



# STEM Preschool COVID-19 Safety Policies

# Letter from the Executive Director

**Portia M. Moore, M. Ed.**

As the Executive Director of STEM Preschool, I want to thank all families for your continuous support. The pandemic hit everyone March 2020 and with the pandemic came many changes, changes that aren't always convenient. STEM Preschool Fairlington has remained open throughout the pandemic and we are always making changes to keep the health and safety, student's education, and STEM Preschool experience a priority. Creating our Covid-19 policies took experience, feedback, effort, research, wisdom, logic, and creativity.



Our Covid-19 policies are always improving as we navigate through the pandemic. In STEM Preschool's plan you will find details of what the school year will look like in the Covid-19 era.

Please read our current Covid-19 policies below. Like always, I appreciate and thank-you for putting your trust in STEM Preschool. We value each and every family that is and has been a part of the STEM Preschool Community.

Portia M. Moore, M. Ed.

Executive Director

**STEM PRESCHOOL COVID-19 SAFETY POLCIES**

# Table of Contents

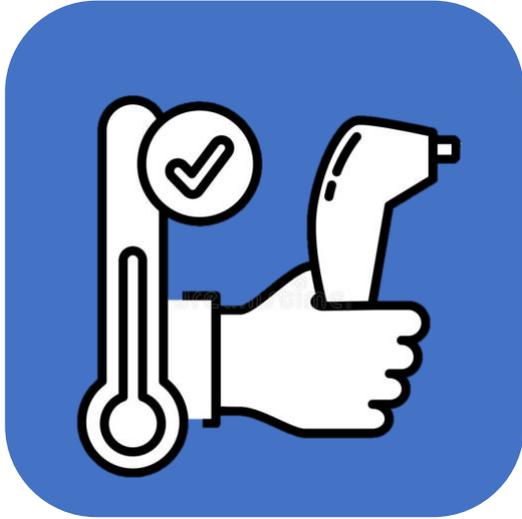
- 4 Daily Health Screening
- 4 Sick Policy
- 4 Return to School Criteria
- 5 School Closure
- 6 Travel Restrictions
- 6 Tuition
- 6 Cleaning and Disinfecting
- 7 Personal Protective Equipment
- 7 Pick up/Drop off
- 7 Visitor Policy
- 8 Modified School Hours
- 8 Substitute Teachers
- 8 Virtual Learning

STEM Preschool’s Covid-19 safety policies have been prepared under the guidance and recommendation of the following organizations.



# FOUR PILLARS

## For a Safe Return to School



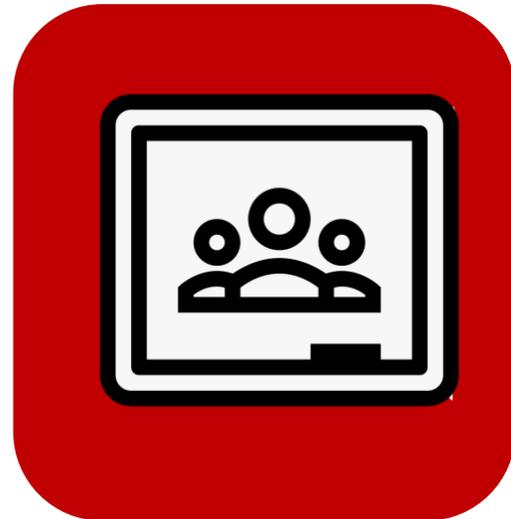
Monitoring of Health Conditions



Cleaning, Disinfecting, Sanitizing



Personal Protective Equipment



Classroom Pods

## Monitoring of Health Conditions

As a precaution, all students and staff are required to take their temperature before work or upon arrival. Staff and parents are to answer Covid-19 screening questions daily. All student temperatures will also be taken daily upon arrival. Per the state COVID-19 guidelines, any child and/or staff member with the following symptoms will be asked to stay home and will not be admitted into the building. This also includes anyone reporting that they or any member of their household has had any symptoms.

- Fever (subjective or 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit) or chills
- Cough
- Congestion
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle or body aches
- Poor feeding or poor appetite
- New loss of taste or smell
- Or any other symptom of not feeling well.

**Note:** Children or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present specific COVID-19 – like symptoms will not be excluded from entering the building based on those specific symptoms, if previously evaluated by a health care provider and those specific symptoms determined are not due to COVID-19.

### When can my child return to school?

**Return Criteria:** Symptomatic or Confirmed to Have COVID-19

If a vaccinated **OR** unvaccinated child, parent, or staff member reports or develops any of the above symptoms, or is confirmed to have COVID-19, the vaccinated **OR** unvaccinated child or staff member must not return to childcare until:

- At least ten days after symptoms first appeared, whichever is later; OR
- If no symptoms exist, 10 days after they tested positive; OR
- They have a negative **PCR COVID-19 test or rapid test**, and meet standard criteria to return to childcare after illness; OR
- They have been cleared from isolation per their healthcare provider or health instructions.

## Close Contact with a Person Who is Positive for Covid-19

- If any child has been in close contact with a person who is positive for COVID-19, then the child must not enter the facility until cleared by their healthcare provider or have completed their quarantine period of 10 days after the last date of close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual without becoming symptomatic or diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Option to return soon – On or after day five of exposure, children not experiencing any illness(es) can return to school with a negative PCR Covid-19 test (preferred) or a rapid test. Rapid tests are **not** provided by the school.

## Vaccinated Staff and Children

- If a staff member or child is vaccinated and has tested positive for Covid-19, they can return to school with no symptoms 10 days after quarantining.
- If a staff member or child is vaccinated, has no symptoms, and exposed to Covid-19, they can return to school immediately after taking a Covid-19 PCR or rapid test.

## Awaiting a COVID-19 Test Result

- If any child, parent, or staff member is awaiting a COVID-19 test result, then the child, parent, or staff member must not enter the facility until they test negative. If the child, parent, or staff member tests positive, then they should immediately begin a self-quarantine and seek further guidance from their healthcare provider or Department of Health.

## Closures

If a child, staff member, or any individual who entered the facility is confirmed to have COVID-19, we will follow these steps.

1. The director will contact VDH, Virginia and Arlington County's Childcare Center licensing offices.
2. Dismiss children for two to five days while determining long-term courses, which may include closure for 10 days or more.
3. Communicate with staff and parents regarding the confirmed case and exposure, per Virginia Health guidance.
4. Clean and disinfect the school.

## Tuition

If STEM or your child's classroom is exposed to COVID-19 and has to close, full tuition is required. **STEM Preschool will not prorate or reimburse tuition for days closed.**

## Live COVID-19 Dashboard

If a classroom is exposed to COVID-19 we will update our live COVID-19 dashboard and notify the school. New cases for the exposed classroom will be updated on the dashboard within 8 hours.

## Covid-19 Vaccine

STEM Preschool's Administration, Teachers & Staff are 100% vaccinated. We understand the responsibility we have to ensure everyone's safety. STEM Preschool's goal is to do our part in keeping ourselves, students, teachers/staff and parents protected.

# Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Sanitizing

The school is cleaned and sanitized daily using EPA cleaning products recommended by the DOH. Emphasis has been placed on regular cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces, including but not limited to door handles, chairs, toys, light switches, toilets, and faucets. In addition, teachers use a bleach/water solution to clean and disinfect which is required by Virginia Licensing Standards. Children and staff consistently wash hands throughout the day.

## Steps taken when a classroom pod has been exposed to Covid-19

- Immediately isolate the sick person and send them home as soon as possible.
- Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
- Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before you clean or disinfect to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas.
- If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick was present in the program, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
- Continue routine cleaning and disinfection.

## Personal Protective Equipment

Staff are required to wear a mask with a filter during the duration of their shift. Children ages 2 and up will be asked to wear masks throughout the day inside and outside of the building. STEM Preschool provides mask and filters for staff. Other personal protective equipment (PPE) may be provided to employees as needed. Employees are responsible for the care and cleanliness of their personal protective equipment. It is recommended that employees wash their mask each evening.

**Note.** Face coverings will be worn by children at all times except:

- during naptime
- while eating

## Classroom Pods

### Curbside pick-up/drop-off. No entry for parents to limit exposure

We have implemented a curbside pick-up/drop-off to limit exposure. We ask that all parents please wear a mask when picking up and dropping off their child(ren). Hand sanitizers will be placed at the school entrance. All students and staff are to use hand sanitizer before entering the building and wash their hands right away after entering the building. Parents, please communicate to teachers via the Brightwheel app. **Conversations will not be held during drop-off/pick-up.**

Parents are required to wear masks during curbside pick-up/drop-off. Children and staff will wash their hands right after entering the building. Children and staff will have their temperature taken daily. If there are any signs of illness, your child will be asked to be picked up as we want to ensure a healthy community.

### Visitor policy

Only official STEM Preschool employees and students are allowed inside the building to decrease exposure of COVID-19. Thank you for understanding.

Students are to be dropped off between 7:30am -9:00am. We can accommodate a drop off time of 11:00 am with a doctor's note. Students must be dropped off outside of their classroom door.

### Modified School Schedule

Hours of operation will be **7:30 am -5:30 pm** until further notice.

**Question:** Why do we have modified hours?

**Answer:** With extended hours all classes have to intermingle. If one child or a teacher in the common play area during morning care or afternoon extended day is positive for Covid-19, every student and teacher in those classes have to quarantine.

With our modified schedule, we have limited intermingling. If someone in a class tests positive for Covid-19, that is the only classroom that has to close and quarantine for up to 10 days. Longer hours mean the entire school closes for 14 days to quarantine for an exposure, not just a classroom. Until the Department of Health lifts this policy, we will have limited hours.

Our late policy goes into effect if you arrive after we close (\$10 for every 5 minutes you are late).

## Use of Classroom Substitute when Teachers are Off

We do utilize substitutes in different classrooms when necessary to keep ratio and ensure the school is running safely. However, this is something done on occasion and not daily. If hours are returned to normal, intermingling classrooms will be necessary on a DAILY BASIS, and it is possible the entire school will close for 10-14 days versus individual classrooms.

### Classroom Ratios

- 1:10: Kindergarten with a Max of 2 Teachers:15 Students
- 1:10: Pre-Kindergarten with a Max of 2 Teachers:20 Students
- 1:10: 3-4 years old with a Max of 2 Teachers:16 Students
- 1:6: 2-3 years old with a Max of 2 Teachers:12 Students
- 1:4: 1-2 years old with a Max of 2 Teachers:8 Students
- 1:4: Nursery with a Max of 3 Teachers:12 Students

## Virtual Learning

If a class has to close to quarantine, virtual learning will take place. During the quarantine period teachers will implement virtual learning. Parents will receive a zoom link, virtual learning schedule and lesson plan. Any materials you need will be included in the lesson.

- Circle time 15-30 minutes between 9am-9:30am
- Reading a STEM themed book between 10am-11am
- An activity (educational engaging STEM lesson, arts & crafts, music, etc.) between 11am-12pm

Teachers are to send the Zoom invite, daily schedule, and the lesson plan to parents and teachers by 5pm the previous day. This allows for parents to be prepared for the virtual lesson plan.

**THANK YOU!**  
**Your support is  
always appreciated.**