



## **LAC Preschool COVID-19 Policies**

Larchmont Avenue Church Preschool will continue to strive to maintain an engaging, nurturing, and developmentally appropriate early childhood experience program for your children. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize that alterations to our Program, Procedures, and Schedules for the health and safety of our children, families, and staff. Please understand that adjustments may be made throughout the school year, as the COVID-19 pandemic is continually evolving.

Larchmont Avenue Church has adopted the following policies for Larchmont Avenue Church Preschool. These protocols will be updated periodically, to reflect updates based on Westchester County and NY State Department of Health, and CDC guidelines. Guidance as of 6/26/2020 can be found here:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/news/2020/COVID-2020Jun26-Day-Camp-Detailed-Guidelines.pdf>

LAC Preschool is committed to maintaining the safety of our students, teachers, and staff to the very best of our ability. We are asking LAC Preschool parents to partner with us in minimizing our risk of COVID-19 infection in our school community. In choosing LAC Preschool, you are acknowledging your responsibility to consider actions that help keep our school community safe.

Students will be grouped in classes of no larger than 15 students. Each group will remain static; they will only interact with other children in their group while at the Preschool. We will strive to have children in close contact with their classroom teachers only; we will not have any other Specialists or volunteers. They will only have contact with a different teacher in certain unavoidable situations, such as absenteeism. We will keep a daily attendance log, requiring all persons are signed in and out of classrooms.

## **Pre-Arrival Wellness Check:**

Each parent/guardian will complete the Health Screening One-Time Attestation form required by OCFS. This form can be found here:

<https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/documents/docs.asp?doc=ocfs-6040>

By signing this document, you are committing to complete a health screening for your child before arriving at LAC Preschool every day. These screening questions also pertain to anyone who will be bringing your child to and from school:

- Are you, a caregiver, any person in your home, or your child experiencing ANY of the following symptoms?
  - Cough (new or worsening)
  - Shortness of breath (new or worsening)
  - Trouble breathing
  - Fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
  - Chills
  - Muscle pain (new or worsening)
  - Headache (new or worsening)
  - Sore throat (new or worsening)
  - Loss of taste
  - Loss of smell

If the answer to any of these questions is YES, the child should remain home and you should contact your health care provider.

Additionally, the following individuals will be prohibited from entering the building and grounds of LAC:

1. Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and not subsequently tested negative OR
2. Those who had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or has experienced symptoms in the last 14 days OR

3. Those who are required or advised to quarantine under NY State or CDC guidelines

An employee, parent/guardian, or child who screens positive for or exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to enter the facility or area, and will be sent home with instructions to contact their healthcare provider for assessment and testing.

Please note: As per current NYS Guidelines, if you have travelled to one of the areas of increased cases listed on the CDC website:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>, have travelled internationally, OR if you have someone staying in your home who has travelled to one of these areas, your family should self-quarantine for 14 days before returning to school. This excludes brief stops of less than 24hrs, for example while travelling through the applicable states.

\*In cases where COVID-19 is not suspected and has been ruled out, children generally must remain home until they are symptom-free for 48 hours. Decisions on returning to school should be made based on your family's exposure, with advice from your child's physician, and in communication with the LAC Preschool Director. In cases where a physician has diagnosed and treated an illness, children may return to school with a note from and at the recommendation of their physician.\*

### **Arrival Procedures:**

All parents/guardians/caregivers must wear proper PPE; masks which cover nose and mouth. The CDC and OCFS recommend that children over the age of 2 wear masks; we therefore strongly recommend that all preschool students wear masks. At this time, we will not insist, as it is not a regulation. This means we will not insist a child be sent home for refusal to wear a mask, however this policy is subject to change based on information regarding infection rates in our area.

In general, parents/guardians/caregivers will not be permitted to enter the LAC Preschool building during regular operating hours. We will have outdoor arrivals and dismissal, at staggered times, rain or shine. During your child's designated arrival time, he or she will say goodbye to their parent/guardian/caregiver and line up at their designated spot. Children

may remain with their parent/caregivers/guardians on their sidewalk square until teachers arrive, but we ask that they do not line up with children, except in extreme cases to aid in separation. Teachers will conduct temperature check for each child and then escort the children into the building in a safe manner, or conduct a temperature a check before they enter the classroom.

### **During School Hours:**

#### **PPE**

Teachers will be required to wear PPE during the time school is in session. The CDC and OCFS recommend that children over the age of two wear masks. Face shields alone are not considered an adequate substitute for face masks. We do however understand that it is difficult for some children to tolerate wearing masks. With this in mind, we are encouraging children to wear masks and will plan to build mask-wearing and mask-breaks into the routines of the day in fun and engaging ways.

#### **Handwashing**

While good hand hygiene is always an important part of our health and safety plan, handwashing will occur more frequently part of the daily routine. Children will be expected to wash their hands upon entry, before/after eating, before/after engaging in play with shared materials, after using the restroom, when their hands are soiled, and before dismissal.

Teachers will continue to monitor the children throughout the day for health/wellness. If a child develops signs of illness while at school, the student will be isolated, away from other students and will be supervised until they can be picked up by a parent/guardian/caregiver.

#### **Additional Room Use**

Bathrooms will be cleaned on a schedule during the course of the school day. Part of the daily routine will be group trips to use the bathroom; to the best of our ability, we will keep bathroom usage to designated times for shared bathrooms.

Children will continue to use the “Big Room” as an indoor recreational space for gross motor activities, as well as the playground on Chatsworth Avenue. We will have a rotating schedule for the indoor place space, to minimize the number of children using the space on a given day. We will

spray the playground equipment with appropriate, approved products identified as effective against COVID-19.

### **Outdoor Learning**

Larchmont Avenue Church does not have the grounds for outdoor classrooms; however, our teachers are committed to planning activities to increase the amount of time children are outside whenever possible, including but not limited to, walking trips, gross motor activities, and story times.

### **Snack/Lunch**

We will ask that snack and lunch be brought from home, in containers that are easily opened by your child. Teachers will wear gloves when providing any assistance opening containers. We will stagger snack and lunch times as needed to have fewer children sitting at the table at once.

### **Social Distancing**

We will aim to maintain social distancing amongst students wherever possible.

We will provide washable mats for children's individual use to designate a set "space", and encourage children to use these as play or work spaces as often as possible. We will have some shared classroom materials and toys, however we will provide children with their own set of art supplies, as well as sensory materials (ie playdough).

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

All classroom surfaces (tables, chairs, play furniture) will be cleaned and disinfected as needed during the course of the school day with products identified as effective against COVID-19. Toys or other classroom materials in need of cleaning and disinfection will be gathered and cleaned at the end of the school day. The classrooms will receive a thorough cleaning based on OCFS guidelines at the end of the school day.

### **Dismissal Procedures**

All parents/guardians/caregivers must wear proper PPE when picking up children from school. Children will be brought to their outdoor dismissal location and dismissed to their parent/guardian/caregiver waiting on a sidewalk square. We ask at this time that children are picked up by their

own parent/guardian/caregiver, or by another parent/guardian/caregiver in their class, whenever possible.

### **NYS Guidance on COVID-19 positive cases:**

- In the event that a parent/guardian/caregiver of a child in the child care program must be isolated because they have tested positive for, or exhibited symptoms of, COVID-19, they cannot enter the Larchmont Avenue Church building or grounds for any reason, including picking up their child.
- If the parent/guardian/caregiver, who is a member of the same household as the child, is exhibiting signs of COVID-19 or has been tested and is positive for the virus, they must utilize an alternate parent/guardian or emergency contact authorized by the parent to come pick up the child.
- As a “close contact” of a person who is under quarantine, the child must not return to LAC Preschool for the duration of the quarantine.
- If the parent/guardian/caregiver, who is a member of the same household as the child, is being quarantined as a precautionary measure, without symptoms or a positive test, LAC Preschool Staff will meet the child at the boundary of or outside, the premises. In this instance, the child may attend Larchmont Avenue Church Preschool during the duration of the quarantine.
- If a child or their household member becomes symptomatic for COVID-19 and/or tests positive for COVID-19, the child must quarantine and may not return to or attend LAC Preschool until after quarantine is complete.
- LAC Preschool will follow guidance from the Westchester County Department of Health regarding class or school closures and proper contact tracing procedures. Should we close for a prolonged period, or should a classroom close for a prolonged period, we will implement Remote Learning. This will include but is not limited to Virtual Meetings, posting of classroom plans/curriculum, and to the best of our ability, the provision of supplies.

**\*Respectfully Submitted by LAC Preschool, August 21, 2020**

