

Southborough Village Preschool

COVID Policies and Procedures

2022-2023

Dear Southborough Village Preschool Families,

Below you will find details regarding the SVP COVID Policies and Procedures that we will use when responding to COVID related issues at Southborough Village Preschool. Our procedures and protocol have come together after careful consideration of the information given to us by the MA Department of Early Education and Care (our licensors), the Southborough Department of Public Health, the MA Department of Public Health, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Center for Disease Control. Please note that the Southborough Village Preschool COVID Policies and Procedures are in close conformance with those of the Northborough/Southborough Public School System. Be sure to let us know if you have any questions or need any clarification on any of the below items. We ask that you read through this document and sign and date it on the back, indicating that you have received and understand this information.

The following COVID Policies and Procedures will be in place as we begin the 2022-2023 school year, in order to minimize the risk of illness to all members of the Southborough Village community. We reserve the right to change these policies at any time in accordance with new CDC, MDPH, or DEEC guidelines.

- Currently, **masks are not required**, but those who choose to wear masks are always welcome to.
- **Rapid antigen** (such as a self-test) COVID tests are acceptable this year.
- **Close contacts** can continue to come to school AS LONG AS they remain **asymptomatic**, and will not be required to quarantine, but should **mask through Day 10 (with a negative rapid test on Day 6)**.
- If your child is a close contact and **symptoms develop, follow the guidance for symptomatic individuals** (*see below).
- **Current COVID Symptoms Include:**
 - Fever (100 degrees or higher), chills, or shaking chills
 - Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Muscle aches or body aches
 - Cough (not due to other known cause, as documented by a pediatrician)
 - Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms
 - Nausea, vomiting, when in combination with other symptoms
 - Headache, when in combination with other symptoms
 - Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
 - Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, as documented by a pediatrician), when in combination with other symptoms
- **Children and staff who test positive for COVID**, regardless of symptoms, must isolate for at least 5 full days (Day 0 being the day of the positive test), and may return on the 6th day, if he/she...
 - Is symptom-free or symptoms are greatly improving
 - Has a negative rapid test on Day 5 or later
 - Has been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication
 - Can wear a high-quality, well-fitting mask through Day 10
 - **Please note:** Even if your child meets all of these criteria, if he/she has low energy or is not feeling well, please keep him/her home.

- All staff/parents are required to **immediately report** all positive cases of COVID as well as all instances of close contact with positive COVID cases, and all illness symptoms to the Directors.
- If you have a **household member who has tested positive for COVID** and is unable to fully isolate from your child, we ask that you communicate with the Directors so we may evaluate and put the proper protocols into place. We take a more cautious approach when it comes to students living with COVID positive family members due to the highly contagious nature of the virus and the fact that young children have difficulty distancing from others, and as such the chance of virus transmission is higher.
- We ask that you refer to the current list of COVID symptoms before bringing your child every morning. **You will be required to sign your child in** when you arrive at school (sign-in clipboards will be on a table by the front door). By your signature, you confirm that you are abiding by the Southborough Village Preschool COVID Policies and Procedures and that your child meets the criteria for attending school.
- All individuals are **strongly encouraged to stay up-to-date with all vaccinations** (COVID, Influenza, etc.). Please consult with your pediatrician regarding his/her recommendation for the COVID vaccination.
- All SVP staff members are, and will continue to be, fully vaccinated against COVID.
- In the case of a COVID outbreak at SVP, we reserve the right to quarantine a class or classes. If a class is quarantined, that class will receive online instruction for the duration of quarantine.
- All staff/adults and students will be required to wash their hands upon entering the school and frequently after that, including always before and after meals and bathroom use.
- All surfaces and high touch areas will be cleaned frequently. Additionally, the school will continue to be cleaned by our professional cleaners every evening.
- Enhanced ventilation and circulation will continue to be used inside the preschool this year.
- Classes will be spending a generous amount of time outdoors each day. Please take care to ensure that your child is always prepared for outdoor play, regardless of the weather.

General Illness Policy at SVP

Before the COVID pandemic, we worked hard at SVP to keep our students and staff as healthy as possible, by asking that students who are ill, remain home, until certain criteria are met. This is still our policy at SVP and we ask for your support, cooperation and patience as we continue to work to keep our school healthy this year. Below you will find some information that will help you determine if your ill child is able to attend school. Please refer to our full [SVP Health Policy](#) for more information, or reach out to us, we are happy to help!

***What if your child has symptoms (COVID/other) but no known COVID exposure?**

- Your child must have a negative COVID test, and then a second test within 48 hours if the initial test is negative. The Board of Health as well as the DEEC have provided us with a supply of tests that we are happy to make available to our families. Don't hesitate to ask us for tests, we have plenty.
- If the initial COVID test is negative, your child may attend school as long as they only have:
 - Mild cold without a fever, sore throat, headache or cough
 - Mild non-contagious illness/with documented consent to attend school from doctor
- Masking is recommended for symptomatic individuals.

Guidelines for Determining if Your Child is Healthy Enough for School.

- **A temperature greater than 100.0F is considered a fever:** Your child should be fever free, without the use of fever reducing medication, for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Vomiting and Diarrhea:** Your child should be symptom free, without the aid of medication for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Rash:** A rash is usually a sign of a viral illness. It may also be a reaction to a medication or chemical (plant, detergent). If your child has an unusual rash or it is associated with a fever, contact your doctor. Keep your child home until you have discussed the rash with your doctor.
- **Cold, sore throat, cough:** Children average six to eight colds per year. Your child may attend school with mild cold symptoms, following a negative Covid test, (and with a second negative test within 48 hours) and if he or she feels well enough to attend. **Unfortunately, children who are exhibiting symptoms such as a fever, sore throat, headache or cough may not attend school.**
- **Strep throat:** A sore throat in conjunction with a fever, headache or stomachache may indicate strep throat. Your child must complete 24 hours of medication and be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication before returning to school.
- **Conjunctivitis (pink eye):** If suspected, contact your physician before coming to school. Your child may attend school 24 hours after treatment starts.

We recognize that there is a lot of information to absorb and we will do our best to help provide clarity where it is needed. We greatly appreciate your support as we work together to create and maintain a safe and healthy school environment this year, for our students, families and staff.

Sincerely,

Laura Eppen and Gretchen Hartnett

Directors, Southborough Village Preschool

------(Cut on this line, sign below and return to SVP)-----

Southborough Village Preschool 2022 COVID Policies and Procedures

I acknowledge that I have read through and understand the Southborough Village Preschool COVID Policies and Procedures. I understand that Southborough Village Preschool is implementing these Policies and Procedures in an effort to minimize the risk of COVID and other illnesses, although the risk cannot be entirely eliminated. I agree to adhere to the SVP COVID Policies and Procedures and cooperate in Southborough Village Preschool's efforts to minimize the risk of COVID and other illnesses in the Southborough Village Preschool community. I recognize that these policies and procedures may be updated as needed throughout the school year. I agree to abide by these policies and procedures for the duration of the school year.

Child's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____