

**Health Care Guidelines**

**During Covid-19**

**September 2020**

*These guidelines are based upon the directives and recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and the Connecticut Department of Public Health and its Office of Early Childhood as of 8/1/2020.*

*Parents and the staff of GSS should work together in a spirit of partnership to assure the health and safety of the children and staff in GSS and minimize their exposure to Covid-19.*

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***Parents’ Responsibilities***

Parents should take their children’s temperatures daily and check vigilantly for symptoms of illness, particularly those characteristic of Covid-19 (see checklist below). Parents are not generally allowed in our building; if they are allowed entry, they must wear a mask (e.g., to pick up a sick child).

***Daily Checklist***

Before children enter the school, parents will be asked to check and initial a form confirming the absence of the following in the previous 24 hours:

* Temperature over 100°
* Vomiting, diarrhea, gastro-intestinal distress
* Cough, respiratory illness, shortness of breath, lethargy, fatigue
* Sore throat, cold-like symptoms

The staff will conduct visual checks of the students for symptoms upon arrival

***Notification of Illness***

Parents should notify the Director or Head Teacher immediately if any of the following have occurred:

* A household member has tested positive for Covid-19
* A household member has developed Covid-19 symptoms or is presumed positive
* A child has been exposed to a person with Covid-19 symptoms or testing positive
* A household member has been advised to self-quarantine
* Travel to a state on the most recent Travel Advisory or travel internationally

GSS will notify the appropriate health departments of any such occurrences.

***Exclusion from School (Sick Children and Staff Shall Stay Home)***

Children cannot attend school if any of the items on the daily checklist above have been present within 72 hours

If a child exhibits symptoms at school, he/she will be isolated and the parents and/or emergency contact will be notified and asked to pick up the child as soon as possible

***Return to School***

Children can return to school after they are:

* Fever free (without medication) for 72 hours, and 10 days from the onset of Covid-19 symptoms
* Fever free (without medication) for 24 hours with written documentation from a pediatrician confirming that fever and symptoms are not Covid-19 related
* They are well enough to participate in all aspects of their program

***If Covid-19 is Diagnosed in a Child or Staff Member***

* All parents will be informed immediately
* Children and staff members who are determined to have had close contact with the affected person may not attend school for 14 days
* The person’s particular classroom will be closed and subjected to deep cleaning

***Additional Quarantine Restrictions***

Quarantine for 14 days is mandatory for:

* Children who have been in direct with a person who has tested positive or is presumed to be positive
* Children and family members who have visited states listed on the most recent Travel Advisory
* Children who have traveled internationally

For additional information, please see the OEC “Guidance for Child Care” 6.24.2020

<https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/OEC-COVID-19-Guidance-for-Child-Care-Centers-Group-Homes-2020-06-24.pdf>

**GSS Precautionary Practices**

***Drop-off***

The staff will make visual health and temperature checks of the children upon arrival (prior to entering the building)

***Classroom size and ratios***

There will generally be no more than 6 children in a classroom with adequate spacing. The teacher-child ratio will be below 1:6 (CT permits 14 children in a room and not less than one teacher for10 children)

***Masks***

CT does not require preschool children to wear masks but we will require children to wear masks during Circle Time because of the proximity to each other. Masks will be available for children who forget to bring their masks

***Social Distancing***

Social distancing (6 ft separation) will be practiced as much as possible

***Staff***

Staff members will wear face shields and masks at all times

***Handwashing***

As usual, regular handwashing will be practiced before and after meals and using the bathroom, when handling food, after sneezing, etc.

***Coughing/Sneezing Precautions***

Children will be coaxed to cover their mouths when coughing and to sneeze into their sleeves – followed by handwashing

***Hand sanitizers***

Will be used frequently by the staff but only occasionally by the children as necessary

***Cleaning and Disinfecting***

Routine cleaning of the school every day before & after classes and after activities

Tables, chairs, toys, bathrooms and carpets to be included

Specialty (deep) cleaning as needed (school to close for 1-2 days)

***Outdoor Play***

To be used as much as possible in small groups; emphasize social distancing

***Toys***

Each classroom/play area to have a “dirty bin” for toys to be cleaned after play

***Lunch***

Distancing during lunch and no sharing

***Naps***

Distancing; children to have own sheet/blanket & toy to be kept in a plastic bag and taken home each Friday for cleaning and returned on Monday

***Bathrooms***

One child at a time, teacher with gloves to open/close faucets, sanitized before school and twice daily during classes; windows to be left open as much as feasible

***Materials***

Children should have their own scissors, crayons, pencils, glue etc.); no sharing

***Designated sick/isolation area***

For a child who gets sick and is awaiting pick-up

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*These practices and policies are subject to change as further guidance is received from the CDC and the state & local Departments of Public Health and the OEC.*