



NARBERTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL



Covid 19 Policies and Protocols *2021-2022 School Year*

Narberth Presbyterian Church Christian Preschool had a remarkable school year in 2020-2021. Despite Covid cases rising throughout our community last fall and winter, our preschool weathered the storm well. We did not have any known cases during the school year, which meant we didn't have to close any classes or reduce the number of weeks our children were able to attend preschool. Our success was a testament to God's provision over our school as well as a few other factors:

- exceptional mask-wearing from our children
- a willingness from parents to keep their children home if a sibling was a sick or if there was a faint snuffle or cough in their preschool child
- and overall less social activity since many people were staying home after school and limiting activities as many things remained closed last fall and winter.

This year continues to be challenging and while many things with regard to Covid have changed, some things have stayed the same. Yes, our teachers are vaccinated and many parents and older siblings of our preschool children are vaccinated. However, we are seeing case counts rise again and people are testing positive for Covid even if they have had the vaccine. And while most children fare very well if they get Covid, we as a preschool still want to be mindful that we are providing early education to more than 80 children and have more than 15 staff. We want to ensure we have precautions in place to limit transmission of Covid to keep our kids, staff and families safe.

We also want to acknowledge that providing in-person early childhood education to our young children is critically important. We suspended some of our programming last year, but believe we can operate fully this year so long as families continue to be vigilant and cautious with their own activities to help protect the greater community at Narberth Presbyterian Church Christian Preschool.

Here are some highlights of what to expect at preschool for the 2021-2022 school year, but be sure to read through the FAQ section for additional information:

- We will have in-person classes for all preschool classes.
- No class will have more than 15 children although most classes will have less than 12.
- Consistent with CDC guidelines, there will be universal mask-wearing requirements for all teachers and children (except those in the Early Years class).
- Parents/Caregivers will send in a daily snack for their child, and children will be spaced out 3'-6' during snack time and they will have snack outside when weather permits.
- We will sanitize gym equipment in between classes.
- We will offer Lunch Bunch.
- We will continue to do a verbal health screen of each child upon arrival at preschool.
- We will continue to have carline where families may drop their child off with staff on Windsor Avenue to minimize the number of people inside the building.

Please keep in mind that the policies outlined above and below are subject to change. We will continue to monitor Covid trends and CDC and state guidance, and may need to make adjustments to the stated protocols during the school year as needed. If we need to modify our protocols, we will ensure we provide timely informational updates to our school families.

Revised 8/17/21

Frequently Asked Questions:

What mitigation strategies do you have in place to prevent the spread of covid?

- First and foremost, the best way to prevent the spread of Covid is for those who don't feel well to stay home. We will rely on our parents and guardians to keep their child home should they exhibit any Covid symptoms, may have been exposed to Covid or simply don't feel well.
- Upon arrival, parents or caregivers will answer questions about covid-related symptoms through the Brightwheel app.
- Children will continue to wash their hands or use sanitizer upon entry into preschool, before using the gym, after using the gym, before snack, after snack and at dismissal. Children will always wash hands after using the restroom.
- All children (except those in the Early Years class) will wear masks. All staff will also wear masks.

How will drop-off work?

Drop-off for all classes will be done in blocks between 8:45 and 9:15 AM via a carline on Windsor Avenue.

8:45AM – 9:00 AM will be the following classes:

- 5 Day PreK
- 5 Day Threes
- 2 and 3 day Threes

9:00AM – 9:15AM will be the following classes:

- Early Years
- 3 Day PreK
- 5 Day Young 4s

Should there be a wait for the carline, please circle the block until a space opens up or park on a nearby side street and walk your child up.

How will pick up-work?

Pick up will be from 11:45 AM-12:15 PM and utilize the same carline method. Please bring your carline card at pick up and drop off at the beginning of the year as we get to know your vehicle.

11:45AM – 12:00 Noon will be the following classes:

- 5 Day PreK
- 5 Day Threes
- 2 and 3 day Threes

12:00 Noon – 12:15PM will be the following classes:

- Early Years
- 3 Day PreK
- 5 Day Young 4s

Kindergarten Enrichment students will be dropped off between 12 Noon – 12:15PM and picked up at 3PM.

How will Brightwheel be used at drop off and pick up?

Our staff will use Brightwheel for touchless sign in at drop-off and pick up. Every parent will scan a QR code using their phone and then enter their child's unique 4 digit code to check their child in and out of the program from their device. At check-in time the parent will also have to check off the check boxes on these three questions provided on the Brightwheel App:

- No Fever
- No cough or shortness of breath
- No contact with Covid-19 in the past 14 days

After the parent checks all of these boxes, they will provide their signature. This will be done daily at drop-off.

Will you do temperature checks at drop off?

No. We have found that temperature checks especially when the weather is very cold or very warm are not accurate. We ask parents to take their child's temperature each morning before sending them to school. In the event that a child becomes ill during the school day, we will take their temperature at that point.

What happens if a child tests positive for Covid in the preschool?

While we hope and pray that none of our children test positive for Covid, we know that children are not immune from Covid. As soon as we hear of a confirmed positive case, we will notify all children in the impacted class and those children will be required to stay home for a period of 10 days. We will also notify the school as a whole that there was a confirmed case, but other unaffected classes will continue to operate as usual.

Should I tell the preschool if I think my child was exposed to Covid?

Yes, please. If you think your child was exposed to Covid, please keep your child home from school, and please notify us as soon as possible. Please monitor for any symptoms and keep us apprised of that as well.

When can a Covid-positive child return to preschool?

The child may return 10 days after symptom onset as long as they are 24 hours fever free with no fever-reducing medication and improving symptoms.

What happens if one of the teachers tests positive for Covid-19?

Teachers would follow the same protocols as children regarding a 10 day quarantine. If the teacher feels well enough to conduct lessons over Zoom that will occur or the assistant teacher will step in for Zoom lessons.

What if an outbreak of Covid-19 occurs in our school?

In the event that the preschool has multiple cases among our classes, we will consult the Montgomery County Health Department and consider closing the entire preschool for a period of 2 weeks.

What happens if a child develops a fever or other Covid symptoms during the day?

The child will be separated from their class. If we determine that the child must be picked up, the director or a staff member will wait with the child at the outside entrance (weather permitting) while waiting to be picked up by a parent or caregiver.

What does it mean to have a secondary exposure to Covid?

Secondary exposure means that you were in close contact to someone else who was in close contact to someone who tested positive for Covid. A child does not need to quarantine if they had a secondary exposure to Covid.

Will children stay in their class pods during morning preschool?

Yes. Classes will not mix during morning preschool. They will go to the gym and attend music as a class pod and won't cross in the hallways with other classes.

How will you conduct Lunch Bunch? Does that mean children won't stay in their pods?

Several of our families rely on lunch bunch, and we believe we can offer it safely, but we also recognize that offering lunch bunch will increase some children's exposure. We anticipate that lunch bunch attendees will be relatively small at the beginning of the year. Should we have enough children register for lunch bunch, we will keep the children in their same morning pods whenever possible. We will eat lunch outside as often as possible. If eating inside, children will only sit at a table with children from their morning class.

If a child who attends lunch bunch tests positive for Covid, how will that impact other children in the school?

We would treat this issue just like we would for children in a morning preschool class. Anyone who attended lunch bunch with a child who tested positive would be considered a close contact and need to quarantine for 10 days. The positive-infected child's morning class would also need to quarantine for 10 days.

Should there be a positive case in one of the classes, how will that classroom be cleaned?

We will increase air flow into that room by bringing in fans and opening windows followed by either preschool or church staff will use our decontaminating fogger to sanitize the room.

Will I receive a refund if my child's class is closed?

No. Your child's teacher will offer preschool lessons over Zoom should in-person learning not be possible due to a positive covid case in your child's class. In the event that we must close a class, the teacher will use the first day of closure to prepare lessons to be used on zoom. On the second day of quarantine and the remaining week days until school can be resumed, the teacher will conduct 40 minutes of zoom lessons. We understand that 40 minutes of zoom does not replace 3 hours of preschool, but we also know that much more than 40-45 minutes of online learning is not productive with preschool aged children.

When you think of social distancing, you think that teachers can't get close to our children to comfort them. How will the preschool handle that?

Ensuring our preschool children are comfortable and happy especially during the beginning days of the school year along with the uncertain times we face is paramount to us. Our teachers will comfort your children just as they would any other time. However, they will engage in increased handwashing as well as having alternative shirts they can change into following comforting a crying child.

How will snack time be conducted?

We are asking families to send in a nut-free snack each day. It is preferable if the child can open the snack on their own, but if they can't the teachers will assist while wearing gloves. For classes with food allergies, families will be notified about what snacks are permitted. We will have snack time outside whenever possible.

NPC doesn't have an outside playground. How will you increase outside time?

Despite not having a traditional playground, we have made the best use of our spaces by utilizing our courtyard and parking lot by bringing games and activities out to these spaces. Also being right in town allows for the older classes to go on walking scavenger hunts, walking field trips and other activities.

How will the gym be used and cleaned?

As a class lines up after finishing their time in the gym, one staff member will sanitize the equipment prior to the next class arriving.

How will you maintain a thorough job of sanitizing preschool?

Our staff as well as the church custodians will thoroughly clean the facility. We will follow extensive and detailed cleaning procedures including disinfecting high-touch areas such as railings and door knobs daily, gym equipment, bathrooms, and activity areas.

How often will you clean the classrooms?

Surfaces in each classroom will be sanitized before and after snack time, and classrooms will be fully disinfected at the end of each day.

Will visitors be allowed in preschool?

We will limit visitors into preschool, but we also want families to feel welcome to come inside if necessary. Please contact the director should you need to come inside. Anyone who enters the school regardless of vaccination status must wear a mask.

Will the preschool allow outside services such as the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit to come into the building?

Yes. We know these services are an essential part of some children's education, and we will support the agreement of the parent and the service provider to allow services in the building. Mask wearing along with increased hand washing, social distancing practices and sanitizing will be required of the service provider when in the building.

Will you still do special events such as the Christmas pageant, Grandparents Day, Mothers Tea and Father's Breakfast?

We do not anticipate being able to do any large gatherings in the fall of 2021, but we will certainly make modifications once it is safe to do so. We will offer these events over Zoom if they cannot happen in person.

Will you still do the fall Farm Trip?

As of now, we intend to proceed with our fall field trip to Sandy Hill Farm. For families new to the preschool, Sandy Hill is a small farm in Plymouth Meeting where the children can take pony rides, play outdoors and take a hayride to pick out a pumpkin. The farm only allows one school at a time to come to their farm so the children will only be attending with children from on NPC on our scheduled day.

REFERENCES:

- **Office of Child Development and Early Learning Covid-19 Best Practices:**
<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/coronavirus/Pages/OCDEL-Best-Practices-for-Child-Care-Facilities.aspx>
- **CDC's Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs during COVID-19:**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/child-care-guidance.html>