

# Washington University Nursery School's *Return to School*



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Throughout the process of developing the Nursery School's *Return to School*, the health and safety of our students and staff have remained at the center of our work. Below you will find the Nursery School's responsive steps for adhering to the health and safety considerations outlined in the Centers for Disease Control Guidance for Childcare Programs and Considerations to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19, as well as guidance from the St. Louis County Health Department, and Washington University in St. Louis.

## Student Health Screenings

- Parents will be asked to screen their child(ren) for various symptoms related to coronavirus and take their temperature(s) daily. The Nursery School will use a digital app to facilitate the health questions, as well as assist with a safe and efficient arrival and dismissal procedure.
  
- After screening and daily temperature check, if your child(ren) exhibit any of the symptoms below, ***do not send your child(ren) to school***, contact their physician, and call the Nursery School Director, Nikki Scheele, at 314-935-6689.
  - Fever 100.4 F or higher
  - Cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - The recent loss of any sense of smell or taste
  - Muscle or body aches or pains
  - Sore throat that cannot be attributed to seasonal allergies
  - Chills or repeated shaking with chills
  - Headache
  - Runny nose/congestion
  - Unusual fussiness, fatigue or tiredness
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  
- In addition, ***keep your child(ren) at home*** and contact their physician and Nikki Scheele, Director, 314-935-6689, if any of the following scenarios apply to your child(ren):
  - An immediate member in your household has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or demonstrated any of the symptoms above
  - Your child(ren) have had any close contact with a person that has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or demonstrated any of the symptoms
  - Your child(ren) have tested positive for COVID-19
  - Your child(ren) are awaiting test results for COVID-19

- Any member of your household is on quarantine as directed or required by a public health agency or medical professional.
- When a parent arrives with a student, a staff member will verify the parent has completed the online health screening and confirm the child passed the health screening. At that time, a touchless infrared thermometer will be used to take the student's temperature.
- Staff will continue to monitor students for COVID-19 signs and symptoms throughout the school day
- The director's office or administrative coordinator's office will be utilized by a student who becomes ill at school. The student's teacher will accompany the child while they wait for the parent to arrive. The teacher will wear additional personal protective equipment when accompanying the sick child. The teacher will wear gloves, face shield/eye protection and face covering. Parents must immediately pick up their child(ren). Once a parent arrives, the teacher will walk the sick child to the parent outside of the school. Parents must wear a mask. The child's teacher will put on new PPE before returning to the classroom. The office the sick child occupied will be immediately cleaned and disinfected.
- The Nursery School will follow guidelines from the St. Louis County Health Department and Washington University Occupational Health if a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19 or exposed to someone who has COVID-19.

## Staff Health Screenings

- Before reporting to work, all staff (including substitutes) will conduct a daily self-check to screen for various symptoms related to coronavirus administered through Washington University Occupational Health.
- If a staff member is exhibiting any symptoms or otherwise does not pass the daily screening, they will not report to work until cleared to do so by WU Occupational Health. The staff member will consult with WU Occupational Health for further guidance.

## Social Distancing

- Only Nursery School staff and students will have access to the school. No outside visitors, including parents, will be allowed in the building.
- All staff will wear a face covering at all times. Children will be required to wear face coverings at all times. Parents must provide face coverings for their child.
- The Nursery School will implement a new staggered arrival and dismissal procedure utilizing a digital app.

- All classrooms will have fewer students to encourage social distancing.
- Classrooms will have two assigned lead teachers and an assistant teacher who will stay with each class group for the entire duration of the class.
- The Bear Tracks (extended day) program will **NOT** be offered based on recommendations that schools keep students in consistent cohorts and not mix groups.
- Only one class will be allowed in the community spaces at a time, including the outdoor playground; no mixing of classes will happen throughout the day.
- Nature, Spanish and Art will be led by classroom teachers, who will implement lessons developed by the specialists.
- The classrooms will limit the amount of furniture in the room to allow children to sit farther apart for group time.
- Full-day students will be separated as much as possible during rest time, in a head-to-foot pattern.
- All classrooms will eat snack and lunch in their classrooms. Students will have assigned seating in the classrooms while eating at tables.
- All parent conferences/meetings will be virtual as well as the WUNS Orientation on Tuesday, September 8.
- Weather permitting, classes will spend a major portion of their day outside, learning and playing. With parent permission, staff will apply sunscreen for children who attend all-day.

## Hand Hygiene for all students and staff

- All students and staff will wash or sanitize hands upon arrival. Hand sanitizer stations will be located at each entrance. Hand sanitizer will be provided to students with teacher supervision.
- When students enter the classroom, they will wash their hands with soap and water.
- Students and staff will wash hands upon entering and leaving all common areas, the playground and the movement room.
- In addition, children and staff will wash their hands:
  - Before and after eating, or handling food or drinks
  - After using the bathroom or helping a child use the bathroom
  - Before leaving their classroom
  - Returning to their classrooms
  - When their hands are visibly dirty
  - Before and after changing a diaper
  - After coming in contact with bodily fluids
  - After handling garbage
  - Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
  - At a minimum students/staff should be washing hands at least every hour

## Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Process

- The Nursery School continues to follow the state standards and protocols for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting in an early childhood setting. This state-required method of cleaning and sanitizing will be done before and after children eat at the classroom tables as well as when children use the tables for centers.
- All toys that were used and played with during the school day will be cleaned daily. Toys that are mouthed or soiled during the day will be removed from the play area to be cleaned and sanitized at the end of the day. Toys that cannot be cleaned or laundered will not be in use (including cloth toys).
- Teachers will refrain from sharing toys with other classrooms.
- The classrooms and community areas will continue to be cleaned nightly using the University's cleaning standards.
- The classroom bathroom(s) and high touch areas, such as doorknobs, light switches, hand railings, sink faucets and handles, will be cleaned and disinfected at least once during the school day and again at night.
- Students will not be present in the room at the time of the disinfecting.
- The hallway drinking fountain will not be used throughout the school day. Children will bring a water bottle from home daily to use at school.
- Large community areas that are in use will be cleaned at least once during the day by staff, cleaning high touch areas, and again at night. Toys in any area will be cleaned by the staff at least once a day.
- Cot sheets will be laundered daily.
- All staff will review cleaning standards and protocols before the start of the school year.

## Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

- The Nursery School will utilize the digital PikMyKid app (<https://www.pikmykid.com/>) during arrival and dismissal time. More information on how to use the app will be shared prior to the start of school.
- The daily health screening must be completed by a parent before a student can enter the school. The screening will be located on the digital app. The screening will include a daily temperature check by the parent. An **Exclusion Illness list** will be given to parents before school, which will include the symptoms listed above and any new symptoms per CDC guidance.
- When a parent arrives with a student, a staff member will verify the parent has completed the online health screening and will use a touchless infrared thermometer to take the student's temperature.
- The parent will assist the student out of the car (unbuckle and remove the child from the car seat) and meet the teacher. The teacher will also do a visual inspection of the child at this time. Parents must wear a mask.

- At dismissal (11:45 am for half day and 3:15 pm for full day), parents will use the digital app to announce their arrival. Classroom groups will assemble at the covered outside patio near each classroom. The teacher will walk the student to the parent waiting outside of their car. Parents must be wearing a mask.
- Parents should safely and quickly load and **buckle their child into the car seat**. Please refrain from offering a snack or other item that will hold up the car line. Cars will exit the car line when a staff member signals.
- Safety is the number one priority, thus cars should not exit the line early (drive around another car) unless directed by a staff member.
- Carpooling is discouraged.
- We ask for grace and patience while implementing our new arrival and dismissal procedure. Please factor in extra time.

## Communication for all parents and staff

- The Nursery School teachers will schedule a virtual orientation meeting for Tuesday, September 8 to introduce themselves, the classroom and what to expect this school year. This virtual orientation replaces our in-person parent/child orientation day.
- All teachers will contact **new** Nursery School families to schedule a time for a parent and child to visit the classroom. This replaces a home visit for new families.
- Plans will be developed by staff and parents for a child who may have separation issues at the beginning of the school year.
- The Nursery School will utilize the digital app **Seesaw for Schools** to allow for frequent communication with families, as well as provide learning opportunities in the event a classroom's in-person attendance is disrupted due to COVID-19.

**The success of the Nursery School's return to school will rely both on the staff as well as our families following these protocols and public health guidelines. Parents cannot send their child to school if h/she is showing any signs of illness, even if the child does not have a fever, or if someone in your household is exhibiting symptoms. Therefore, we recommend that all parents have an alternative plan for childcare .**

**The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and will adjust our return to school plan if necessary. Thank you in advance for implementing these new measures upon our return.**

**Thank you for entrusting your children with us. Please email or call me if you have questions or want to discuss our plan further.**

**Best,  
Nikki Scheele  
Nursery School Director  
314-935-6689**