

## **SCHOOL COVID-19 POLICY**

**Effective 8/16/2021**

With the precipitous rise in Corona virus infections, hospitalizations and deaths in the Lee County, FL area in recent weeks, we are implementing the following policies in an effort to protect our children, staff members and their families:

- **ALL Trinity Lutheran Preschool teachers and staff will be required to wear an appropriate facemask while inside the school building, unless they are in a room by themselves.**
- The wearing of facemasks is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** for all students while inside the building but is not required.
- Efforts will be made to reduce the intermingling of children from different classrooms.
- Parents and caregivers who **WEAR A FACEMASK** while inside the school building will be allowed to accompany their children to and from their classrooms. Those without facemasks must not proceed beyond the check-in table. All parents and caregivers are asked to keep their visits within the school building as brief as possible.

Children who are showing any of the following symptoms of illness will be sent home.

- ✓ Temperature above 100
- ✓ Runny nose
- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Red, itchy eyes
- ✓ Vomiting
- ✓ Diarrhea

We cannot assume a child has allergies or it is just a cold, therefore there can be no exceptions to the above criteria. Children exhibiting signs of illness after drop-off will be isolated in a designated location away from others until such time that they can be picked up. Parents will be contacted immediately and should pick up their child within one hour.

### **Preventing & Managing Illness**

- Please stay home/keep your child home if you/your child are experiencing: fever (subjective or measured), cough, congestion or runny nose, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing; chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, lack of smell or taste; nausea or vomiting; diarrhea.
- If your child tests positive with the Corona virus, please contact the school office as soon as possible so that we may inform staff and the families of other students who may have been in contact with them, and then follow the protocols below.

If a child or staff member has experienced or been sent home with any of the symptoms listed above, they may return to school per the following guidelines:

- **Symptomatic person with positive COVID test:** remain at home for 10 days from symptom onset AND at least 3 days after fever resolution (if present) AND improved respiratory symptoms
- **Symptomatic person not tested for COVID:** remain home for 10 days from symptom onset AND at least 3 days after fever resolution (if present) AND improved respiratory symptoms
- **Symptomatic person with negative COVID test:** remain at home until fever free for 24 hours (if fever present) AND improved respiratory symptoms
- **Symptomatic person determined to have an alternate cause for illness by their physician:** remain home until symptoms resolved
- **Exposed to COVID and asymptomatic:** remain home for 14 days from last exposure if remains asymptomatic; if person becomes symptomatic, remain home until meets above criteria

For more information visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

If a child or staff member receives a positive diagnosis for the COVID-19 virus:

- The parents of all students in the same class will be notified immediately (specific names will not be mentioned in order to protect everyone's privacy).
- The classroom may be shut down for one day for disinfecting, and open again the next day.
- Should more than one staff member or student receive a positive diagnosis in the same class, that class may be closed entirely for a period of up to 2 weeks so that other staff and students may self-isolate and monitor for the appearance of any similar symptoms.
- The school administration will notify the Lee County Department of Health of any reported infections in any of our classes and follow their guidance.

It is our goal to keep everyone at Trinity healthy and safe while avoiding the need to shut down a classroom or even the entire school while this pandemic worsens, and so we appreciate everyone doing their part to make this a reality.

We will be monitoring the situation in our community regularly and will modify the above policy when appropriate. And we invite you all to pray along with us that everyone in the Trinity family will be kept safe from this virus and that it will be quickly eradicated from our planet.