

Mother Teresa Cooperative Preschool: COVID-19 Protocols 2021-2022

While the following protocols may make preschool look a little different this year, creating a safe environment for the students and families while balancing fun play interactions is priority. We will follow guidelines set by government, the school division, École St. Mother Teresa School and our preschool board as necessary. Protocols may change throughout the school year, and we will ensure parents are up to date with information via newsletters and emails.

Sick Policy

- A strict sick policy will be enforced. If a child is showing **ANY** signs of illness, please do not send them to school. If at school a child is displaying signs of illness, **parents will be contacted to pick up their child immediately**. We don't have a place to isolate while that child will be waiting for pick up, so we will have them sit by the door.

COVID-19 Case and Isolation Requirements

- **Please note that preschools do not qualify for any exemptions to isolation requirements.** The most recent public health order can be found at: [Public Health Orders | Public Measures | Government of Saskatchewan](#)
- If a child tests positive for COVID, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) via public health will follow-up with the child's school. **However, to facilitate quicker notification of the affected class, we ask that caregivers notify the preschool's president, Janelle Bartsch, at 306-270-8531.** The parents will then be notified of there being a positive case (not including the name of the student).
 - All individuals that test positive for COVID-19 shall immediately self-isolate until the later of the following:
 - i. Ten days from the onset of symptoms; or
 - ii. Ten days from the date the positive COVID-19 test was administered if the individual did not have or display symptoms when tested and has not shown symptoms since the test was administered
- Children in the same class as the positive case are highly likely to be deemed close contacts by the SHA.
 - All individuals that are a close contact of an individual with COVID-19, shall self-isolate for 14 days from the date of their last exposure to COVID-19.
- Fully vaccinated adults (teacher, parent helper) would be exempt from self-isolation unless directed otherwise by the SHA.

Masking

- Masking in the school has now been mandated by the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the same rule will apply in our preschool classroom. The only exception to this rule is during outdoor time. Students and staff/parent helpers are not required to mask outside at this time.

Cleaning

- The parent helpers, along with the teacher, will all work together to sanitize as much as possible throughout the classroom time. At least one of the parent helpers will be a designated “sanitizer”. Their job will be to observe the children and sanitize hands anytime they see a child touch their hands, sneeze, cough, etc. A “sanitize checklist” of high-volume touch points will be posted in the classroom. Parent helpers will also complete additional cleaning tasks during/after every class session such as spraying the toys at the end of play time and wiping the tables and chairs down before and after snack. We will be using the school supplied cleaners.
- The teacher has tried to ensure that the number of toys that are in the classroom will also be culled back so that it will be easier to manage disinfecting.
- A.M. & P.M. groups will be looked at as being a “family”. Each group will have its’ own markers, glue & scissors which will be sprayed after use.
- Certain popular playtime toys will also be swapped out between the Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday sessions such as playdoh tools, kitchen toys and puzzles. Whatever cannot be duplicated will be rotated so that each group eventually gets a chance to play with all toys. The rest of the toys will be sprayed at the end of every class to be fresh for the following group.
- We have opted to keep the sensory bin open this year but we will do our best to ensure students sanitize before and after use as well as give the bin a sanitizing spray over the lunch hour and after school!
- An extra parent toy wash has been scheduled during the school year.
- Each child will have their **own paint shirt** and **their own play doh**.
- The teacher will ensure the students are spaced out as much as possible in the lockers. We are permitted to use the boot room this year so please ensure outdoor shoes are left in the preschool section behind the door in the boot room. **PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL SHOES/CLOTHING, WATER-BOTTLES, LUNCH KITS & EVENTUALLY JACKETS/SKI-PANTS/MITTS ARE LABELLED!**

Hand washing/Sanitizing

- We will sanitize our hands upon entry to the classroom. A bottle of sanitizer will be on the table closest to the doors so parents can sanitize their child’s hands as they enter the classroom.
- Sanitize our hands prior to using craft supplies and washing with soap and water after craft time.
- Students will wash with soap and water prior to snack & after snack time if there is need, otherwise they will be sanitized after snack time.
- Soap and water will be used after washroom use.
- Hand sanitizer will be used as needed when soap and water is unavailable.

Snacks

- To decrease the handling and touching of snacks, please send snacks that your child can open independently. Maybe do some practicing over the next few weeks! Keep in mind we are a nut free facility.
- Children will bring their own filled water bottles with a lid for drink at snack. Water bottles will be brought home and washed after every school day. Please **DO NOT** send juice boxes.

Social Distancing

- While getting 3–4-year-olds to “socially distance” may be a challenge, the following strategies will be used to help decrease close contact between large groups of kids:
- We will spread children out at the tables for craft and snack.
- A larger space will be used for circle time, and individual spot markers will be used to show each student where to sit.
- Weather pending, we will try to do as much outside as we can.

Drop Off & Pick Up

- Parents are permitted to enter the school this year for drop offs. **Parents, please wear masks at drop off.** If you see that there are already 1-2 families in the room when you arrive, give them a few minutes to finish before you enter the classroom as well.
- It would be very helpful to the teacher and parent helpers if your child uses the washroom before our day begins.
- Until it is too cold to do so, I will try and end our days outside so pick-up is easy and not crowded in the classroom. I will bring the sign out sheet with me so please let me know you are leaving so I can check off said student. **It is very important that you be on time** so that we can make all this work to avoid congestion in the hallway and boot room. **We cannot overlap with school dismissal and lunch time.**

Thank you for being so cooperative and understanding with these protocols, as we navigate changing times.

Mrs. Soloduik and the Mother Teresa Preschool Board