

SHIRLEE GREEN PRESCHOOL
Illness Protocols



*A fit body, a calm mind, a house full of love. These things cannot be bought
– they must be earned.*

- Naval Ravikant

Days of illness are rarely planned, but they are always expected when young humans are involved. As their small bodies build up immunities, school is often when exposures to new combinations of viruses occur. Sooner or later, children become sick. Some get a heavy dose of exposure in preschool years. For those who don't, they become sick more often in the elementary years, research asserts. Having kids means having sick days.

Though inevitable, we aim to reduce the incidence of transmission of illness. It's a team effort and we work with each family to keep Shirlee Green Preschool a healthy space for children.

Every day, we must earn our healthy environment through cautious consideration of whether a child is too sick or contagious to join other children in the school community. Ours is a small community of dedicated, thoughtful teachers and families. It is a beloved extended family united in our support of the young children in our care. Please use this as your guide to determine when your child should stay home.



Brandi Cartwright
Director of Early Childhood Engagement

Illness Notification	p. 4
Policies for General Illness	p. 5
Medication at SGP	p. 5
The Difference COVID-19 Brings	p. 6
COVID-19 Protocols and Procedures	p. 7
Drop-Off Routine	p. 9
Pick-Up Routine	p. 10
Things to Bring to Campus	p.10

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

To support you through each year, the faculty, staff, and administration of Shirlee Green Preschool will remain available to talk and chat via email and phone. Each illness may bring about new questions and considerations. When you feel the need to reach out or if you just want to chat, Shirlee Green Preschool is ready for you. We await every opportunity eagerly to help every family find balance and rhythm for themselves and their family.

In case of illness or to check if your child is able to attend with certain symptoms, please call the Shirlee Green Preschool Main Line. You should also use the Main Line to report your child will be absent.

When a child has tested positive for certain illnesses, an SGP Illness Update will be emailed to all families.

Shirlee Green Preschool

Main Line
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THE ILL CHILD

It is our belief that young children have the right to rest and recuperate when ill. Children who are well also have the right to avoid exposure to an ill child. With that in mind, the following symptoms will require a child to remain home until symptoms subside or permission to return to school from a pediatrician:

- Diarrhea or loose stool,
- Sever coughing,
- High-pitched croupy or whooping sounds after coughing,
- Difficult breathing,
- Yellowish skin or eyes,
- Pinkeye – tears, redness of eyelid lining, irritation followed by swelling or discharge of pus,
- Unusual spots or rashes,
- Sore throat or trouble swallowing,
- An infected skin path(es) – crusty, bright yellow, dry or gummy areas of the skin,
- Unusually dark, tea-colored urine,
- Grey or white stool,
- Fever over 100.4 by surface temperature thermometer or 99 under the arm,
- Headache and stiff neck,
- Vomiting,
- Severe itching of skin of scalp.

MEDICATION AT PRESCHOOL

For an ill child attending Shirlee Green Preschool or a child requiring medication to be administered during the day, please take into the following considerations:

- Medication must be prescribed by a physician.
- All medication must have written permission by the parent(s) of the children and only for the length of time listed.
- Medication must be in the original container, labelled with the child's name, have instructions of administration, including times and dosages.
- Over-the-counter medication shall not be administered.

In times of challenge, communities rally. They listen to the needs of each member. They think compassionately and innovatively to find meaningful solutions. They enact plans. They move forward.

In conjunction with the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) guidance, the Association of Camp Nurses, the Missouri School Boards Association, the St. Louis County Department of Public Health, and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Shirlee Green Preschool follows a Phased approach that adheres to the guidelines and regulations for best practices in establishing routines and protocols for the well-being of all on campus. Utilizing the most up-to-date information, offering classes for children and families delicately balances the needs of families and while remaining aligned with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and policies for childcare programs.

The CDC's guidance on communicable disease management protocols outlines considerations for programs that remain open and for the administration of childcare programs and K-12 schools. We have resolved to follow those considerations and guidance throughout each phase of COVID in the community. For the most up-to-date school protocols, please visit the Shirlee Green Preschool website: [COVID Resources](#).

CHANGES WE CAN SEE and FEEL

As we step further into acclimating after the COVID pandemic, rhythms will quickly take hold as we all work to bring comfort to each child's journey. Some may be returning to school for the first time. Others may find their immunity to common illnesses is less robust. With patience, compassion, thoughtfulness, and expertise, each day will offer new ways to dive deep into learning and early development for every child on campus.

Support of one another will become tantamount as we help children navigate these changes with joy and an adventurous spirit. While we advise each of you have conversations with your children about the practices they should follow to help keep themselves and others healthy, the faculty at Shirlee Green Preschool resolve to keep in careful communication with every family so that we may all respond to the needs of children quickly and purposefully.

GENERAL PROTOCOLS FOR PREVENTION OF COVID-19 SPREAD

During times of high COVID presence in the community, the preschool campus undergoes increased and targeted cleaning and sanitizing. Cleaning and sanitation schedules are increased, all staff receive training in all COVID-19 protocols, and classroom and communal spaces are altered to meet CDC and DHSS guidelines. Please review our protocols regularly to stay apprised of all efforts to mitigate spread of communicable disease.

Hand Hygiene and Cleaning Procedures

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, including at arrival, before and after eating or handling food, after using the toilet, after coming into contact with bodily fluid, after playing outdoors or in sand, and when hands are visibly dirty.
- Young children will be supervised when using hand sanitizer and while washing hands.
- If soap and water is unavailable, use of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be permitted.
- Nightly deep cleaning and sanitizing will occur daily.
- Any soft or hard to sanitize items will be temporarily removed from all areas of use, including toys and rugs.
- Toys and bathrooms to be sanitized throughout the day after use.
- All cleaning materials shall be kept secure and out of reach of children. Faculty and staff will ensure that there is adequate ventilation when use cleaning and sanitizing products.

Personal Protective Equipment during Time of High COVID Rates

Though mask use poses significant challenge to the wearer and children, the CDC advises regular and consistent use to prevent the spread of the virus from the user to another person and prevents the wearer from touching their nose and mouth. During high COVID rates on campus, SGP may require mask use for all students and staff. During these times, families should provide masks for their child's use. Should anyone require a clear mask to ease communication via lip reading, use may be requested at the front office.

During cleaning, diapering, and food preparation, staff will wear gloves and wash hands before and after each task, in addition to handwashing.

- All on campus over the age of 2 (including children and staff) will wear coverings that cover nose and mouth except when eating, drinking, napping, or engaged in outdoor physical activity.
- Cloth face coverings will not be placed on babies or children under age 2 due to suffocation risk.
- All must wear a mask at pick-up and drop-off, including when inside a vehicle during carpool.

Procedure for Sick Children and Staff during COVID-19

- Children and staff showing signs of illness may not be permitted to SGP and are required to remain home at least 24 hours after all symptoms have cleared. Other requirements for return may apply. Signs include, but are not limited to:
 - New or worsening cough
 - Runny nose
 - Sore throat
 - Trouble breathing
 - Loss of sense of taste or smell
 - Temperature of 100.4 or above
 - Fatigue
 - Rash
 - Inflammation or redness of eyes or ears
- Faculty will regularly monitor for health changes in children throughout the day. If symptoms of illness are detected, the parent or guardian will be notified, and the child will await pick-up.
- Children home due to illness may return to SGP after clearance from a physician, completion of quarantine, or a negative COVID-19 test – all dependent on SGP’s current protocols, found on the SGP website.
- Sick staff members should not return to work until they have met the CDC’s criteria for discontinuation of home isolation or have a negative COVID-19 test.
- All families of Shirlee Green Preschool will be notified via email when any child or adult is reported sick or sent home sick.
- **If COVID-19 is confirmed in a child or staff member, SGP will:**
 - Potential campus closure for a minimum of two days (and up to 5 days) to complete thorough cleaning. Advisement from local health officials will dictate any/all closure requirements.
 - Notify all individuals who have come in contact with or had been in close proximity to the confirmed individual.
 - Open doors and window to increase air circulation and wait 24 hours or as necessary before cleaning and disinfecting to allow respiratory droplets to settle.
 - Isolation requirements can be found at the SGP website.

Social Distancing Procedures During Time of High Rates of COVID-19

In addition to sanitizing and cleaning protocols, social distancing is at the cornerstone of mitigating risk of COVID-19 transmission. Allowing children the freedom to play and socialize, develop social-emotional skills and relieve tension and stress brought on by potential pitfalls of

altered schedules and routines is a positive outcome of rejoining the preschool community at SGP. To do so with utmost caution, however, requires social distancing measures that alter typical movement around campus, pick-up and drop-off.

- Social distancing strategies include:
 - Classrooms will maintain small-group cohorts, limited to cohort-designated assigned space, that include the same class roster of attendees and faculty for the duration of the re-opening session, each day, each week, from opening to closing.
 - Classrooms will not combine in outdoor or indoor communal spaces.
 - Classroom ratios have been modified and faculty have been placed in teaching cohorts to support one another in case of absence without breaking the restricted cohort.
 - Classrooms will be open with up to 10 preschoolers, up to 8 two-years-old children, and up to 4 infants/toddlers with at least 2 teachers.
 - Classrooms will be staffed with additional faculty to serve solely to maintain sanitation procedures, offer breaks to teachers, and serve as substitute in case of faculty absence while maintaining cohort groupings.
 - Outside therapists and extracurricular teachers will not be utilized during Phase II as a measure to reduce risk of breaching cohort boundaries.
 - Only enrolled children, faculty, and designated custodial staff will be permitted beyond the COVID-19 check-in table throughout the duration of Phase II of re-opening.
 - No new children or faculty will be permitted into SGP after designated drop-off time.

Upon arrival at Shirlee Green Preschool During Times of High Rates of COVID-19

Drop-off at preschool is from 8am-9:05am. After 9:05am, newly arriving children may not be permitted for attendance that today.

First: all must check-in at carpool, outdoors.

- Face coverings must be worn by all individuals, over the age of 2.
- All must maintain at least 6 feet distance from family groups and other classes.

Second: at check-in,

- Each child to be in attendance to wash hands upon entering building.
- Children will have their temperature taken and health questionnaire completed inside car,

Third: All permitted children will be signed-in using an electronic sign-in system. Assistance will be provided by staff.

Fourth: All attending children will be escorted to their class cohort.

Carpool Pick-Up at Shirlee Green Preschool during Times of High Rates of COVID-19

Pick-up from preschool is at noon for half-day attendance and 3-4pm for full-day attendance. For children attending aftercare or before care, parents should ring the bell at the front door and await a staff member to assist with drop off. All should remain masked.

First: All occupants in vehicle are required to wear a face covering for the duration for pick-up.

Each car should post child(ren)'s name, first and last, on front dashboard.

Second: Once in carpool line,

- The lead car should stop and wait at the Carpool Stop Zone,
- Assisting staff will bring child to parent/guardian,
- Parent/guardian will electronically sign child(ren) out for the day,
- Staff may not assist children to enter vehicle, seat belting, or getting into car seats. Parent/guardian is the sole party designated for assisting child for transport to reduce physical contact and maintain social distancing.
- Those in the carpool line may not pass, but should remain in line until at front to leave the parking lot.

The First Day Back

Required Items to Bring:

- Reusable water bottle, clearly labelled with child's name
- 2 sets of spare clothes, in sealable plastic bag with child's name
- 1 face mask to remain in cubby as a spare (for all children aged 3 and older)
- 1 pair outdoor shoes to be worn on playscape, labelled with child's name
- 1 pair indoor shoes to be worn inside building, labelled with child's name
- 1 pair rainboots, labelled with child's name
- 1 blanket for rest time, labelled with child's name and in sealable plastic bag
- Sunblock, labelled with child's name and completed Topical Medication Authorization Form
- 1 sunhat, labelled with child's name
- Diapers, in sealable plastic bag and labelled with child's name (as needed)
- Wipes, container labelled with child's name (as needed)
- In cold months: 1 sweater, 1 winter coat, gloves, snow boots, beanie, scarf