



# Covid-19 Updates to policies and procedures

## OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Viral transmission risks are greatly reduced in outdoor settings. It is for this reason that our preschool and homeschool programs will be outdoors as often as the weather permits. We will only go inside for bathroom breaks or changes of clothing.

The indoor classrooms will be used during bad weather. We will adhere to the national guidelines regarding weather and outdoor time. When we need to be indoors, children will remove their shoes and wash their hands before entering the classroom.

Each class will have their own designated areas on the grounds (under the weeping beech tree, in the peace garden, etc) for circle time and to complete activities with their class. Classes will be able to take nature walks and spend time in the gardens. Luckily, we have seven beautiful acres which is plenty of space for everyone to spread out.

Time in the nature park will be scheduled and split between the homeschool and preschool programs. The nature park is over 13,000 square feet. In terms of viral transmission risks, the large size of the park combined with the lack of metal and plastic play equipment makes it much safer than traditional playgrounds.

## BATHROOM

Bathroom breaks are scheduled and staggered. Proper hand washing practices will be reinforced. The bathroom will be wiped down and disinfected between each class use.

This past school year we were happy to help children with potty training. However, due to the intimate nature of diaper changes and the amount of PPE it requires, all children must now be potty trained. Exceptions: children with a documented delay and/or medical need.

## MATERIALS

Toys and equipment will be disinfected daily. To ensure cleanliness, the number of toys will be slightly reduced and rotated out regularly. Since there is no washing machine on site, silk scarves and dressup materials will be removed from play areas.

Each teacher will have a collapsible wagon to carry a first aid kit, hand sanitizer, PPE, learning materials, other gear and water bottles.

## PERSONAL ITEMS

The CDC recommends limiting the number of personal items brought into the center on a daily basis.

Each child will have their own cubby where extra clothing and gear can be stored. When cold weather approaches, your child will need snow pants and rain gear that can remain at school. We ask that these items stay at school until they are sent home to be cleaned. When it is time for them to be cleaned, teachers will bag everything up and send it home at the end of the week. Our objective is to reduce the amount of items traveling back and forth between home and school as much as possible. For this reason, toys and stuffed animals must be kept at home.

## SNACKS

In order to limit the amount of personal items brought from home, snacks will be provided by 7 Tribe and will be served by a teacher wearing gloves. Children may not share food.

## LUNCH

Since 7 Tribe does not have the capacity to make and serve lunches, lunches will be provided by families. All lunch items must be contained in a single lunch bag or box that is clearly marked with the child's name. All lunches are stored in the fridge, ice packs are not necessary. Children may not share food.



## DROP OFF / PICK UP PROCEDURES

The CDC recommends curbside drop offs and limiting the number of visitors in the building. When possible, high risk family members should not be responsible for pick up or drop offs.

All drop offs and pickups will be done curbside and will occur in the upper parking lot of the church at 925 S. George St. Each family will be given a number to display in their windshield to help us quickly identify families in order to speed up the process.

### **DROP OFF will begin at 8:50 a.m.**

Families are asked to wait in their cars and unbuckle their child before a teacher approaches. Teachers and assistants wearing a face shield will greet each family, conduct a wellness check complete with a temperature check, sign in the child(ren), and help the child(ren) out of the car.

Once out of the car, kids will be given hand sanitizer to use before going to their designated area, taking their water bottle with them. The assistant will take the lunches and store them in the fridge once everyone has checked in.

If the weather requires it, children will proceed directly to their classrooms. All transitions are supervised and teachers are stationed accordingly.

## PICK-UP WILL BE STAGGERED

### **Preschool pick-up is at 12:30 p.m.**

### **K- 4th grade pick-up is at 2 p.m.**

As recommended by the CDC, staggering pick-up will help us to keep groups separate and avoid a pile up at the entrance. Having families display a number in the windshield of their vehicle will also help dismissal run smoother.

When it is time for dismissal, each class will wait in their designated area and wait for students to be radioed before being dismissed. A teacher wearing a face mask will radio for a child to be dismissed as each car approaches. The teacher will help the child(ren) into the car. Families are asked to pull forward a few car lengths before completing the buckling process so that other kids can be dismissed.

## FACE COVERINGS

While we are outdoors, facial coverings will not be required as long as students maintain a safe distance. If we are inside, masks/face coverings will be required, this includes bathroom breaks. 7 Tribe will provide masks/face coverings for each student. We currently use gator-style face coverings that can be easily pulled up and down as needed. The teacher will spend time teaching about face masks so that children are comfortable wearing them. Our goal is to create a safe learning environment where kids do NOT have to wear masks all day. Teachers who are helping in the parking lot during pick up and drop offs will be required to wear face masks.

## WELLNESS CHECKS

Teachers and students must complete a wellness check upon arrival. This includes a temperature check and answering a series of questions. These questions are determined by the CDC and will be updated as needed. Persons who have a fever of 100°F or above or other signs of illness will not be admitted.



*Please note: Policies and Procedures are subject to change and will be updated as needed to best protect the health and safety of our students, staff and their families.*



## HEALTH AND ILLNESS

Seven Tribe Playground takes precautions to prevent the spread of illness by maintaining a clean environment, providing substitutes for staff and setting clear limits on the health of children in attendance. Frequent hand washing is also an important habit that prevents the spread of illness.

To keep all children and staff healthy, we need your cooperation! This means keeping your child home if you suspect he/she is sick. Recovering children are more likely to pick up a new illness. Keep in mind that we spend time outdoors daily, so if your child is not well enough to go outside, please keep him/her at home.

Should any student, staff or member of their household become infected with COVID-19, the school will shut down for a minimum of one week during which time everything will be disinfected. The appropriate state agencies and all families will be notified immediately. We will keep in constant contact with all families to ensure the illness did not spread. All CDC guidelines related to this issue will be followed.

### Please keep your child home when any of the following conditions are present:

1. The equivalent of an oral fever of 100 accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness;
2. Green or yellow runny nose  
(*clear runny noses are okay*)
3. Cuts or wound with bleeding or oozing
4. Symptoms and signs of possible severe illness: Lethargy that is more than expected tiredness, Uncontrolled coughing, Inexplicable irritability or persistent crying; Difficult breathing, Wheezing, or Other unusual signs for the child;
5. Diarrhea, defined by more watery stools, decreased form of stool that is not associated with changes of diet, and increased frequency of passing stool, that is not contained by the child's ability to use the toilet.
6. Blood in stools not explainable by dietary change, medication, or hard stools.
7. Persistent abdominal pain (continues more than 2 hours) or intermittent pain associated with fever or other signs or symptoms;
8. Vomiting illness (two or more episodes of vomiting in the previous 24 hours) until vomiting resolves or until a health care provider determines that the cause of the vomiting is not contagious and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
9. Mouth sores with drooling, unless a health care provider or health department official determines that the child is noninfectious.
10. Rash with fever or behavior change, until a physician determines that these symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease;
11. Purulent conjunctivitis (defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge), until after treatment has been initiated. In epidemics of no purulent pink eye, exclusion shall be required only if the health authority recommends it
12. A severe rash or change in skin color, red eyes, and/or abdominal pain which are the symptoms of MIS-C, multi-system inflammatory syndrome, a complication of COVID-19 that presents in children.
13. A new or changed cough present in kids or if family members in the household are experiencing a new or changed cough  
(*unless cleared by a doctor*).
14. Your child requires one-on-one care OR more care than staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children in the class.

We will temporarily exclude a child or send the child home as soon as possible if a combination of any of the above conditions exists. If any of these symptoms are present during drop off, or if your child is not feeling well, the teacher will request that the child go home to prevent the spread of illness. Seven Tribe Playground requires a child to remain at home during the first 24 hours of antibiotic treatment for any contagious illness (ear infections and tick bites are not contagious although they are treated with antibiotics).

It is vital that staff and students remain home when they or members of their household are sick. We will continue the use of illness trackers to ensure the health and safety of everyone.

## GETTING SICK AT SCHOOL

If your child becomes ill during class and requires more care than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children; or if a child's condition is suspected to be contagious and requires exclusion, then s/he will be isolated from the group to rest comfortably with a familiar caregiver. You will be contacted immediately to pick him/her up. If we cannot reach you, we will call the other contacts listed with your emergency information.

## ABSENCE DUE TO ILLNESS

If your child must miss a class due to illness, please call or text your child's teacher. Teachers will not see an email until after class, so a call is best. This enables our staff to keep track of any illnesses, which may occur at our school. This information will only be shared confidentially and on a "need to know" basis.

## MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

Seven Tribe Playground will only dispense over-the-counter and/or prescription medication that is in original, labeled containers, and is accompanied by a Medicine Authorization Form and a doctor's note with explicit dosage and administration instructions. Seven Tribe Playground will only give medication to the child for whom the doctor's note is written and for whom the medication container is labeled. One doctor's note per course of treatment is required. If a child, for example, is to be given a course of antibiotics for 10 days, the doctor's note must identify the dates that the medication is to be given. Parents are required to complete a Medication Authorization Form for the days that medication is to be dispensed.

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

If your child has a communicable disease (lice, strep throat, chicken pox, etc) we ask that you share the diagnosis with Seven Tribe's director, so that the parents of the children in the school may be notified that a communicable disease is present. Only the communicable disease information will be shared and we will take all measures necessary to protect your child's confidentiality.

If children at Seven Tribe Playground have been exposed to a "highly contagious" illnesses, all parents will be notified and given an information fact sheet on the illness. The fact sheet includes information on symptoms, course of disease, treatment, etc.

## SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

Seven Tribe Playground makes every effort to meet the dynamic needs of students. Information regarding your child's needs, interests and abilities is collected at the start of the school year. If you believe your child may have needs which require additional planning or preparation on the staff's behalf, please let us know when you enroll. Dietary restrictions and allergies are common. We do our best to accommodate each student's needs. If your child has a unique situation, please speak to the director or your child's teacher before the start of the school year.

*NOTE: We are not equipped to accommodate certain acute health conditions or special needs so please discuss any specific concerns in advance.*

## SEVERE ALLERGIES

If your child has a severe allergy, parents are required to provide a signed copy of the "Authorization for Emergency Care for Children with Severe Allergies" form, detailing any allergies, food or otherwise, from which your child suffers, at the time of enrollment or when the allergy is discovered. This form must be completely filled out by the child's physician and parent(s) or legal guardian(s), and must be updated every twelve months, or more frequently, as needed. In addition to this form, parents must provide a copy of any additional physician's orders and procedural guidelines relating to the prevention and treatment of your child's allergy.

The staff and parents will develop a "food allergy action plan" for children identified as having severe food allergies and will post the plan in the child's regular classroom.

Staff are trained in common emergency response such as administration of the EpiPen. You are encouraged to assist in training the staff to avoid and manage allergic reactions and emergencies related to your child's individual situation.

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