



SAND COVID-19 Procedures and Guidelines for 2021-22

Below you will find our SAND COVID-19 Procedures and Guidelines. These protocols come from Bright From The Start, American Academy of Pediatrics, The New Jersey Department of Health, The Virginia Department of Education, The New York Department of Health, and our NDUMC COVID-19 Task Force. SAND has been a School Of Excellence since 2014 and our education standards in all areas of early childhood education far exceed any state standards. This will not change as we adopt new ways to keep our children healthy and loved while learning.

Our protocols are broken down into 6 categories:

Personal Protection Equipment

- The American Academy of Pediatrics does not recommend masks for children in Pre-k and under.
- All SAND staff are required to be vaccinated but are required to have masks with them at all times.
- Staff will be required to wear masks inside. The AAP states “For certain populations, the use of cloth face coverings by teachers may impede the education process. These include students who are deaf or hard of hearing, students receiving speech/language services, young students in early education programs, and English-language learners.”

Physical Distancing

- SAND classes will be held outside.
- Children will remain with their class/ age group throughout the day.
- We will have minimal contact with other ages. Each age group will be in separate areas of the campus and will transition to the garden or the cove once another has already left.
- We will pay extra attention to high traffic areas (bathrooms!) and stagger our breaks throughout the day
- Morning Arrival and Afternoon Dismissal will be via Carpool ONLY.

- We will utilize both the front and back parking lots for carpool. Parents will be assigned to a designated lot for arrival & dismissal.
- In the case of inclement weather- storms/ high winds - the classes will use their classrooms. *SAND is required to have 25 sq.ft per child in each room. We have approximately 35 sq.ft per child in each classroom.

Programming

The following changes are truly out of an abundance of caution.

- Children will not bring backpacks to school.
- A change of clothes needs to be dropped off at our Mandatory Parent Meeting or before the first day of school.
- All communication will be via email or your class online Homeroom site.
- We will have individual snacks during the day.
- When SANDbox resumes it will be a more traditional “lunch bunch” format and children will stay with their class...Still Outside!
- Be prepared for wet kiddos! We will have handwashing stations in every area outside using sensory bins with water and Dr.Bronner’s soap. This soap is safe for both children and plants. Children will also use bathroom sinks whenever they use the bathroom or go inside. We will only use hand sanitizer with small children when it is absolutely necessary.
- Most of our outside locations have available shade and we have water sources for play/cleaning in each area.
- Water bottles will be available to children at all times.
- FOR PRE-K ONLY- We are looking into having outdoor field trips in the fall, namely Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve and Oakhurst Community Garden. We will communicate more on this later!

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- SAND is adhering to all CDC/DPH cleaning guidelines. Once again our School Of Excellence standards are extremely high for cleaning.
- We are adding extra cleaning for high traffic areas such as hallways, stairwells, doors, railings and eating areas outside.
- Employees and children will perform hand washing hygiene immediately upon entering school, during transitions, bathroom breaks, eating, before they leave for the day and any other time deemed necessary (ie; observing hands in mouth or wiping noses).
- SAND will use approved cleaners to clean all areas.

- SAND will limit the use of toys that cannot be easily cleaned.
- SAND will follow best practices when changing or diapering children.

Communication

- In the event that a member of the SAND community comes in contact with, shows symptoms of, or tests positive for COVID-19 the SAND office will send an email to the entire community.

The protocols laid out by the department of health are as follows:

- The DOH must be notified immediately and may require that SAND close for 2-5 days to evaluate the situation.
- HIPPA regulations must be followed when notifying the community of a COVID-19 exposure
- In the event that a single classroom or the entire school is required to close for any length of time, SAND will immediately switch to our online platform, Homeroom/Facebook, for the duration.

Closure and Return to School Guidelines

- In the event that a parent or guardian must be isolated for or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, they must immediately inform SAND. The parent/guardian will not be allowed to enter the building for any reason.
- The emergency contact will be asked to pick up the child/children.
- If a parent/ guardian exhibits symptoms or tests positive their child cannot return for the duration of the parent/guardian's quarantine.
- If a parent/guardian quarantines as a precaution without symptoms, their child is allowed to attend to school.
- If a child or staff member becomes symptomatic, they may not return to school for the duration of their quarantine.
- If a child becomes symptomatic during the school day they will be quarantined in the office with the director or assistant director until a parent/guardian arrives. The Health Department will be notified as well as NDUMC Church Council and SAND will follow their guidance.
- A child must be free of illness for 72 hours without medication.

Tuition

- Due to the continuing financial obligations related to operating SAND, there will be no suspension, reduction or refund of tuition due to COVID-19 related issues.
- Parents will be required to sign a Waiver at the beginning of school.

The SAND Director will be in regular communication with all of our SAND community with changes and updates as they occur. This is an ever-changing situation but our primary mission of SAND has not and will not change --- To Come Learn, Be Loved and Play.

7/30/21