are sick with any illness. Contact your doctor to discuss your child's symptoms.
  - Communicate any absences to the preschool office and/or your child's teacher.
  - Be prepared with a backup plan for childcare in the event that our school must close your child's classroom or the entire preschool due to positive COVID-19 exposure.
  - Stay informed. This health emergency situation is one that changes rapidly. Stay up to-date with these resources:
    - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
    - http://decal.ga.gov/BFTS/Covid19.aspx

Take care of yourself! Spend at least 10-20 minutes taking care of yourself and your mental health so that you can continue to care for your children and family in a positive way each day.

Daily Screening at Preschool:

- Conducted outside the building
- Hand Sanitizer available at entrance
- Questionnaire:

Questionnaire:

1. Do you or do any of the children you are dropping off have a fever*, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, other respiratory symptoms, or at least two of the following symptoms: chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell?

2. Have you or any of the children you are dropping off:
   *Had any of these symptoms since last time you were last here?
   *Been in contact with anyone with these symptoms since the last time you were here?
   *Potentially been exposed** to COVID-19 or have reason to believe you/they have COVID-19?

- **No visitors of any kind will be permitted into the preschool area without permission from the director**
- STAFF SCREENING: Must be verified prior to assuming their work responsibilities for that day.

Children or Staff Who Develop Symptoms During the Day:
Any child or staff member who develops symptoms during the school day, will be sent home as soon as possible. In the case of a child, GFUMC Preschool will follow our Sickness Policy as outline in the Parent Handbook.

Arrival and Departure:

We apologize for the inconvenience, but in an effort to keep everyone safe, parents/caregivers will not be able to walk children to class after the first day of school. All children will be walked in by an adult staff member. Please read our Arrival and Departure guidelines online thoroughly prior to the start of Preschool. We know this is going to be a very different situation for our children. We know that some will be hesitant about being left and will become upset when you leave them. We promise to make the drop off as easy as possible. We are asking that you begin to have the conversation with your child now to know that you will not be able to walk them to class. Each teacher will be in their classrooms waiting to greet the children and welcome them at the beginning of each day.

Prevention of the spread of the virus WITHIN the facility:

Wash /sanitize Students' hands:

- Wash hands at least 20 seconds
- After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After using the restroom
- Before eating
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Assist students avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth

Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily:

Sanitation Practices:
GFUMC Preschool will continue to follow best practices for hygiene, cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting the classrooms and materials used. Routine cleaning of all surfaces and items frequently used will occur throughout the school day. Toys will be sanitized throughout the day as needed, and at the end of each school day. Classrooms and bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected at the start, during, and end of each school day as well. Other items that will be regularly sanitized includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

- **Contact time based on chemicals used**.
  - Verify on the back of each bottle of disinfectant the necessary contact time. This is the amount of time the surface needs to remain saturated on the surface prior to being wiped for full effect.
- **If surfaces are dirty, clean them**
  - Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
  - Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces daily in common areas (e.g. tables, hard-backed chairs, doorknobs, light switches, phones, tablets, touch screens, remote controls, keyboards, handles, desks, toilets, sinks)
  - For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.
  - Linens, clothing, and other items that go in the laundry
    - If possible, do not shake dirty laundry. This will minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
    - If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely.
    - Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance above for surfaces. If possible, consider placing a bag liner that is either disposable (can be thrown away) or can be laundered.

Limited cross over staffing:

- Staff will be kept consistent from classroom to classroom, with the only exception being in the event of staff absence and the need for a substitute.

Return to Preschool/Work Criteria with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

In such a circumstance, it is critical to maintain confidentiality of the student or staff member as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights & Privacy Act

- **Symptom-based strategy for determining when staff/Student may return:**
    - *Person with mild to moderate illness who are not severely immunocompromised:*
        - At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **and**
        - At least 24 hours have passed *since last* fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
        - Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

***Note**: Persons who are **not severely immunocompromised** and were **asymptomatic** throughout their infection may return when at least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.*

- Persons with severe to critical illness or who are severely immunocompromised:
    - At least 20 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*
    - At least 24 hours have passed *since last* fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
    - Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

***Note:** Persons who are **severely immunocompromised** but who were **asymptomatic** throughout their infection may return to work when at least 20 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.*

We will continue to keep you all updated if there are any changes.

We appreciate your support and confidence in us to keep your child and family as safe as we know how using all of the guidelines and directions from the local, state and federal child agencies.