



St. Anthony Preschool & Child Care is committed to maintaining the health and safety of all the school's children and staff. We have thoroughly reviewed CDC, County, and DHS guidelines for safety in developing our policies and procedures. These guidelines may change depending on the current status of COVID-19 cases in our school or local Montgomery County.

COVID-19 and Variants Policy & Procedures

- If fever or illness is a possibility, temperature checks for children will be taken upon arrival and as needed throughout the day.
- For children older than the age of 2 years, ongoing preventative wearing of a mask is optional.

Isolation Guidelines

1. Children who have **tested positive for or are showing symptoms** of COVID-19 will not be allowed to attend school.
 - **If the child has no symptoms, Day 0 is the day you were tested. Day 1 is the first full day after testing.**
 - **If the child has symptoms, Day 0 of isolation is the day of symptom onset, regardless of when you tested positive. Day 1 is the first full day after the day your symptoms started.**
 - a. On Days 1-5: Stay home and isolate away from other people.
 - b. On Day 6: Children **older than the age of 2 years** may return to school if they are able to wear a mask and are fever and symptom-free for 24 hours without medication and test with a negative result.
 - c. On Days 6-10: Wear a mask; if a child of any age is unable to sustain wearing a mask, the child will not be able to return to school until after day 10. They may return on Day 11 if symptom-free.
 - d. For children who have symptoms, continue isolation starting day 1 as the first full day after the day your symptoms started. If after day 10, the child is fever and symptom-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, the child may return to school on Day 11.
2. For children who are severely ill, or whose fever persists past day 10, consult a healthcare professional before returning to school.

Quarantine Guidelines

1. Children vaccinated or unvaccinated who have had direct household exposure or close contact exposure to a person with COVID-19 should take precautions immediately.
 - **Precautions include wearing a mask for 10 days.**
 - **It is also important to monitor symptoms from the day of exposure and test if symptoms develop. Day 1 is the first full day after the date of exposure.**
 - **If you opt out of testing, the child will quarantine for 10 days and return to school on Day 11.**
 - a. **Children OVER THE AGE OF 2 YEARS** who have had direct household exposure or close contact exposure to a positive case need to quarantine on days 1-5, then test on Day 6. If the test result is negative and the child has no symptoms, the child may return on Day 6 and wear a mask on Days 6-10.
 - b. If **over the age of 2 years and UNABLE TO SUSTAIN WEARING A MASK** and exposed to a person with COVID-19, the child will quarantine on Days 1-5 and test on Day 5 and again on Day 7. If both test results are negative with no symptoms, the child may return to school at the earliest on Day 7. If tests positive, the child will be isolated for another 5 days from the date of the last positive test. Day 1 is the first full day after testing.
 - c. **Children UNDER THE AGE OF 2 YEARS** and exposed to a person with COVID-19, the child will quarantine on Days 1-5 and test on Day 5 and again on Day 7. If both test results are negative with no symptoms, the child may return to school at the earliest on Day 7. If tests positive, the child will be isolated for another 5 days from the date of the last positive test. Day 1 is the first full day after testing.
 - d. For children who continue to have **symptoms**, continue to quarantine until the child is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved.
2. For children who are severely ill, or whose fever persists past day 10, consult a healthcare professional before returning to school.

Additional Information

Children will be monitored throughout the day for signs of runny nose, cough, **fever of 100.4 or higher**, rash, flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing, fatigue, redness in the eyes and/or lips, extreme fussiness, coughing, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, or gastrointestinal issues that may develop during the day.

1. **“Sick-Space”**- St. Anthony Preschool & Child Care School will have a dedicated classroom space or the Nurse’s Office until a family member can come to pick up their child **within 1 hour** or sooner.
2. During the time of a child’s needed isolation an appointed teacher will wear gloves and a face mask will be placed on the child who is sick. If necessary, the child’s belongings will be placed in a disposable plastic bag and the teacher, the child, and the child’s belongings will go to the Nurse’s Office or an isolated area of the classroom with their mat and a toy or book.
3. A family member will pick up the child at the door at the bottom of the ramp behind the school building. The family member will call the office (215-646-6150) to let staff know of their arrival and the teacher will bring the child to the designated family member.
4. After the sick child exits the school building, the “Sick-Space” will be cleaned, disinfected, and sanitized.
5. If there are numerous positive cases of COVID-19 present in one area of the school and it is the current CDC and County protocols, we will inform the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) by contacting the appropriate Regional Office of Certification **OCDEL Southeast Region** at **215.560.2541** as per 55 Pa. Code §3270.136(d) and the Montgomery County Department of Public Health School Line at **1-610-278-6211** or email **MCOPHChildcare@montgomerycountypa.gov** for further guidance.
6. If a staff member or direct service provider/therapist becomes ill and/or has a fever during their shift, they must leave the school.

The director will inform parents of enrolled children when there is a suspected outbreak of a communicable disease or an outbreak of an unusual illness that represents a public health emergency in the opinion of the Department of Health as per 55 Pa. Code §3270.136(b).

St. Anthony Preschool & Child Care will use the CDC guidelines for the Isolation and Quarantine in Early Care and Education (ECE) Programs. If necessary, these guidelines may be modified by St. Anthony’s depending on COVID-19 cases and related illnesses in our school. These guidelines can be found at these links:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/if-you-were-exposed.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>

<https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/3524/Public-Health-COVID-19-Updates>