

CJBCP Reopening Plan after COVID-19

Program Mission

CJBCP, Inc. has above all considered the health and safety of its students, teachers, and families as it has responded to the current health crisis related to COVID-19. Both the closure of our program and its reopening have been thoughtfully planned and communicated to our families. We had been able to provide virtual learning options through Zoom for the remainder of the school calendar and for the summer, but we acknowledge that this format does not work well for the majority of the students we serve. Our decision to offer in person small-group instruction has been made only with the guidance and consideration of standards set by national, state, county, and licensing agencies in order to do so in the safest manner possible. We will continue to monitor our policies, protocols, and decisions, and will adjust and update each as deemed necessary to continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of our school community.

Policies

Preparation for Opening

We have spent months planning, learning, and preparing for our reopening. Research and ongoing review of guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Montgomery County, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Office of Child Care for early childhood programs has helped us to align our policies and procedures with programs that are currently open and serving communities like ours.

Subsequently, we have made changes to our classroom space in order to meet these new standards. We have brought in additional tables and have reconfigured spacing in order to allow for physical distancing indoors. We have purchased HEPA filters for each of the rooms to improve indoor air exchange. We are working closely with the Brookmont Church board in developing strategies to avoid interaction and shared space with other users of the building. We have installed a wireless doorbell at the entry, and the door will remain locked at all times. Finally, we plan to utilize the outdoors and natural spaces as instructional spaces when possible.

Attendance

Our program will be limited to 15 total participants (students and teachers) at our reopening. Parents will be required to complete questionnaires each morning prior to arrival at school, which will monitor home temperature checks, symptoms checks, medications administered, known exposures, and travel. We will be performing daily temperature checks of all students and teachers before admission into our program and of individuals dropping off students. Visitors will be limited (including parents and specialists) and will be greeted outside the school.

The best way for us to mitigate illness is to prevent it from entering our program. All students, teachers and family members will stay away from the school when ill, and until fever-free without the use of medication for 72 hours, and free of other symptoms for 24 hours. Individuals

should stay away from school if they have had to take simple medications, i.e. acetaminophen or ibuprofen, for any reason, because these medications may mask symptoms of infection.

If anyone starts to feel unwell at school, he/she will be isolated, and return home as soon as possible to monitor the symptoms and follow up with health providers as necessary. We will follow the Decision Aid developed by the Maryland Department of Health and MSDE to address any illnesses or COVID-19-like illnesses that develop at school, or among our attendees in and out of school, to determine exclusion from and return to our program.

If a child, teacher, or family member is diagnosed with COVID-19, please confidentially notify the Director, and we will work with the local health department on necessary contact tracing and testing. We will follow any guidelines for closure and cleaning while we await test results, and will be able to open again if tests come back negative. Individuals testing positive will be asked to stay home at least 10 days from a positive test, AND until fever-free without the use of medications for 72 hours, AND improvement of other symptoms. Close contacts, including siblings and family members, should stay home for 14 days from the date of last exposure even if they have no symptoms or they have a negative diagnostic test during the quarantine period. Families should not seek child care in an alternative program if under quarantine.

Health & Safety

Masks will be worn by students and teachers indoors and outdoors when physical distancing is not possible. We recognize that mask wearing for young students will require encouragement and reinforcement for proper compliance, and students will not be disciplined or excluded for not being able to maintain proper mask wearing at all times. Mask breaks will be given at times during the day, when physical distancing is possible. Masks will not be worn during napping or eating.

Physical distancing of six feet or greater will be maintained indoors and outside to the greatest degree possible. Circle Time will be held outdoors or in the social hall rather than in the classroom where there is greater opportunity to spread out. We will be making greater use of the outdoors and natural spaces around our school, so we ask that children dress accordingly, and with appropriate footwear for the weather and outside conditions. We will not be starting the year with outside specials (JumpBunch, Music for Life, ArtWorks, or Dance) as we will be limiting visitors in our classroom. There may be an opportunity for us to add specials at a later time. Likewise, we will not be holding field trips or assemblies at this time.

In the classroom, students will have individual toys and supplies to minimize sharing. Items (or kits) that are non-individualized will be placed in a cleaning bin and sanitized between student use and before return to the shelves. We may divide into two smaller groups during the school day to better maintain spacing, such as near the bathrooms, at our cubbies, or on the playground. Assigned seating at the tables will also be utilized. Bathroom high touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected after each individual use.

Shared snacks will not be provided at school this year, so parents will not be responsible for a snack week the first semester. Rather, we ask that you please send a snack for the AM and/or PM in your child's lunchbox or in a separate container, along with a water bottle and lunch. We have a water cooler to refill water bottles during the day.

Frequent and proper handwashing throughout the day will be implemented by students and teachers. Hand sanitizer will be readily available both indoors and outside, and disinfecting of high touch surfaces will take place throughout the day. The playground equipment will be disinfected after use with a garden sprayer. We will follow an extensive and thorough cleaning protocol for the school for surfaces, air filters, and toys and equipment.

Travel

A traveler's quarantine for travel by a student, teacher or family member beyond 300 miles, or by certain modes of transport may be required. Travel to or from areas where COVID-19 is spreading, travel by plane, train or bus, and long-distance travel requiring frequent public stops or overnight stays should be reported to the Director, so that we can make you aware of any potential quarantine requirements before returning to school. While traveling, precautions and best health practices should be taken to limit exposure during and throughout the length of time of the travel, and routine symptom and temperature checks should be taken as if you were home and attending school. Upon return from travel, monitoring of symptoms for 14 days, including temperature checks twice a day, will be necessary regardless of other quarantine requirements. If you want to be tested after travel, you may be able to enter school earlier if a diagnostic test is conducted a minimum of three days before return to school, and is negative.

Tuition and Payments

Tuition payments are encouraged to be made electronically through online bill pay. Please register with your bank to add CJ Brookmont Children's Program, Inc, 4000 Virginia Place, Bethesda, MD 20816 as a payee. If your child will not be starting the school year on August 31st, please indicate your anticipated starting month on your registration forms. We ask that you consider making a monthly payment to the school at a level that works for you in order to hold your child's space and to continue to support our program.

Best Health Practices

We are trusting our families to practice best health practices at all times to minimize risk of exposure to COVID-19, and to protect our teachers and school community. This includes proper mask-wearing when unable to maintain 6' of physical distancing, including during drop-off and pick-up from school, and when out in public. We continue to encourage limiting large group social gatherings and indoor activities in accordance with county recommendations at any time. Compliance with all current practices and policies outlined by the school is required, and may be amended and updated based on changing health guidelines.

Communication

Honest and complete daily communication between home and school is essential for the safety of our entire school community. Reporting of absences, illness, symptoms, possible exposure to COVID-19, and positive cases within a household or within the school environment will be done in a timely and confidential manner, so that we can act appropriately to ensure the continued health and safety of our members. Cooperation with local health department officials for notification, contact tracing, and testing must be agreed upon by all.

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