

August 24, 2021

The Lamb's Workshop Mitigation Plan Fall 2021

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A Word from the Lamb's Workshop Board of Directors

Dear Parents,

The Board of Directors of The Lamb's Workshop would like to thank you for your support and patience as we continue to navigate the uncharted waters of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We have been working diligently to modify and adapt our mitigation strategies as guidance and the local situation changes. We have learned time and time again that this is a fluid situation that is constantly evolving. As a school, we need to be flexible with our plans and be ready to change and adapt quickly should the need arise. Therefore, just because certain policies or protocols are put into place does not mean that we can guarantee them for the entire year

While striving to make the school experience as traditional as possible, our priority has to be the health and safety of our students and our staff. This year we have changed some of our mitigation policies based on feedback from staff and parents as well as information from the NH Department of Health and Human services. Please read over these new mitigation strategies carefully.

Some things that have changed from last year. We are asking that parents conduct the Daily Health screening of their children, including a temperature check, before they arrive at school. Teachers will be looking for obvious signs of illness when entering the class, but we are asking the parents to be on the lookout for new and unexplained symptoms or possible exposures.

We ask that you join us in praying that the COVID-19 virus will be under control and that the pandemic will come to an end so we will be able to roll back some of the health and safety protocols. We pray that you and your families will stay healthy-physically, emotionally, and spiritually throughout the school year. Please pray for everyone who works to make The Lamb's Workshop a safe, loving environment that shares God's love through His Son.

Thank you,

The Lamb's Workshop Board

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Illness policy

The school has always had a strong illness policy and it is through the cooperation between parents and school staff that we will maintain a healthy environment. The foundation of this policy is to keep children and staff home if they exhibit **ANY signs of illness.**

If children/staff exhibit signs of illness (even mild) we will ask that they consult their health care provider before being allowed to return to school. We would ask that parents provide a note from the doctor indicating that they are cleared to return to school and whether or not a COVID test was warranted.

The first step to this policy is parents conducting a daily health check/assessment before leaving their home.

Daily Health Screening

Step One: Health Assessment Questions

Has your child had any of the following symptoms:

Fever 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

Nausea or vomiting

Diarrhea

Has your child been exposed to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 14 days?

Has your child tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days?

Has your child traveled internationally or been on a cruise ship in the last 10 days?

If you answered yes to any of the following question's we ask that you keep your child home from school and consult your health care provider about your risk factors of COVID-19 and follow appropriate quarantine protocol.

Step 2: Temperature Check

Before leaving home, we are asking that parents take their children's temperature and check for obvious signs of illness. If your child's temperature is over 100.0 degrees, they will be asked to stay home and monitor for symptoms.

Step 3: Obvious Signs of Illness

Staff will also be looking for any signs or symptoms of illness. Students will be given a brief health screen before interacting in the classroom. If that screener feels the child is too sick to attend or has obvious signs of illness, they will ask that they be returned to their parent immediately.

It is incredibly important for parents to keep children at home if they are not feeling well. Please communicate to the office when your child is sick and will not be attending. You can call or email the office that the child is not attending and what their symptoms are. If your child has any of the above-mentioned symptoms (fever, runny nose, cough, sore throat, etc.) DO NOT HESITATE to call your health care provider.

We would ask that if anyone in the household develops symptoms or is suspected to have been exposed, please keep your child home until a negative test is produced by that household member.

If a health care provider recommends a test, the child may return to school only after getting a negative result.

According to the CDC:

Person(s) with any COVID-19 symptoms, those who report close contact with someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19, or those reporting travel risk factors should not be allowed into the facility:

- a. Symptomatic persons should be instructed to contact their health care provider to be tested for COVID-19 and self-isolate at home following the instructions below.
- b. Asymptomatic persons (who have not been vaccinated) reporting close contact with someone suspected or confirmed with COVID-19, or who report one of the traveled-related risk factors should self-quarantine for 10 days from their last exposure or return from travel.
- c. Those who have been vaccinated or who have had the novel Corona virus in the last 90 days does not need to quarantine.

More information can be found [here](#).

Healthy Classrooms

Chronic Conditions

We understand that there are children who may suffer from chronic conditions, like asthma or seasonal allergies, that cause COVID like symptoms. For these children, we ask that a Doctors note specifying their condition be kept on file at the office.

Parents can contact the office to clarify what constitutes a chronic condition and when a doctor's note is needed to attend.

Exposure

The following section outlines what actions the school would take if/when a possible exposure to COVID happens. It is important to keep in mind that if an exposure was to happen the school's response will be coordinated with the local health department. The school would follow the guidelines and advice that the health department suggests including classroom wide mask wearing for up to 14 days, close

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contacts that need to self-isolate, cohorts that need to quarantine, classroom closure, or school wide closure and the duration of that closure.

When someone has been exposed

We will notify anyone via email and text message that has been in close contact with the person of the possible exposure.

What counts as close contact?

You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes in a 24-hour period

You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19

You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)

You shared eating or drinking utensils

They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

When Should I Quarantine?

If you or your child has been exposed, whether at school, or in the community.

Please take the following steps:

Stay home for 10 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19

Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19

If possible, stay away others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting sick from COVID-19

More information can be found [here](#)

When someone develops symptoms at school

If a child should develop symptoms while at school, they will be isolated from the rest of the group and asked to wear a mask. The parent will be contacted immediately, and the Department of Health will be contacted to advise the school as to next steps.

Social Distancing

We are operating at almost full capacity in our classrooms this year, therefore, maintaining 3ft of social distance will not always be feasible. However, the classrooms will not intermingle or share activities even during outside play.

Students will also have assigned seating in all the classrooms, so they are consistently sitting next to the same person. Whenever possible, will create isolated groups or cohorts of children that only interact with each other and only with the same few staff every day. These “little flocks” help if the need to contact trace ever arises.

We will take extra steps to participate in small group activities and section off classrooms with our rolling divider walls at times in which children are at the tables or on the carpet (i.e. snack time, art time, morning meeting time). This means that the children will have the maximum amount of distance between them during those times when social distancing becomes harder to maintain.

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We will continue to use the outdoor play equipment on a rotating schedule. This means that only the classroom group will be out on the playground at a time. The teachers will have the children hand sanitize before entering the playground and upon exiting.

It is important to realize that social interaction is a normal part of healthy interaction at this stage of childhood development. We will do everything we can to be proactive about separating children (only allowing a certain number to sit at tables, spacing play areas appropriately, having designated “stopping” spots in the hallway, etc.). We will continue to gently re-direct and educate children about personal space and boundaries in a way that does not add stress to their lives or to the classroom environment.

Ventilation

Over the course of the last year, we have learned a lot about how the COVID virus is spread. Therefore, we have purchased air purifiers for all our classrooms. The teachers have also been instructed to always keep their windows open in the classroom. When the weather starts to get colder, windows will be open enough to just allow for air to continue to flow. The classroom temperature will not be compromised but parents can always send in extra layers so that their child will be comfortable.

We will also continue to do everything we can to move lessons and activities outdoors as the weather permits.

Mask Wearing

We will strongly **recommend** that staff and students wear masks when social distance cannot be maintained but we will **not require** them to be worn at this time. We will support families in their decision to have their child attend school in a mask or to use their mask during designated indoor activities (i.e., carpet time).

The child will be provided a sanitary place to keep their mask, and the teacher will remind them when to put it on. Children do need to be able to wear the mask appropriately, meaning in a way that keeps them safe and does not distract themselves or others. If the mask becomes a deterrent to learning, we will ask that they put the mask away, and let the parent know of our decision.

We are asking adults entering the building wear a mask when they are inside. **This includes parents and caregivers at drop off and pick up times.** We will continue to monitor and follow local guidance when it comes to community transmission and positivity rates. The age group that we serve represents a population who currently cannot receive the vaccine and that has to be a factor in our decision-making process.

Sanitation Practices

The Lamb’s Workshop has always strived to keep the health of our staff and students as a top priority. Prior to this pandemic, staff conducted daily health checks, were familiar with common signs and symptoms of infectious disease, and worked with the church sexton to coordinate cleaning.

How often will surfaces be cleaned

The schools will continue to work with church personnel to adhere to our schedule for cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces (including doorknobs and light switches). Tables and

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countertops will be cleaned and sanitized after each use and between activities, as well as at the beginning and end of the day.

How often will toys be cleaned

Teachers will rotate toys in the classrooms to limit what needs to be washed at the end of the day. Toys will be sprayed with disinfectant and left out to air dry every night.

Whenever possible, teachers will provide individual toys or trays of toys to students. If toys are put in children's mouth or have been otherwise compromised, they will be taken off the floor and sanitized before they are placed back in their bin.

How often will bathrooms be cleaned

Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected every morning before classes start. Teachers will also disinfect after their group has finished using the large hallway bathrooms.

Snack Policy

Children will be required to bring their snack from home for each class meeting. We will still issue a safe snack list to parents. We ask that the snacks be brought in disposable paper/plastic bags with the child's name on the front. Children can bring in reusable containers that will be returned home after class.

Those participating in the afternoon enrichment program can bring a lunch box with their name on it.

Hygiene Practices

Proper hand washing has always been modeled and encouraged at Lamb's. We teach units on germs and giving your cough/sneeze the "cold shoulder." We have found that these practices work best when they are also modeled and practiced at home.

All children, staff, and volunteers will engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

Arrival to the facility

Before and after preparing food or drinks

Before and after eating or handling food

Before and after administering medication or medical ointment

After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom

After coming in contact with bodily fluid

After handling garbage

Everyone will wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not readily available.

Staff will assist and monitor children with handwashing to encourage them to wash thoroughly and for the correct length of time.

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Remote Learning

Lamb's will do all that we can to promote the continuation of education should the school have to temporarily close due to health concerns.

Cohort Quarantine

If a cohort or classroom has to be quarantined (for up to 10 days) because of an exposure, Lamb's teachers will provide age appropriate at home learning for those students.

School wide closure

In the event that the entire school is mandated to close, Lamb's will switch to a remote learning set up for our kindergarten and an optional remote learning for our 4-year-old classes. These classes will include weekly worksheets, live lessons and meetings with teachers, online interaction, and art opportunities.

At this time, we do not feel that it is developmentally appropriate for 3-year-olds to participate in online learning as so much of their education comes through social interaction, but we will provide art kit activities as well as some story times with the teacher for our youngest learners. In addition, during a school wide closure, enrichment will be canceled. No remote learning will be provided for the enrichment classes.

Tuition Discounts

If we switch to remote learning for a period longer than 10 days, parents will be given the option to withdraw their child from the program.

If you choose to withdraw your child, we will not prorate refunds for partial months of instruction, but we will make sure 1) not to charge the following month, and 2) to refund any months paid in advance.

For example, if we are able to meet the first two weeks in October but then have to close more than two weeks after that, we will not refund the money that parents paid for October. We will refund the November tuition that has been paid (as the child would not attend at all that month).

If your child remains enrolled and we have to switch to remote learning for more than 10 days, parents will be charged 50% of their tuition for our 3-year-old program. Our 4 year old and Kindergarten programs will pay our standard tuition, however, we will not charge for our afternoon enrichment classes.

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Illness Policy-Signature Page

Please read the following statements and initial next to each acknowledgement. This signature page must be turned into the office before your child can attend The Lamb's Workshop.

_____ 1) I acknowledge that I have read the Lamb's mitigation plan thoroughly

_____ 2) I will adhere to the illness policy outlined in the mitigation plan, including screening my child daily for symptoms and keeping my child home for the recommended amount of time should they become sick.

_____ 3) The Lamb's Workshop is doing everything we can to be compliant with all regulations and ensure your safety. We have put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, but we cannot guarantee that you or family members will not become infected with COVID-19. By participating in programs, services, and activities of THE LAMBS WORKSHOP, you agree to the following: On behalf of yourself and your children, you hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless THE LAMBS WORKSHOP, its employees, agents, and representatives, of and from all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to your participation in our programs, services or activities. You understand and agree that this release includes any claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of this organization, its employees, agents, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in any such program, service or activity.

Student's name

Parent Signature

Date