August 26, 2021

Dear First Presbyterian Preschool Families,

Important update and information regarding COVID health mitigation strategies:

Thank you for your patience as we navigate through the COVID exposure and quarantine closure. We are pleased to announce that we will be able to **resume our regular scheduled class time starting on Friday, August 27th. If your child normally attends on that day, please bring them to school at their scheduled time. We will not be able to accommodate switching days at this time.**

There are a couple of things that are changes to our COVID health mitigation strategies that we must now abide by in light of the recent events in our program. **Starting on August 27th and until further notice, we will be meeting families at the entrance gate and let one family in at a time to check in. This will take additional time. If you have scheduling issues with this process, please plan to arrive either 5 minutes before (to be the first in line) or 10-15 minutes after 9 to be sure to get checked in without too much delay on your time. Please give each other social distance in the breezeway and wait for your turn to enter the play yard.** We used this process last year and it went really well! I am hopeful that it will be a similar success this year as well.

Additionally, we will be **requiring all people who come onto our campus to wear a face mask or covering while here. This includes parents, children, siblings, visitors, teaching staff and anyone else from ages 2 and up.**  We know that this is a challenge and change from our original strategy. However, we will be using this as another tool to help us do the best we can to reduce the spread of germs and remain open and in operation for the families that we serve. We will gently remind everyone as we transition to this new strategy. We will revisit this strategy later in the year if thing improve.

The stated in the Parent Handbook the Sick Policy will now include the following: Keep your child home if they feel sick or show any signs of illness. Child must be symptom free for 72 hours. Symptoms include: Fever of 99.9+, sore throat, cough, diarrhea, vomiting, loss or taste or smell, difficulty breathing. **Masking is mandatory from your car to our care for all persons including children 2 years old and up. Those children that stay in our care will continue to mask for the duration of their time until they get back to their car to leave**. We will still be issuing hand sanitizer upon arrival and a temperature will be taken for the students and teaching staff daily before being admitted. After arriving into the classroom, the child and teaching staff will wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. The remainder of the day will include multiple times as needed for hand washing. The classroom environment will continue to be cleaned with soap, disinfecting cleaner and sanitizer after each use just like we always have done.

At pick up time **masks will still be required on the campus as the families are admitted**, one family at a time, into the classroom hallway to meet their student, gather belongings and discuss any information with the classroom teachers at that time. This is our current practice and we will be enforcing one family at a time for social distancing. If you have a scheduling issue for your time, please arrive 10 minutes early to start the pick-up process and get you out the door on time.

Please call the office (480) 835-7877 or email us preschool@fpcmesa.org if your child is out for any reason as soon as you can. This will help us stay on top of any illness outbreak.

We truly appreciate everyone’s help with these mitigation strategies. We strongly value the trust that you give us with your children in our care and we know that no one wants to make this experience any more challenging than it needs to be.

Lastly, we sent home a **notice to all families regarding the changes to our snack and lunch foods list. We are now unable to allow peanuts/peanut products or strawberries in our program. Please do not pack these things in your child’s lunch or send it for the snack either.** It is a severe allergy for 2 children and we are doing what we can to make sure everyone is safe while at school.

Thank you for your help with ALL of this! These are unusual times but we are all in this together.

Shiloh Murillo

Director

First Presbyterian Preschool of Mesa