

Apostles Preschool & Childcare

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APC COVID-19 POLICY

This pandemic has changed the way we look at early childhood education and our daily practices and procedures in a group setting. As we continue to take extra precautions to ward off Coronavirus. We are taking these steps to support the health and safety of your children, your family and our staff.

Please take note of the following policies, procedures and symptoms as they relate to COVID-19:

Exclusion Policy

- Any child who is ill.
- Any child with a fever (100.4 or higher)
- Any child with active respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, etc.).
- Any child who has symptoms or tests positive for COVID -19.
- Any child with household members who are positive for COVID-19 must stay home in quarantine. The Center must be notified.

Isolation and Quarantine

On December 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shortened the recommended time for isolation and quarantine for the general public. The shortened (5 day) guidance only applies when masks can be worn consistently and correctly on days 6-10. Preschool & Childcare follows the Virginia Department of Health guidance regarding quarantine and isolation periods.

Isolation – The separation of people with COVID-19 from others.

- If a member of the household is positive for COVID-19 the parent must contact the Director and the child must quarantine. If the household member cannot 100% isolate from the child the quarantine period for the child is extended. **See Quarantine** for number of days.
- **Isolation for children less than 2 years of age**
 - If a child is less than 2 years of age and has tested positive for COVID-19 the child must isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. The child may return to the center on day 11 if he/she has been fever free without the use of fever reducing medication for 24 hours and other signs of illness are improving.
- **Isolation for children (ages 2 years and up)**
 - If a school age student is positive for COVID-19 the child must isolate at home for 5 days. The child may return on day 6 if the child has been fever free without fever reducing medication and symptoms have improved. On days 6-10 the child must wear a properly fitting mask 100% of the time around others while at the center and riding in the APC van.
 - A school age child must stay home and isolate if he/she has COVID like symptoms and is waiting on test results or is unable to get tested

Quarantine - The separation of people who were in close contact with a person with COVID-19.

- Quarantine for children under 2 years of age
 - If a child less than 2 years of age has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 he/she must quarantine and the parent must monitor symptoms for 10 days following the last day of close contact.

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- If the child lives with the person that has tested positive for COVID-19 and the household member cannot 100% isolate from the child, the child must quarantine for an additional 10 days beginning on day 11. For example, Household member “A” has tested positive for COVID-19 and is unable to 100% isolate from the child. Household member “A” will isolate for 10 days (or 5 day isolation and day 6-10 wear a properly fitting mask). On day 10 household member “A” ends their isolation/mask period. The following day begins the child’s 10 day quarantine. The child returns to the center on day 11.
- **Quarantine for school age children (ages 5 years and up)**
 - If the school age child is a **Close Contact** of a household member that has tested positive for COVID-19 and the household member cannot 100% isolate from the child, the child must quarantine for an additional 5 days after the person with COVID-19 was allowed to end isolation.
 - If a school age student is a **Close Contact**, has no symptoms and is **fully vaccinated or has recovered from COVID in the past 6 months** the child does not need to quarantine. The child should wear a mask for 10 days when around others.
 - If a school age student is a Close Contact and is **not fully vaccinated or has not recovered from COVID in the past 6 months** the child will need to quarantine for 5 days. The child may return on day 6 if the child is symptom free. The child must wear a mask for days 6-10 when around others.

COVID – 19 Symptoms (As outlined by the CDC)

People with COVID-19 have a wide range of reported symptoms - ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with the following symptoms may have COVID-19

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|---|------------------------------|
| ● Fever or chills | ● Muscle or body aches |
| ● Cough | ● Headache |
| ● Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | ● New loss to taste or smell |
| ● Runny nose | ● Sore throat |
| ● Congestion | ● Nausea or vomiting |
| ● Fatigue | ● Diarrhea |

Look for **emergency warning signs** for COVID -19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- | | |
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| ● Trouble breathing | ● Inability to wake or stay awake |
| ● Persistent pain or pressure in chest | ● Bluish lips or face |
| ● New confusion | |

Healthy Environment

- Upon arrival children and staff wash their hands immediately upon entering the building and throughout the day. If the bathroom with running water is not available, hand sanitizer is used.
- Parents are welcome to enter the classroom. If the parent is feeling unwell the parent is asked to wear a mask.
- Children are separated into smaller groups that fall within state or local guidelines.

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- Our staff encourages social distancing in the classroom by setting up small group play areas with areas for individual play, and planning activities that do not require close physical contact between children.
- Children have their own container of playdoh.
- Please do not bring toys from home or car seats into the Center.
- All equipment is cleaned between uses.
- High-touch surfaces, such as door handles, light switches, pens, playground equipment, faucets, toys and games that children play with are cleaned and disinfected throughout the day.
- Apostles Preschool & Childcare is professionally cleaned Monday-Friday.
- Staff has access to anti-bacterial hand sanitizers and disposable gloves and use them as needed.
- Staff members wash/scrub their hands and children's hands frequently.
- All surfaces are disinfected before meal preparation and feedings.
- Staff washes their hands before and after meal preparation and feeding.
- Children and staff members who are sick must stay home.

Child Health

- All staff receives education on COVID-19 symptoms as well as preventive measures.
- Children and staff are reminded to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.
- Children who start to experience symptoms of respiratory illness, including a fever of >100.4 while at child care, are isolated from other children and must be picked up within 1 hour.
- Any child with household members who are positive for COVID-19 must stay home in quarantine as required by the Virginia Department of Health.
- Any child testing positive for COVID must stay home until isolation period has ended.

Staff Health & Wellness

- Staff receives additional training on infection control and workplace disinfection.
- Staff temperatures are checked at the beginning of the shift. Staff will not be allowed to work if they are feeling ill, have a temperature >100.4 or experiencing respiratory symptoms.
- Staff wash their hands immediately upon entering the program and immediately prior to leaving.
- Any staff member testing positive for COVID must stay home and isolate for at least 5 days. The staff member may return to work on day 6 if they have been fever free without fever reducing medication and other signs of illness are improving. The staff member must wear a properly fitting mask 100% of the time while in the building during day 6-10. Staff members during the 6-10 day period may not eat in the kitchen when other staff members are present.

Tuition

- If APC must quarantine a student or a classroom due to being a Close Contact at the Center, a 50% credit will be applied for each full quarantine day.
- Tuition is not subject to discounts or credits for absences, vacations, holidays or Center closures (e.g. emergency closing, weather, excessive illness outbreak/pandemic, or quarantine due to being a close contact outside the Center.)
- If the Department of Health, the state or APC board directs emergency closure, tuition is due to retain a spot for your child. This includes if we are only open for a portion of a week and need to close for the remainder of the week.
- If you are able to work from home and choose to keep your child at home, you will be required to pay your normal monthly tuition to retain your spot.
- A two week notice is required for withdrawal.

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Closure of a Classroom or the Center

- The Director may close a classroom (s) if the majority of the classroom is considered Close Contacts, or an outbreak occurs and closure is recommended by Virginia Department of Health.
- The Center will close if the Virginia Department of Health or our local health department recommends that we close due to an outbreak.
- The Center is unable to maintain appropriate staffing levels due to the number of staff members out with illness, exclusions or quarantine.
- Apostles Preschool & Childcare board of Directors elects to close the Center for the health and safety of children and staff.
- The Center will close if the governing body of Apostles Lutheran Church elects to close the church and or church properties, effectively closing the Center.

Communication

- If your child or any member of the household develops a communicable disease, including COVID-19 the parent must notify the Center within 24 hours or the next business day.
- If there is any question as to if a child should attend due to illness or possible exposure the parent or staff member must contact the Director before arriving at the Center.
- If your child will be absent for any reason parents must notify the Center.
- If a child has had close contact with someone who is positive for COVID 19 while at the Center they will be notified and instructed to quarantine.
- If the current situation changes and it becomes necessary to update our procedures or close our program temporarily, we will notify key family contacts by email and Remind. See below for Remind classroom codes.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we continue to implement the APC COVID-19 Policy and procedures. Our goal is to minimize disruption while at the same time keeping you, your family and our staff healthy and well.

In Grace & Peace,

Nanette Roberts
Director

Remind

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the classroom link:

Classroom	Link
Infant	rmd.at/c6c30
Waddler	rmd.at/waddlero
Toddler	rmd.at/f2822
Purple	rmd.at/2511e
Blue	rmd.at/d85c8
Red	rmd.at/141a7
Yellow	rmd.at/9dfac2
Orange	rmd.at/gh7934
School Age	rmd.at/f92d0

Don't have a mobile phone? Go to on a desktop computer with the classroom link to sign up for email notifications.