



The Good Shepherd School

1401 Carrollton Avenue • Towson, Maryland 21204 • 410-825-7139 • www.GoodShepherdRuxton.org

Delight in Discovery and Development

Health and Safety Protocols 2021-2022

Face Masks:

- All teachers and staff will be required to wear a mask while indoors.
- All adults (faculty/parents/caregivers) must wear a mask while on campus for carpool arrival and dismissal times.
- All children 2 years and over will be encouraged and expected to wear a mask while indoors. We are here to support any child who may need help learning to successfully wear a mask.
- **Children** in our Adult/Toddler programs will not wear masks per CDC and MSDE guidelines. Children in our J2s program will begin wearing masks beginning in January when they are all 2 years of age.
- We ask that parents supply 2-3 extra clean masks for their child to be kept in their cubby.
- Masks may be removed for outdoor activity and eating.
- Parents have the option to request that their child wear a mask for outdoor activities and our teachers will support this request to best of their ability.

Health Screens and Temperatures:

- All teachers and staff will be required to complete a daily health screen and record their temperature before coming to school.
- Parents will be required to complete a daily health screen for their child on the Brightwheel App before coming to school each day.
- Parents must take their child's temperature each school morning and notify GSS if the temperature exceeds 100 degrees. Temperatures will be taken by staff upon arrival but they will not be recorded unless it is 100 degrees or higher. If the temperature is 100 degrees or higher, the child will need to return home for further evaluation.
- The completed health screen on the Brightwheel App will be shown by the parent/caregiver to staff upon arrival before the child may exit the car. Adult/Toddler, 2s & 3s programs that do not participate in our carpool system will show the completed health screen app to staff before the child enters the building.

Handwashing: handwashing will take place throughout the school day for all students and staff.

Ventilation: Our HVAC system operates with the recommended Merv Air filters and circulates air throughout the day. In addition, we will operate ceiling fans in classrooms and open classroom windows for continual air circulation.

Class Pods: We will utilize our class pod system for our morning programs again this year. Our afternoon Kaleidoscope program will consist of two groups. Group 1 will be students from our 3s programs and Group 2 will be students from our Pre-K programs to form two different afternoon pods.

Cleaning: A professional cleaning service will clean and sanitize all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways and the office every evening. Commonly touched areas such as light switches and door handles will be cleaned regularly during the day.

Vaccinations: Our teachers and staff are all fully vaccinated. In addition, we require all adults that will participate in our Adult/Toddler programs (Little Lambs, Busy Bears, J2s) to be fully vaccinated in order to attend these programs with the child.

Parents/Caregivers in the Building: Parents/Caregivers will not be permitted in the building beyond the drop-off and pick up areas, at this time. However, the children in our 2s programs will briefly enter the building to drop off the child at their classroom door and exit the building. Vaccinated adults participating in our Adult/Toddler programs will enter through the red church doors to access the designated program space. At this time, we will not be able to allow parent volunteers in the building but we will communicate any changes to this policy if guidance changes.

Updated Travel Policy:

In regard to travel, the current CDC guidelines for unvaccinated individuals (which includes our entire student body) states:

"After you travel get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel even if the test is negative." This would include keeping your child home from school for a minimum of 7 days following your return from travel.

If you choose to travel outside the state of Maryland with your child, we require the following:

- **Pediatrician Guidance:** Contact your pediatrician with your travel plans for guidance on testing before your child attends school following travel.
- **Communication with Good Shepherd:** Please notify GSS of travel plans and pediatrician guidance so we can plan accordingly for your child's safe return to school.

When to keep your child home:

If your child is experiencing any Covid-like symptoms:

- temperature of 100 degrees or higher,
- sore throat,
- cough,
- difficulty breathing,
- diarrhea or vomiting,
- new onset of severe headache (especially with fever),
- new loss of taste or smell

Please keep them home... One of the most important measures we can take to keep children healthy and our classrooms open is to keep symptomatic children home from school. If your child exhibits any one of these symptoms, please do the following:

- Contact the School Office and share the nature of the symptom(s).
- Contact your pediatrician to determine next steps.

If you or anyone in the household experiences any Covid-like symptoms: Please keep your child home...

- Contact the School Office and share the nature of the symptom(s).
- Your child may return to school if the affected person (vaccinated or unvaccinated) receives a negative COVID test or receives a non-COVID diagnosis.

If your child has been exposed to COVID-19: Please keep them home...

- Contact the School Office.
- Your child may return to school on **day 7 with a negative test given no earlier than day 5 after the last known contact with the positive case** and provided that they remain asymptomatic.

If your child has been exposed to someone who is awaiting a test: Please keep them home...

- Contact the School Office.
- Your child may return after a negative test is received.
- Your child does not need to stay home if the person awaiting a test result is being tested for surveillance reasons (medical procedure, work/school required etc.) and is not symptomatic and has not been exposed.

If you have traveled with your unvaccinated child outside the state of Maryland, please follow the **Travel Policy requirements** before returning your child to school.