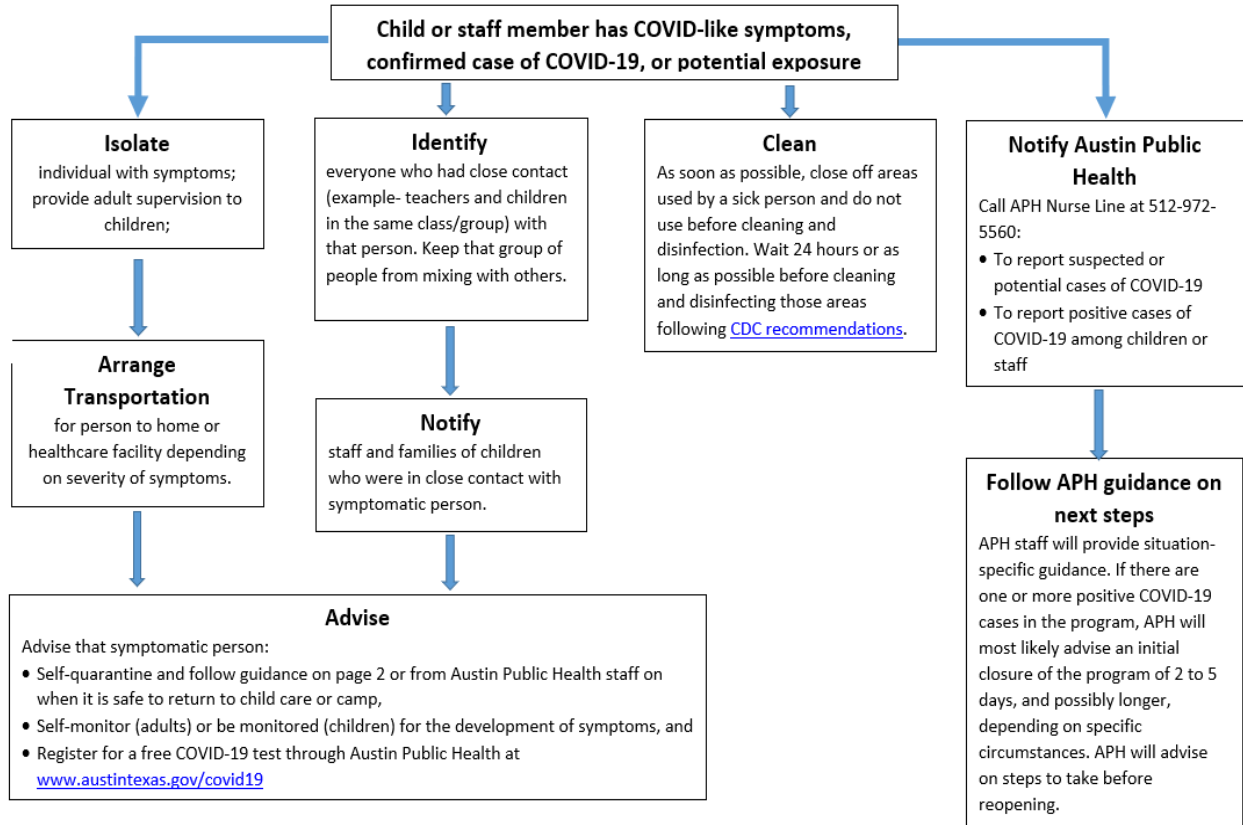


Sun, Moon, and Stars Learning Center

COVID 19 Procedures

November/December 2020

Hours of operation: 7:45am-5:30pm



Please refer to the new guidelines as per the City of Austin (Dated: 6/1/2020)

With new developments and the continual changing status of COVID-19, we here at Sun, Moon, and Stars Learning Center wanted to give you a full update on all procedures we have implemented and will be implementing as of June 1, 2020 for the foreseeable future. We will continue to follow the strictest of policies and procedures into June. The governor’s orders of May 18th seem too relaxed to me as a parent, so SMS decided to continue with STRICTEST Shelter in place procedures.

HHSC Child Care Licensing prohibits any person except the following from accessing our operation: SMS staff; persons with legal authority to enter, including law enforcement officers, HHSC Child Care Licensing staff, and Department of Family and Protective Services staff; professionals providing services to children; children enrolled at SMS.

Tuition:

The monthly tuition is due on the first of each month. There is a late fee of \$5/day after the 5th. We are not offering a prorated fee if you are starting late in the month. SMS is not offering a discount if a child/ family is required to follow a 14 day or less of quarantine due to a possible exposure (here or away), vacation, and travel (local or international). We are following the best practices/procedures in the given situation and SMS cannot be held responsible if a child/staff contracts Covid-19 due to a possible exposure here at SMS from a student or staff member.

Late pick up fee: SMS closes at 5:30pm. We understand that with reduced hours it's difficult for some parents to make it on time so please schedule a phone meeting with Shalini to discuss this. There will be a charge of \$2/minute after 5:30pm.

New Enrollments: A registration fee of \$300 and the full first month's tuition is required upfront to confirm an enrollment. This fee is a nonrefundable fee. Disenrollment for any period of time will require the new student enrollment procedure including registration fee. Upfront payment of \$300 registration fee along with your first month's fee before an enrollment is guaranteed.

Termination of Services: SMS requires a 4 week termination of childcare services notice. We completely understand the sensitivity of Covid19 and would like to receive a full 4 week notice in advance for any termination or pause on services.

Your child must be current on immunizations and a physician's statement of health is required before the start date. The admission is not guaranteed without these two documents.

NOTE: Our communication today is to present and explain the Community Commitment we are asking you all to adhere to so we all can safely navigate around the pandemic. Please read this document carefully and make sure that you understand and agree with the requirements and policies. We feel more than ever that we have a responsibility to each other to make safe choices so that we may come out of this historic time safe and healthy. SMS has the right to terminate care/enrollment immediately for not complying with our policies and procedures during the Covid19. We reserve the right to terminate services without a four weeks' notice if the safety and health of our students and staff members is involved.

General Guidance if anyone gets sick at SMS

SMS will exclude children, staff, parents and guardians from child care sites if they are showing symptoms affiliated with COVID-19 (i.e. cough, fever, shortness of breath, or are at high risk due to underlying health conditions. Limit outside visitors. The person testing positive will be asked to stay out for 3 days from the day the person is fever free. A doctor's note is also required for return to care. SMS will immediately close the room where a child/teacher tested positive for Covid19 and inform all parents in the group and email instructions for exclusion. The room and care will be suspended based on potential exposure. The room will be sanitized completely.

People at Increased Risk for Serious Complications of COVID-19

SMS will exclude Persons who are older, pregnant, or who have underlying health conditions, including those with compromised immune systems or respiratory conditions like severe asthma, are at higher risk to develop complications from this virus. These individuals should not provide child care or visit child care facilities.

SMS cannot be held responsible for a family member contracting Covid-19 who is older, pregnant, or who have underlying health conditions, including those with compromised immune systems or respiratory conditions like severe asthma, are at higher risk to develop complications from this virus. You are using care for your child at SMS at your risk and you are fully aware of the complications and risks from the virus..

General Preparedness and Planning

We want to encourage everyone to take general [everyday preventive actions](#) to prevent the spread of this, or any respiratory illness.

[Wash hands](#) often with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

Remember to supervise young children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent swallowing alcohol.

- [Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html) HYPERLINK "https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html" HYPERLINK "https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html" HYPERLINK "https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html" HYPERLINK "https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html" HYPERLINK "https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html" HYPERLINK "https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html" HYPERLINK "https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html" ntly touched surfaces.
- [Cover cough and sneezes.](#)
- Cover your mouth and nose with a [cloth face covering](#) when you have to go out in public. It is required for all staff members at all times.
- Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies and children under age two because of the danger of suffocation.

SMS current hours of Operation:

Open from 7:45am to 5:30 pm

Drop-off and pick-up guidelines

NOTE: There are no changes to Sunshine one and two drop off/pick up. We continue to operate as regular.

Per HHS COVID-19 Guidance to Childcare Providers, pick up and drop off of children must occur outside the buildings, unless you determine that there is a legitimate need for the parent to enter. **Drop off hours are 7:45am-9am only. After 9am the gates will be closed and there can be a minimum wait of 15 minutes based on staff availability for parking drop off.** Our teachers get busy at 9am with important routines like restroom time and circle time and we apologize for the wait in the parking for drop off after 9am.

Parent Drop-Off at SMS

Beginning October 1st, 2020 there will be a check-in and check-out station set up by the big gate for Moondrops, Twinkle Stars, Galaxies and Moon Explorers and an assigned staff will be assisting you with checking you in/out.

We ask that you stay at least 6 feet away from other parents and staff members while checking in during drop off and pickup. We would like for you to wait in the line and we will check in on first come first serve basis. There will be markings/floor stickers to maintain 6 ft. distance at all times at the check-in station and outside. At drop off the staff member will be:

- Making a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.
- Checking the child's temperature

Anyone who has a **fever of 99.6° or above**, or other signs of illness will not be admitted to the facility. This is the threshold set by the City of Austin Health Authority. To help keep our community safe, be on the alert for signs of illness in your children and to keep them home when they are sick.

Parents are required to wear a mask and to maintain at least 6 ft. of distance from employees during drop off and pickup. Only teachers that are in the child's building during school hours can help with pick-up and drop-off, In case your child's teacher is absent then we will assign another teacher for drop off and pickup.

1. Does the child have any Covid-19 symptoms? (Fever, cough, shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhea)
2. Has anyone in the house tested positive for Covid-19 or has been in contact with someone that tested positive for Covid-19?

3. Has anyone in the household traveled internationally or locally or planning a trip? (Visiting family, grandparents, went camping, business or leisure trip)
4. Change in parent's work status from quarantine to non-quarantine. To be reported immediately to Shalini or Neelu.

IMPORTANT: All parents, teachers, visitors are required to wear a mask at all times while on premises. We request parents not to gather anywhere on the school property to socialize. We request a quick drop off/pickup to avoid parking related issues. If you need to speak with your child's teacher, call or email Shalini/Neelu to request a phone/zoom meeting.

A staff member in your child's daily group, with personal protective equipment (PPE) on, will come to greet you at the door. Please do not enter the building.

Green Building- You will drop off/pick up at the 1st door on the side (Ms. Leti Class) and 2nd door on the side door (Ms. Rusul Class)

Red Buildings- You will drop off/pick up at the back doors (Ms. Miranda,)

Grey Building- You will drop off/pick up at the back door (Left door for Ms. Donna. Right door for Ms. Nora and Ms. Sawsan)

Yellow Building Moondrops two (Ms. Candice Class) Moon Explorers (Mr. Christian and Ms. Aileen) - You will drop off at the front door.

Back door to the Moondrops two class (Ms. Sandra Class),

Parent teacher communication:

Parents are encouraged to send in hand written communication notes to the teacher directly each morning in their lunch bag. You will be receiving a weekly update email from your class teacher every Friday on the activities offered. This includes pictures from the week.

Daily Communication with your teacher: Parents are requested to communicate directly with your child's teacher. You can send hand written notes each morning during drops off in their lunch bag. You will be receiving a daily log on your child's day for Sunshine, Moondrops and Twinkle stars classes. You can request a phone meeting with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Transition to the next class:

Due to the Covid-19 we are not allowing visits to the next class for a transition. We can set up a virtual meet the teacher to assist with this important change.

Health Screening at Entry

Per HHS guidance, deny entry to any person who meets any of the following criteria:

- A temperature over 99.6°F (Note, while HHS guidelines specify 100.4°F or above, operators should follow the 99.6°F temperature threshold set by the City of Austin Health Authority). Ask if medications were used to lower an individual's temperature and if there are any household members with COVID-19.
- Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and low-grade fever;
- In the previous 14 days has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19; is under investigation for COVID-19; or is ill with a respiratory illness; or
- In the previous 14 days has travelled internationally to countries or locally with widespread, sustained Community transmission. For updated information on affected countries, visit: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/travelers/index.html.

Social Distancing

- Limit the number of children at each learning center or station in the classroom to one or two at a time, if possible.
- Incorporate more individual work into the classroom.
- Increase the distance between children in circle time, meals and snacks, or during table work
- Plan activities that do not require close physical contact between individual children
- Increase spacing between nap mats to six feet if possible. If that is not possible, space nap mats as far apart as possible and place children in a toe-to-toe or head-to-toe arrangement
- Adjust the HVAC system and open windows to allow for more fresh air to enter classrooms.
- Eliminate large group activities.
- Limit the number of children in each program space.
- Limit item sharing, and if items are shared, remove, and clean and disinfect the items before returning them for use with the children. Remind children to not touch their faces and wash their hands after using these items.
- In infant rooms, use a separate blanket to hold each baby and use individual blankets on the floor. Avoid getting close to babies' and toddlers' faces when holding them.
- Limit use of water or sensory tables and wash hands immediately after any use of these tools.
- Minimize time standing in lines for children, such as during bathroom breaks or lunch lines.
- Avoid gathering in larger groups for any reason. Outside time and lunch should be taken with a stable, consistent small group (no large gathering or combining groups).
- Restrict field trips.
- Restrict trainings, staff meetings and gatherings.

Cloth Face Coverings

Face masks are required for all employees at all times at SMS. See CDC recommendations on the use of cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. According to CDC information on the use of cloth face coverings, they should not be placed on young children under the age of 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

SMS does not require face coverings for kids. Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies and children under the age of two because of the risk of suffocation. **SMS will not allow a face mask for children under three. Teachers will try their best to support children (three and above) whose parents want them to wear one as long as the child is happy and willing to keep it on.**

Children and Teachers in the Classroom

Number of children and staff in each group are based on age and we will have **2:9 in the Sunshine, 2:12 in Moondrops, 1:8 in Twinkle Stars, 1:10 in Galaxies and Moon Explorers. We will continue contact tracing and all staff schedules and class group will be documented. If needed (staff absence) we will place a floater staff in the classroom.**

There are two categories of groups for children to be placed in; Quarantined and Non-Quarantined for Sunshine, Moondrops, and Twinkle stars. We have assigned buildings, classrooms and play areas based on this. There will be minimum to zero contact between the groups. Each group will function independently with the same set of assigned teachers, indoor and outdoor areas, restrooms, pickup and drops off slots. Office staff will support the teachers using phones and surveillance cameras. Each group to use a two- way radio (walkie talkie) to communicate and to avoid direct contact.

In November the 3, 4 and 5 year olds will be in a mixed group and children will be placed in groups based on age.

Mr. Christian and Ms. Aileen: Moon Explorers in the yellow house

Ms. Miranda and Ms. Flor: Galaxies in the red house

Based on your current social contact with the outside world we will maintain two categories of groups for children to be placed in; Quarantined and Non-Quarantined.

- **Quarantined:** Children whose household members are **not** going out to work out of the house and are self-quarantining at home (low risk). All members in the house are following the same. Leaving home only to run essential errands i.e.: groceries, gas, wellness check etc. SMS staff has family members working away from home so we will not enforce this policy for our staff. Staff is required to communicate directly with the Director on the work status and type of work with the Director so we can place the low risk staff members with this group.

* Parents in this category cannot make a work/ leisure trip by Air, Car. In case you do please notify the office you will be asked to stay out for 14 days from the day you return from your trip.

* Beach trip and renting a hotel will require 14 days of quarantine.

* A family or friend flying in/taking a road trip who had to stop overnight at a hotel, B&B staying in the same house with you. We require 14 days of quarantine from the day the member arrives at your house. Please notify the office.

* If your child is spending time in two or more households (Family friends, Grandparents or parents living separately) all members in those household must be self-quarantined.

NOTE: There is limited space in both groups so you will be notified upfront if your status is of fully quarantined and your child is placed in a non-quarantined group. Parents are returning to work and this is leading to changes in groups and sizes. If there is space in the quarantined group and the size of non-quarantined group is saturated we reserve the right to place a medium risk child (light office work seeing very few clients) in the quarantined group. This family will have to comply with the policy of 14 day self-quarantine in case of travel for work or recreation.

For fully quarantined groups: We are not able to guarantee a fully quarantined teacher as some have family members working outside from home.

Non-Quarantined:

- Children who have a household member who is going outside of the house to work
- Families traveling for recreation by air. SMS requires 14 day of quarantine from care from the day you return.
- Working even for few hours a day/week outside the house following social distancing is consider as non-quarantined.
- **Camping, car trips with family and friends who are following all Covid19 related protocols are allowed and are exempted from 14 day so exclusion from care starting September 1st 2020.**

Parents can do work related travel by car to work. For Air travel it's a must to stay out of care for 14 days from the day you return back or provide us with a covid-19 negative test on the traveling parent or child. Please contact the office, so we can guide you what we are comfortable with your return.

*Note: There will be no tuition discount for any temporary suspension in services/ closure related to COVID19. We would like our families to understand that we are in the middle of a pandemic and we all are at the risk of contracting the virus when we step out of our homes and come in contact with other people. We will continue to follow the best possible measures and cannot guarantee that there will be no case since the virus is difficult to trace can enter the center through attending families and staff members.

I do expect full transparency on symptoms if any from families, staff here and to immediately report to Shalini/Neelu to avoid further spread.

Switching Groups:

- If you are working from home currently (Low Risk) but are planning to return to work outside of the house (High Risk), **we require at least a week notice BEFORE** you switch to working outside of the house! **You are required to email Mrs. Shalini or Mrs. Neelu with the email subject Urgent; 'Changing Work Status'.**
- **If you plan to change the group from high risk to low risk can be done by quarantining for 14 days.**
- **If you have been enrolled/ paying monthly tuition and would like to return your child to the center, we require a 48-hour notice.** This is to give us time to determine and verify which group (Quarantined or Non-Quarantined) your child will be placed in.
- **Space availability: Switching between groups is based on availability. If family's work status changes from quarantined to non-quarantined and there is no availability in the non-quarantined group the child will continue to attend the existing quarantine group only if the family work is considered as medium risk. The family will have to follow the quarantine group policies.**

IMPORTANT Class groups for November:

We are doing our best to maintain our original set of class groups by age. We will do everything we can to keep teams together and children in their currently assigned classrooms. We will also do our best to maintain the age group for all children but this will depend on our enrolled students.

Green house back room: **Sunshine Non-Quarantined** group will be with Ms. Leti and Ms. Maria. These two teachers will have infant's ages 6 weeks through 23 months old. We have 8-9 students planning to attend this month. Drop off/pickup at the side door using ADA ramp.

Green House front rooms: **Sunshine Fully Quarantined** group will be with Ms. Rusul and Ms. Israa. These two teachers have a total of 9 students enrolled and the age range is from 6 weeks to 12 months. Drop off/pickup at the main entry door (regular entrance) to the green house.

Grey House: Non Quarantined **Moondrops One** group will be with Ms. Nora and Ms. Sawsan and Ms. Normeen. These three teachers will have a total of 10-11 children. Drop off/pickup will happen at the right door of the grey house.

Grey House: Non Quarantined **Twinkle Stars One** group with Ms. Donna and Ms. Laura. These two teachers will have a total of 11-12 students. Drop off and pickup will happen at the left door on the grey house.

Red House: Galaxies (ages 3 – 4 year olds) This group will be based on age and will be with Mrs. Miranda and Ms. Flor. The teachers will have a total of 13-14 students. Drop off/pickup will occur at the back door to the red house.

Yellow House: Moon Explorers (ages 4 - 5 year olds) This group will be based on the combination of 4-5 year olds and Kindergartners. The teachers will be Mr. Christian & Ms. Aileen. These two teachers currently have a group of 16 children. These two classes will be combined from 7:45am-8am and from 5-5:30pm. Pick up/drop off will happen at the front door of the yellow house.

Yellow House: **Twinkle Stars, Low risk** group (2 year olds) with Ms. Candice and Mr. RJ. These two teachers will have a total of 11-12 students. Pick up/drop off will happen at the front door of the yellow house. We have converted this as a low risk group. As more parents return to work the demand for non-quarantine is more. The parents in the group are fully quarantined or working a very low risk job and maintaining all covid-19 safety procedures.

Yellow house: **Moondrops Fully Quarantined** group (1 year olds) with Ms. Sandra, Ms. Lina and Ms. Stephanie. These three teachers will have a total of 10-12 students. Pick up/drop off will happen at the back classroom door.

What is allowed in Classrooms

August 1st onwards update: We now allow nap blankets, a small size soft Lovie and cloth lunch bags at school. Our priority is always on the health and safety of our students. Therefore, until further notice, some items like Nap sheets, and pillows are not allowed at the center.

- We will adjust classroom temperatures to provide a comfortable environment for our students during nap time.
- Each student will be designated a crib/mat from that classroom to use daily.
- Each is sprayed and disinfected every day to ensure cleanliness.
- Students on mats are placed 6 feet apart and sleep in an alternating pattern of head to feet in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.
- Toys. Students will not be allowed to bring in any toys during this time. Show and share will be modified to process art of what the child would have brought in. The students will then show and share the picture that they color!

Playing inside the Classroom

When the weather does not allow us to be outside in the fresh air we will play inside our classrooms.

- Play areas will be spread out through the classroom to maintain distance.
- Only toys that can be cleaned and disinfected everyday will be permitted for the students to play with.
- Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be used.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions should be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. Be mindful of items more likely to be placed in a child's mouth, like play food, dishes, and utensils.
- Toys will not be shared with other groups of students.
- Toys that need to be cleaned will be place in a separate container marked for "soiled toys." Keep dish pan and water out of reach from children to prevent risk of drowning. Washing with soapy warm water is the ideal method for cleaning.

Outside the Classroom:

Children will be allowed to a single designated play area throughout the day. These play areas will be disinfected twice daily; during naptimes and after all students have gone home.

- We will stay outside as much as the weather permits to take full advantage of the fresh air. We will limit outdoor time if the temperature is over 95⁰ or under 45⁰.
- Outside activities include scavenger hunts, storytelling, hide and seek, yoga, dancing, and art!
- Offer outdoor play in staggered shifts. If multiple groups are outside at the same time, they should have a minimum of six feet of open space between outdoor play areas or visit these areas in shifts, so they are not congregating. Always wash hands immediately after outdoor playtime.
- Incorporate additional outside time.

Encourage physical activity that allows for adequate social distancing and doesn't rely on materials that will need disinfecting

Caring for Infants and Toddlers

Parents are encouraged to send in hand written communication notes to the teacher directly each morning in their lunch bag.

Diapering

When changing a child, [staff will wash their hands](#) and wash the child's hands before they begin, and wear gloves. Following safe diaper changing procedures. Procedures are posted in all diaper changing areas. Steps include:

- Prepare (includes putting on gloves)
- Clean the child
- Remove trash (soiled diaper and wipes)
- Replace diaper
- Wash child's hands
- Clean up diapering station
- Wash hands

After diapering, staff will wash their hands (even if they were wearing gloves) and disinfect the diapering area. If the surface is dirty, it will be cleaned with detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

Washing, Feeding, or Holding a Child

It is important to comfort crying, sad, and/or anxious infants and toddlers, and they often need to be held. To the extent possible, when washing, feeding, or holding very young children: Staff protect themselves

by wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), a long-sleeved shirt, and by wearing long hair up off the collar in a ponytail or other updo.

- Any soiled clothes will be placed in a plastic bag or washed in a washing machine.
- Infants, toddlers, and their providers must have multiple changes of clothes on hand in the child care center.

Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior

- All children, and staff will engage in hand hygiene at the following times:
 - Arrival to the facility and after breaks
 - Before and after preparing food or drinks
 - Before and after eating or handling food, or feeding children
 - Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
 - Before and after diapering
 - After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
 - After coming in contact with bodily fluid
 - After handling animals or cleaning up animal waste
 - After playing outdoors or in sand
 - After handling garbage
- 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.
- We will assist children with handwashing, including infants who cannot wash hands alone.
 - After assisting children with handwashing, staff will also wash their hands.

Lunches

- Child care providers will wash their hands before and after handling infant bottles prepared at home or prepared in the facility. Bottles, bottle caps, nipples, and other equipment used for bottle-feeding will be thoroughly cleaned after each use by washing in a dishwasher or by washing with a bottlebrush, soap, and warm water.
- Food preparation will not be done by the same staff who diaper children.
- Sinks used for food preparation will not be used for any other purposes.

- Caregivers will ensure children wash hands prior to and immediately after eating.
- Caregivers will, as always, wash their hands before preparing food and after helping children to eat.
- If on the pavilion for lunch we will only allow four students to sit at the tables together at a time.

Parent Pick-Up. Pick up time is between 4:30-5:30pm

- Parents MUST text/call the center (512-650-7687) at least 5 minutes before they come to pick their child up before 4:30pm. This is to give the office enough time to notify the teacher, and to give the teacher time to collect the student's things and take them potty/ change diaper once more.
- The gates will stay open from 4:30-5:30pm with a staff monitor to guide you for pickup
- Parents will be allowed to collect their child at the main entry door of the classroom/building.
- For the safety of our staff and other students, you are highly encouraged to wear a face mask when you come to pick up, especially if you are going to be within 6 feet a staff member.
- **If you are late to pick-up there is a \$2 per minute per child late fee.**

****Note** that we have noticed that the majority of parents want to pick their children up from 4:30pm-5:30pm! This has led to long lines and even waiting times in the SMS parking lot. However, parents are encouraged to temporarily park at the Seton Clinic or the Austin Regional Clinic (ARC) and walk to the SMS parking lot to pick-up your student. **If you have concerns about walking with your child or waiting in the SMS parking lot we highly encourage you to pick up before 4:30pm!**

Actions to Consider if a Child, Staff or Child's Household Member Develops COVID-19 or Similar Symptoms:

- Call 9-1-1 for medical emergencies including chest pain, seizure, difficulty breathing, etc.
- Staff or children with fever (higher than 99.6°F per the City of Austin Health Authority's threshold), cough, or shortness of breath should be excluded from entry to child care facilities and stay away from others. If in the facility, please separate the individual from all others until the ill individual can leave the facility. The ill individual (if a child, the child's parent or guardian) should contact their health care provider for immediate assistance. Children with household member(s) with confirmed COVID-19 should also be excluded from the child care facility.
- If a child or staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19, immediately separate the individual from others and send the ill person home. Other employees and children should be monitored to see if they develop any symptoms. Exhibit A of the Stay Home-Work Safe Order provides specific requirements for those individuals suspected to have COVID-19. Follow CDC guidance for schools and child care.

- If a teacher develops symptoms of COVID-19 while caring for children, another teacher or substitute should provide care so the ill teacher can immediately leave the facility.

● Facilities experiencing a confirmed case of COVID-19 among their population should consider closing temporarily (as advised by local health officials). The duration may be dependent on staffing levels, outbreak levels in the community or severity of illness in the infected individual. Symptom-free children and staff should not attend or work at another facility, which could potentially expose others. Facilities should undergo a thorough cleaning and disinfecting and continue to monitor for ill individuals. The CDC has guidance on cleaning and disinfecting facilities with suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.

● If the infected individual with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 spent minimal time (i.e. 10 minutes or less) in close contact with those in the child care facility, the facility may consider closing for 2-5 days to do a thorough cleaning and disinfecting and to continue to monitor for ill individuals.

● For any of these circumstances, the child care program should notify parents of other children in the group of the situation, describe how the program is responding and continue to communicate updates to families.

If someone is or becomes sick in the center.

- We will have an isolation area (such as front office or a secluded area within the classroom) that can be used to isolate a sick child.
- We will follow CDC guidance on how to [disinfect your building or facility](#) if someone is sick.
- The sick person will not be allowed to return to SMS for 72 hours (3 days) **and** must have a clearance from a doctor or a negative covid-19 result.
- If a fever of 99.6 or higher persists over 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use medicine that reduces fevers) we will require said staff/student to get a COVID-19 test.
- If COVID-19 is confirmed in a child or staff member:
 - The building that the sick person was in will be immediately closed. All students and staff from that building will be sent home for an isolation (2-5days) and can return back with a doctor's note. 14 days in case the person testing positive for COVID19 was asymptomatic.
 - **All parents and staff in the room must be notified that day.**
 - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
 - Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before you clean or disinfect to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.
 - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas.

Returning to a child care facility after suspected COVID-19 symptoms

If a staff member or child has symptoms of COVID-19 or is a close contact of someone with COVID-19, they can return to the child care facility if the following conditions are met:

- If individuals have fever, cough or shortness of breath and have not been around anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they should stay home away from others until 72 hours (3 days) after the fever is gone and symptoms resolve. If the person's symptoms worsen, they should contact their healthcare provider to determine if they should be tested for COVID-19.
 - If an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain out of the facility for a minimum of 7 days after the onset of first symptoms. They may return under the following conditions:
 - If they had a fever, 3 days after the fever ends AND they see an improvement in their initial symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath);
 - If they do not have a fever, 3 days after they see an improvement in their initial symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath);
- OR
- 7 days after symptom onset

Staff procedures

People at Increased Risk for Serious Complications of COVID-19

SMS will exclude staff who are older, pregnant, or who have underlying health conditions, including those with compromised immune systems or respiratory conditions like severe asthma, are at higher risk to develop complications from this virus. A staff member with the mentioned conditions must immediately notify the Director and stay home.

SMS cannot be held responsible for a staff member contracting Covid-19 who is older, pregnant, or who have underlying health conditions, including those with compromised immune systems or respiratory conditions like severe asthma, are at higher risk to develop complications from this virus. You are working at SMS at your risk and you are fully aware of the complications and risks from the virus. Please talk to the Director if you are not comfortable working during this pandemic. You must stay home and safe until you feel safe enough to return to work.

All policies and procedures that apply to enrolled SMS families apply to the staff members, full time and part time.

General Preparedness and Planning:

Take [everyday preventive actions](#) to prevent the spread of respiratory illness.

- [Wash hands](#) often with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Remember to supervise young children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent swallowing alcohol.
- [Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces](#).
- [Cover cough and sneezes](#).
- Cover your mouth and nose with a [cloth face covering](#) when you have to go out in public.

Entering the workplace:

Once Staff has entered Sun, Moon, and Stars they are not to leave the property. This is to be absolute in our care and protection of our students.

- The building you are assigned to will determine how you enter and exit the property and where you will pick up and drop off students in your groups;

Yellow Building- Back Gate

Red and Grey Buildings- Large Corridor Gate

Green Building SS1&2 Rooms - Front Door

Green Building SS3 Room – SS3 Ramp Door

- At your door, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Check your temperature. If your temperature is 99.6 or above, or other signs of illness will not be admitted to the facility. This is the threshold set by the City of Austin Health Authority.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Spray/ disinfect all personal belongings.
- Put on required PPE (personal protective equipment). A facemask, eye protection (glasses, goggles, disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face), and a single pair of disposable gloves.
- On your personal time cards hand write what time you clocked in. Until further notice staff will keep their time cards in their designated classrooms. This is for your safety, to avoid staff overcrowding the front office in the mornings and afternoons.

Parent Drop-Off:

Drop-Off will occur from 7:45 am-9 am Monday through Friday. **You will only greet and collect students from your daily group, and only from your designated point of entry.** With personal protective equipment (PPE) on, you will come to greet and screen the child before bringing them from in the classroom. This includes:

- Asking the parent/guardian to confirm that the child's health check with the pickup teacher. Asking the parent/guardian to confirm that the child does not have fever, shortness of breath or cough.
- Making a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.
- Take the child's temperature.
 - If performing a **temperature check on multiple individuals**, ensure that you use a **clean pair of gloves for each child** and that the **thermometer has been thoroughly cleaned** in between each check.
 - If you use non-contact thermometers, clean them with an alcohol wipe (or isopropyl alcohol on a cotton swab) between each client. You can reuse the same wipe as long as it remains wet.
- Anyone who have a fever of 99.6⁰ or above, or other signs of illness will not be admitted to the facility. This is the threshold set by the City of Austin Health Authority.
- Immediately wipe the thermometer down with an alcohol wipe (or isopropyl alcohol on a cotton swab) that contains at least 60% alcohol between each child.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol or wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If hands are visibly soiled, soap and water should be used before using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Toys

- Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions should be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. Clean with water and detergent, rinse, sanitize with an EPA-registered disinfectant, and air-dry or clean in a mechanical dishwasher. Be mindful of items more likely to be placed in a child's mouth, like play food, dishes, and utensils.
- Machine washable cloth toys should not be used at all.
- Do not share toys with other groups.

- Set aside toys that need to be cleaned. Washing with warm soapy water is the ideal method for cleaning. Try to have enough toys so that the toys can be rotated through cleanings.
- **Students will not be allowed to bring in any toys during this time.** Show and share will be modified to process art of what the child would have brought in. The students will then show and share the picture that they color!
- Any Playdough or Slime must be on an individual mat or plate clearly marked with the child's name. **Hands must be washed before and after any sensory play!** After, the sensory item can be saved in a Ziplock bag marked clearly with the student's name.

Outside Play

We will stay outside as much as the weather permits to take full advantage of the fresh air.

- Children will be allowed to a single designated play area throughout the day. These play areas will be disinfected twice daily; during naptimes and after all students have gone home.
- We will never go outside if the temperature is over 95⁰ or under 45⁰.
- If on the pavilion only allow three students to sit in a triangle at the tables together at a time.

Caring for Infants and Toddlers

Diapering

When changing a child, [wash your hands](#) and wash the child's hands before you begin, and wear gloves. Follow safe diaper changing procedures. Procedures should be posted in all diaper changing areas. Steps include:

- Prepare (includes putting on gloves)
- Clean the child
- Remove trash (soiled diaper and wipes)
- Replace diaper
- Wash child's hands
- Clean up diapering station
- Wash hands

After diapering, wash your hands (even if you were wearing gloves) and disinfect the diapering area. If the surface is dirty, it should be cleaned with detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

Washing, Feeding, or Holding a Child

It is important to comfort crying, sad, and/or anxious infants and toddlers, and they often need to be held. To the extent possible, when washing, feeding, or holding very young children: Child care providers can

protect themselves by wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), a long-sleeved shirt, and by wearing long hair up off the collar in a ponytail or other updo.

- Child care providers should wash their hands, neck, and anywhere touched by a child's secretions.
- Child care providers should change the child's clothes if secretions are on the child's clothes. They should change the button-down shirt, if there are secretions on it, and wash their hands again.
- Contaminated clothes should be placed in a plastic bag or washed in a washing machine.
- Infants, toddlers, and their providers should have multiple changes of clothes on hand in the child care center or home-based child care.

Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior

- All children, and staff should engage in hand hygiene at the following times:
 - Arrival to the facility and after breaks
 - Before and after preparing food or drinks
 - Before and after eating or handling food, or feeding children
 - Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
 - Before and after diapering
 - After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
 - After coming in contact with bodily fluid
 - After handling animals or cleaning up animal waste
 - After playing outdoors or in sand
 - After handling garbage
- 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.
- Assist children with handwashing, including infants who cannot wash hands alone.
 - After assisting children with handwashing, staff should also wash their hands.

Lunches

- Child care providers should wash their hands before and after handling infant bottles prepared at home or prepared in the facility. Bottles, bottle caps, nipples, and other equipment used for bottle-

feeding should be thoroughly cleaned after each use by washing in a dishwasher or by washing with a bottlebrush, soap, and warm water.

- Food preparation should not be done by the same staff who diaper children.
- Sinks used for food preparation should not be used for any other purposes.
- Caregivers should ensure children wash hands prior to and immediately after eating.
- Caregivers should wash their hands before preparing food and after helping children to eat.
- If on the pavilion only allow three students to sit in a triangle at the tables together at a time.

Staff Lunches

- Once Staff has entered Sun, Moon, and Stars they are not to leave the property.
- Staff must remain in their class/ overflow class while maintaining 10 feet distance from all others. Or may use their car for lunch.
- All staff will be in pairs of two. This is to allow the teachers to remain in their class for restroom and lunch breaks.
- Any food delivered should be in a closed bag/box and be sprayed and disinfected before it comes into the building.
- Wash your hands after you sanitize any delivered food containers.
- Staff must thoroughly wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and warm water before clocking back in.

Naps

- Students are not allowed any blankets, sheets or pillows. Staff can adjust the classroom temperature based on your student's needs.
- Each student will be designated a crib/mat from that classroom to use daily.
- Students on mats should be placed 6 feet apart and sleep in an alternating pattern of head to feet in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.
- Any bedding that touches a child's skin should be sprayed and disinfected with a bleach water solution that is made every morning to ensure cleanliness. After, mats are to sit out for 10 minutes to allow the bleach water solution time to fully disinfect the child's mat.

Intensify cleaning and disinfection efforts:

- [Routinely clean, sanitize, and disinfect](#) surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially toys and games.
- Throughout the day staff are responsible for spraying and cleaning objects/surfaces in their rooms with high frequency use such as doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, desks, tables, chairs, and soiled toys **every two hours**.
- All cleaning materials should be kept secure and out of reach of children.
- Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children from inhaling any harmful fumes.

If someone is or becomes sick.

- Plan to have an isolation area (such as a mat in a corner of the classroom) that can be used to isolate a sick child.
- Be ready to follow CDC guidance on how to [disinfect your building or facility](#) if someone is sick.
- If a sick child has been isolated in your facility, clean and disinfect surfaces in your isolation area after the sick child has gone home.
- The sick person will not be allowed to return to SMS for 72 hours **and** with clearance from a doctor.
- If COVID-19 is confirmed in a child or staff member:
 - The building that the sick person was in will be immediately closed. All students and staff from that building will be sent home for a 2-14 day home isolation based on instructions by the city's health department.
 - **All parents and staff must be notified that day.**
 - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
 - Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before you clean or disinfect to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.
 - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas.