

Grace Lutheran ECDC Health & Safety Guidelines, Protocols & Procedures Effective June 1, 2022

During the May Board of Christian Education meeting guidelines, protocols and procedures were once again on the agenda. You will find them at the end of this letter. These go into effect June 1, 2022. The board will continue to monitor federal and local guidelines, and as necessary make further revisions or re-implement previous components.

Masking and Daily Life

Grace Lutheran ECDC, for the time being, will follow the recommendation of the CDC for masking and activities within the center based on COVID-19 Community Levels tool/map. Following you will note specifics practiced at each phase. Regardless of the “community level”, people may ALWAYS CHOOSE to wear masks.

- High/Red – masks required for any one entering the building.
 - No mixing of classes
 - Stay with current protocols
- Medium/Yellow – masks not required but recommended – especially indoors – for staff, parents, and/or visitors.
 - 2 classes may play together outdoors or in the gym
 - Field trips, school programs/activities resume with some modifications.
 - MSM girls will be hired to help in the afternoons. ECDC will again participate in the MSM Junior Service program.
 - Opportunities for families to volunteer in classrooms to read, share or make something special with the kiddos, and we’re open to ideas of our families might have in mind for day time learning and fun!
- Low/Green – masks not required or recommended.
 - All of the “yellow” plus:
 - “Open house” for families to visit in the classroom.
 - As soon as sufficient staff are hired, classes consolidate in mornings and afternoons
 - As soon as additional staff are hired, ECDC hours of operation 7:30- 5:30 – Target Date August 15, 2022.

During the last almost two years the ECDC staff have learned some ways and practices that provide for 1) a safer/healthier environment regardless of any disease/illness level; and 2) better ways to facilitate smoother daily operations. That being said some of the practices, at least for now, will stay in place or modified as needed to provide a safe, secure and happy environment for the children entrusted to our care.

7:30 a.m. Drop-Off (not much is changing because it works so well):

- Find a parking spot – just not under the awning (unless it is pouring rain).
- Families will not have a “door code”. We are continuing limited access for the general safety of the staff and children. Anyone needing/wanting in (therapists, vendors, DHS, parents) will call the school or knock on the door.
- We will greet families at the door and visually assess children as they enter the building. Any signs of illness will be documented.
- Multiple family members per household may come in with the child/children.
- Once inside the entry foyer:
 - Everyone should sanitize their hands – it is just good practice.
 - Adults sign-in on keypad – **CHILDREN ARE NOT TO USE THE KEYPAD.**
 - 2 families will be allowed in the building at a time.

- **Things to bring and not to bring:**
 - We strongly urge you to “travel light” and discourage bringing backpacks, diaper bags and/or car seats.
 - Children are not allowed to enter the school with “breakfast” or treats to eat at the school (it lends itself to “sharing”). This needs to be done at home or in the car. Nursery children, not on school lunches, will still be fed breakfast.
 - Children will be allowed to have “comfort” items (i.e. lovies) at naptime. They will be stored in the child’s cubby (as is their bedding) in a sealed bag.
 - Pacifiers:
 - Nursery children are allowed pacifiers. Please provide a “pacie-clip” . We ask that you bring a spare to keep in the child’s cubby.
 - Older children that still require a pacifier for nap may have one. The rest of the day they will be stored in a sealed bag in the child’s cubby.
 - If a child ONLY uses a pacifier when with their parents – these must be kept by parents and not left at school.
 - As for toys from home (and all the other treasures kids like to bring) – these need to be left in the car (or better at home) – they may not be left in the child’s cubby or allowed in the classroom. You can make Colleen the bad person – if that helps!
- Drop off is at the classroom door (no family members allowed in the classroom). Please make this as quick as possible as another family will not be allowed to enter until you exit.
- Family members will exit at the west end of the building – doors by the elevator.

5:00 p.m. Pick-Up (nothing is changing):

- Upon arrival family members need to park. Call the school number (501-663-0755) and let us know who is being picked up. We have added cordless phones to help the staff have better access to the phones.
- Your child/children will be brought to the car by a staff member. Any pertinent information will be shared about the child’s day at that time.

Health & Illness

- Grace Lutheran ECDC will strictly follow the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Minimum Licensing Requirements for Child Care Centers (most recent edition 12/01/20) – 1100 HEALTH – 1101-General Health Requirements. (if you need an additional copy of this please let us know).
- **The overlap between COVID-19 symptoms with other common illnesses means that some people with symptoms of COVID-19 could be ill with something else.** This is even more likely in young children, who typically have multiple viral or bacterial illnesses each year. Although COVID-19 and other common illnesses such as colds, flu, or ear infections have similar symptoms, they are different diseases.
 - Children and Staff who have one or more of the following symptoms will be immediately sent home.
 - Fever, temperature 100.4 °F or higher, or chills.
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Diarrhea, vomiting, or stomachache
 - Children and Staff may return to school once they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, when symptoms have improved AND with proof of a negative PCR test result.

- Handling of positive COVID cases:
 - **Symptomatic**
 - Staff – who have confirmed COVID-19 are to stay home for at least 5 full days. Day 6 forward they may return to work once they are symptom free. Masking is required.
 - Children – who have confirmed COVID-19 are to stay home for at least 10 full days.
 - **Asymptomatic and not fully vaccinated:**
 - **THE SAFEST OPTION** for children and staff who are asymptomatic and unable to consistently and correctly wear a mask when around others to isolate for a full 10 days (day 1 is the first day after exposure or symptomatic).
 - **THE NEXT SAFEST OPTION** for children and staff (who are not fully vaccinated) is to stay home, take a PCR test on the fifth day after exposure, and return on the sixth day with proof of a negative PCR test result.
 - **NOT RECOMMENDED BUT AT THIS TIME ALLOWED:** Children and Staff may continue to attend/work without interruption as long as they remain symptom free (refer to symptom list above).