



Back-To-School Q & A Overview & Clarifications

Zoom Meeting held: 7/15/2020

Dear HeartPrints' Families,

Thank you for attending or watching the Zoom Q & A Session. Below we have clarified some of the question's parents generated. Please view the General Preparedness Plan on our website outlining the back to school plan for the 2020-2021 School Year. A detailed plan will also be posted on our website soon.

HeartPrints will implement safety protocols based on the requirements of the state of Pennsylvania, PA Department of Education, and the Office of Child Development and Early Learning. We will also use the CDC for reference in creating safety measures. We will modify our plans as instructed by those governing agencies and will share any changed with families.

Please email or call HeartPrints should you have additional questions, concerns, or suggestions. We appreciate your input and support during this unique school year.

While the start of this school year will undoubtedly be different, we look forward to providing a loving and nurturing place for your children to play, learn and grow.

Sincerely,

Grace Byrnes, Julie Stanny, and Elizabeth Fairweather

Will staff wear a facemask?

Yes, all staff will wear a face covering throughout the school day.

Does my child have to wear a facemask?

Yes, children 2 years old and older are required to wear a face covering as described in the Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Order for Universal Face Coverings, unless you fit one of the exceptions included in Section 3 of the Order.

Heart Prints encourages all parents to practice using a mask with their child as home. The teachers will use gentle reminders and lots of practice throughout the day to help children become more comfortable and independent in wearing masks. We will help children understand the reasons that wearing a mask is important.

What constitutes exemption from wearing a face mask?

Per the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Order for Universal Face Coverings" Any student who cannot wear a mask or face shield due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability, and students who would be unable to remove a mask without assistance are not required to wear face coverings. Individuals who are communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired or who has another disability, where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication, are not required to wear a mask; however, individuals should consider using another type of face covering such as a plastic face shield."



When will they wear and not wear their facemask?

Children will be reminded to keep their mask on with the exception of the these times (per the Order Requiring Universal Face Coverings:)

“Schools may allow students to remove their face coverings when students are:

1. Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart;
2. Seated at desks or assigned work spaces at least 6 feet apart; or
3. Engaged in any activity at least 6 feet apart (e.g. face covering breaks, recess, etc.).”

Does my child need a doctor’s excuse if they are exempt from wearing a face mask?

Yes, if a child is unable to wear a facemask due to one of the reasons listed in Section 3 of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Order for Universal Face Coverings, they must submit a note from their doctor. If the child is unable to put on or take off the face mask independently, a doctor’s note must be turned in and the parents should practice at home until the child can complete these tasks independently. Face shields are also recommended as a substitute for face masks when possible.

Are face shields acceptable?

Yes, according to the Order Requiring Universal Face Coverings, “ The Order requires individuals to wear a "face covering." "Face covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth that is secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or is wrapped around the lower face. A "face covering" can be made of a variety of synthetic or natural fabrics, including cotton, silk, or linen, and, for the purposes of the order, *can include a plastic face shield that covers the nose and mouth.* "Face coverings" may be factory-made, sewn by hand, or improvised from household items, including but not limited to, scarves, bandanas, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels.”

What materials can families donate to help?

Facemasks, disposable gloves, napkins, Lysol wipes, and Lysol spray would be appreciated throughout the school year.

How will the school day be structured?

The order of events occur at different times in each room to ensure that only one class is outside at a time. The Kindergarten class has additional parts of their day not listed in the general plan below.

Arrival: temperature check, wash hands, drop lunch on a designated table, parents helps child choose an independent station.

Discovery Time: Montessori activities & independent play areas set up around the room.

Children choose an activity to enjoy alone. *Wash hands.*

Rotations: A small group of children will remain with 1 teacher and rotate through the following activities.

- a. Small Group Learning
- b. Snack: *children spaced 6 feet apart. Wash hands.*
- c. Playground *Wash hand upon coming inside.*
- d. Meeting Time (music & movement)
- e. Story

Play: Children will explore areas in the classroom. The number of children in each area of the classroom will be limited to ensure children are spread out. *Wash hands.*

Dismissal: Teachers will help children gather any materials that need to go home and will be seated at a table for pick up.

OR

Lunch: Children will remain in their own classroom for lunch and be spaced 6 feet apart.

The afternoon classes will follow the same schedule but with new activities.

How will morning extensions, lunch, and afternoon extensions be structured?

Children will stay in their own classroom for extensions with their primary teachers.

How will STEAM Clubs and Full Day Program transitions work?

Children who attend preschool or kindergarten full day will remain in the same classroom all day. During lunchtime all commonly used surfaces will be cleaned. Children who enter the room for the afternoon session will comply with the arrival protocols including staggered arrival, temperature checks, and immediate hand washing.

Children who attend afternoon STEAM Clubs will join together in 1 classroom. If transitioning to a different classroom for Club, they will wash their hands before transitioning and will bring only their water bottle. The commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned before children transition to the Club Classroom. Children who arrive to school for afternoon STEAM Clubs comply with the arrival protocols including staggered arrival, temperature checks, and immediate hand washing.

HeartPrints will maintain careful records documenting all children and adults who share spaces each day. In the instance of a confirmed COVID case, HeartPrints will have documented all who have been in a shared space with the affected individual.

How will COVID cases be reported?

Parents will be notified immediately if any staff or child has tested positive or is suspected of having COVID-19.

How long will HeartPrints close is a case of COVID is reported?

Guidelines set by the Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning	
If a staff person or student tests positive for COVID-19	1) Parents will be notified 2) The sick person must self-isolate for 14 days, be 72 hours symptom and fever free, and submit 2 negative tests (consecutive respiratory specimens collected 24 hours or more apart) before returning to school.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) The school will be closed for 48 hours for cleaning 4) The PA Department of Health will be notified and will advise HeartPrints if additional closures are advised
<p>If a staff person or child is exposed to a person who tests positive for COVID-19</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The individual should report to HeartPrints' that they have potentially been exposed 2) The staff person or child should self-quarantine at home for a period of 10 days and may return to school as long as they do not develop any symptoms after 10 days

How will closures due to confirmed cases be handled?

If the school needs to close short term, a period of 48 hours up to 1 month, HeartPrints will transition to virtually learning. Teachers will provide live lessons via Zoom and additional activities parents can implement on their schedule. Tuition will not be discounted for short-term closures.

What if my child has to miss school for showing COVID Symptoms, testing positive for COVID, or being in direct contact with someone who tested positive?

If the child misses more than 1 week of school, teachers will create an at home learning plan specifically for that child.

How will state mandated closures be handled?

If the state mandates schools to close for longer than 1 consecutive month, HeartPrints will transition to virtually learning and families will receive a tuition discount. Teachers will provide live lessons via Zoom and additional activities parents can implement on their schedule. HeartPrints will provide a 40% tuition discount for the duration of virtual learning in the case of long-term closures, longer than 1 consecutive month.

What if a family wants to withdraw if virtual learning is implemented?

As our refund policy states, parents who wish to withdrawal their child must submit 30-day notice to receive a refund. If virtual learning is implemented for more than 1 consecutive month, and the family chooses not to participate in virtual learning they can receive a 40% refund for the 30 day period and 100% of any tuition paid beyond 30 days. If you choose to re-enroll later in the year, enrollment is based on available space as your child's space cannot be held without paying tuition. A second registration fee will not be collected in a child re-enrolls later in the year.

Will children have their temperature checked before entering the room?

Yes, a teacher will be stationed at the entrance of the room and will check the temperature of each child upon entry each day using a touchless thermometer.



How can we prevent children from touching items in the room while on their way to the sink?

Hand sanitizer will be located at the entrance of each room. When possible, families should walk directly to the sink to wash their hands without touching any classroom items. If children tend to touch classroom items, they should use the hand sanitizer located at the entrance of the room then proceed to the sink to wash their hands properly. The CDC states that washing hands under warm water with soap for 20 seconds is most effective in killing germs.

Do children need to wear masks outside?

Pennsylvania Department of Health Order for Universal Face Coverings states that children should wear a mask outside when they cannot be 6 feet apart. HeartPrints will designate areas outside where children can physically distance and take off their masks. Some areas of close proximity such as the jungle gym, children will be reminded to wear their mask.