



COVID-19 Policies and Procedures July 2023

Hibben Preschool is committed to providing a safe environment for our students, families, and staff. These policies and procedures were developed using recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Recognizing that our environment and the recommendations made by health agencies and government officials often change, these policies and procedures may change. They will be regularly reviewed with regard to the evolving nature of the pandemic and emerging evidence. Any changes will be communicated to parents in a timely fashion.

IMPORTANT! If you or someone in your household tests positive, please text or call the director immediately (843-216-8438).

Please note: For the 2023-2024 school year, we will not require the COVID-19 vaccination for Hibben students or staff.

Preventive Planning

We are taking the following steps to reduce the risk of transmission within our school.

1. Students and staff will wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer consistently throughout the day.
2. Parents and those with approved pick-up status will be able to drop students off and pick students up directly from their classrooms. Any adult who is not comfortable with entering the school may talk to the director/teacher overseeing pickup/drop off and they will radio the child's teacher to have them brought into/out of the school.
3. Masks are optional for all students, staff, and visitors unless they were recently directly exposed to COVID or are within their post-COVID recommended masking period.
4. Frequently touched surfaces, toys, and restrooms will be disinfected throughout the school day. Electrostatic sprayers will be used to thoroughly disinfect and sanitize all areas weekly.
5. To reduce the number of people handling food, parents are asked to send a daily snack for their children (toddlers, 2's, and 3's classes).
6. Classes are encouraged to spend as much time outside as possible. The toddlers, 2's and 3's classes will have the option to have 2 scheduled playground times each day; 4K

classes will have one. Whenever possible, teachers will consider taking children outside for learning activities in the courtyard or in other safe areas on campus.

7. Students who exhibit a fever, frequent and persistent cough, throw up, or 2 instances of diarrhea during the school day will be isolated and a parent or caregiver will be required to pick them up immediately.

Procedures

1. Anyone with a temperature over 100.0 degrees (axillary) or 100.4 (orally) will not be allowed to stay.
2. Parents will be asked via Brightwheel check in each day to confirm that their child is not experiencing symptoms of contagious illnesses. Staff will confirm they are not experiencing symptoms of contagious illnesses.
3. A child or staff member with the following symptoms should not attend school and may need medical care. Signs of illness can include, but are not limited to:
 - Fever of 100.0 (axillary) or 100.4 (orally) or higher
 - Rapid breathing, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing
 - Frequent, persistent, or worsening cough
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Severe congestion or runny nose
 - Sore throat
 - Headache
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Fatigue
4. Families and staff must self-report if anyone in their household tests positive for COVID-19. If a child is a close contact to a positive case **in the same household**, the child will need to stay home. The child can return to school if they show no symptoms and a) they test negative on day 5 (with day 0 being the day the household member tested positive) with a **PCR test** or b) they test negative on day 5 **and** day 7 with an at-home test. If a child is a close contact with someone who **does not live in the same household**, they will be allowed to remain in school and will not need to test if they are not displaying any symptoms. If a close contact child begins to exhibit symptoms, they will be asked to stay home and provide a negative COVID test to return.
5. Any staff member who is a close contact will continue to work, masked, if the close contact staff member remains asymptomatic. They must test negative on an at home test before coming to work for 5 days. If she develops symptoms at any point, she will get tested immediately then follow the appropriate protocol.
6. A staff member who tests positive may return to work after 5 days if symptoms have improved and she has not had a fever for 24 hours without the aid of medication. Upon return to work, the staff member will wear a KN95 mask for at least 5 days whenever she is within 6' of anyone.

7. **Regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status** a child who tests positive may return to school after 7 days if symptoms have improved and he/she has not had a fever for 24 hours without the aid of medication (day 0 is the day of the positive covid result)
8. In accordance with DHEC's guidance, anyone who has tested positive for COVID has a 90-day period in which he/she is not required to isolate or quarantine following the date of his/her positive test, regardless of repeat positive tests or exposure to a positive case, as long as the individual is asymptomatic. If the individual becomes symptomatic during those 90 days, he/she should be isolated under current recommended precautions and be evaluated by a medical professional to determine if he/she has been reinfected.
9. If there is a positive case of COVID-19 in our school, parents will be notified. The class will remain open, and we will ask parents to monitor their children for any possible symptoms. Per DHEC recommendations, we will only close a classroom if 20% of the class population tests positive for COVID-19.
10. If a child tests positive and must quarantine, our teachers will do their best to provide that family with activities the child can do at home. If an entire class must quarantine, our virtual learning model will be implemented. Teachers will provide a combination of instructional videos, interactive video conferencing, and at home packets, as well as school-wide resources (story time videos, bedtime Bible stories, and chapel and music videos).
11. No refunds or tuition credits will be offered for times a class or the entire school must transition to virtual learning. Hibben Preschool is a non-profit ministry that relies on tuition income to operate. We are committed to paying our teachers, even during times of unexpected closure, and we expect them to provide a meaningful virtual learning experience for all students. We are asking families to commit to staying with us during this challenging time and we are committing to do our very best to provide a meaningful educational experience for each child.
12. We will again hold optional after school programs during the 2023-2024 school year. Information about after school options will be distributed to all families in a separate communication.
13. **At least one parent from each family must complete the policies acknowledgement form that is accessible via brightwheel.**

This plan is not complete without a final word about your child's experience. While safety is our highest priority during this public health crisis, we are also committed to a joyous learning environment for your child. Children will continue to play, laugh, explore, create, and grow. Our entire team is grateful for the trust you have placed in us, and we consider it a privilege to care for, nurture, and teach your children.