



# COVID – Health & Safety Protocols

## Valley Ranch Baptist Preschool

### 2021-2022

As we are all aware, the pandemic situation is still extremely fluid. We are continually monitoring guidelines that are set by the CDC and the State of Texas. The following guidelines will be in place at Valley Ranch Baptist Preschool as we start the preschool year in September 2021. The protocols we will be complying with include the following:

#### **Promoting Vaccinations:**

We are encouraging all our staff at VRBP to take advantage of the Covid vaccine to protect our staff, the children in their care as well as preschool families.

#### **Mask Usage:**

Staff:

- All staff members will wear a mask during the preschool hours including drop-off in the morning and pick-up in the afternoon.

Children:

- Children two years old and younger should NOT wear a mask.
- Children older than two years – mask usage will be up to the discretion of the parent.

Parents:

- Parents should wear a mask when inside the preschool area including drop-off in the morning and pick-up in the afternoon.

#### **Physical Distancing:**

Maintaining physical distancing is often not feasible in an Early Childhood Educational (ECE) setting. Our playgrounds will be used by 1 class at a time. We will strive to keep classes together in groups wherever possible. We will use grouping and distancing indoors during Chapel and for indoor play when necessary.

#### **Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette:**

- We will teach and reinforce proper handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds multiple times during the day including: upon arrival, before snack and lunch, after bathroom breaks and when returning from the playground.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at the entrance to the preschool.
- We will teach and reinforce coughing and sneezing into the elbow.
- Please reinforce these techniques at home.
- Gloves will be worn by staff when serving food, diapering, and while cleaning and disinfecting.

### **Staying Home When Sick and Getting Tested:**

Families should be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and should keep them home when they are sick. Parents should pay particular attention to the following Covid symptoms:

- Fever (temperature at or above 100°F)
- Sore Throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea, Vomiting or Stomachache
- New onset of severe headache, especially with fever

We recommend any staff or child exhibiting these symptoms to seek Covid-19 testing.

If a staff member, parent, or child has had close contact to a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19, they should stay home for 14 days after the last exposure to that person. Close contact is defined as within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Persons who are fully vaccinated and DO NOT have Covid symptoms do not need to quarantine or get tested after an exposure.

We will take action to isolate any staff member or child who begins to exhibit Covid-19 symptoms during the preschool day. Parents will be asked to come pick up their child immediately should this occur, and staff members will be sent home.

If a staff member or child has been diagnosed with a positive Covid-19 result, VRBP will collaborate with State and Local Health Departments to identify which children and staff should isolate and which close contacts should quarantine.

Children and staff who have recovered from Covid-19 can return to preschool after:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND**
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication **AND**
- Other symptoms of Covid-19 are improving

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting:**

We will continue to be diligent in cleaning and disinfecting toys and surfaces using approved supplies provided by State Chemical.

We will update parents if we receive additional mandates from the State of Texas or the CDC.