



St. Clare's Preschool

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Health Protocols – CHILDREN

UPDATE: August 26, 2024

St. Clare's Christian Preschool is committed to providing a safe environment for the children, families, and employees in our community. The purpose of these protocols is to minimize the spread of infections, including but not limited to COVID-19, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and norovirus.

The Health Protocols for St. Clare's Preschool are in alignment with *Public Health Guidance for TK–12 Schools and Child Care Settings to Support Safe In-Person Services and Mitigate the Spread of Communicable Diseases, 2024-2025 School Year* from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), dated July 11, 2024.

If there are differing requirements between the guidance or health orders from Centers for Disease Control (CDC), CDPH, Community Care Licensing (CCL), Cal/OSHA, and the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD), St. Clare's Preschool will follow the strictest guidance. As public health conditions change, St. Clare's Preschool Health Protocols may be changed whenever necessary to ensure the safety of our staff, children, and families. Any changes will be communicated to families immediately and will require a signature acknowledging agreement to abide by the most current protocols.

St. Clare's Preschool supports the following prevention efforts:

- ***COVID-19 and Influenza vaccinations are strongly recommended for all eligible individuals.*** These vaccinations can reduce the risk of serious illness and assist in minimizing outbreaks, absences, and school disruptions.
- ***Individuals (adults and children) should wear a mask when around others if you have respiratory symptoms*** (e.g., cough, sneezing, runny nose, and/or sore throat). High quality and well-fitted face masks are effective in protecting oneself and others.
- ***Handwashing with soap and water*** is preferable over the use of hand sanitizers. It is the only effective way to remove or neutralize certain pathogens.
- If using ***hand sanitizer, children ages 5 years and younger must be supervised*** to avoid ingestion and eye contact.
- Teach and reinforce the practice of ***covering coughs and sneezes with your elbow*** (avoid using your hand). Follow with thorough hand washing as soon as possible.

The adult who signs a child in at preschool certifies that the following information is true:

- My child has not shown any new or unexplained symptoms of illness in the last 24 hours (fever or chills, sore throat, cough, new loss of taste or smell, headache, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, shortness of breath, congestion or runny nose, fatigue, rash, muscle or body aches).
- My child has not taken any fever-reducing medications in the prior 24 hours (ibuprofen, Advil, Motrin, Tylenol, acetaminophen, aspirin).

SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS?

- St. Clare’s Preschool **strongly recommends that families test children for COVID-19 before returning to preschool**, after they have been absent due to illness, and share the result with the preschool office.
- The **preschool must be notified if a child is diagnosed with a communicable disease (including COVID-19)**, so we may remain in compliance with our reporting requirements to Licensing and Alameda County Public Health Department.
- If a child has a temperature of **100.4°F/38°C or higher, they must be excluded** from school.
- After illness, a child may return to preschool when **all** of the following are true:
 - They have been **free of vomiting, diarrhea, and fever** (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours.
 - Symptoms are improving.
 - They can comfortably participate in all preschool activities.
- If an individual (adult or child) has **tested positive for COVID-19, they should wear a mask** for an additional 5 days, to reduce the risk of continuing to spread the virus to others.

Families of enrolled children should refer to St. Clare’s Family Handbook for complete illness policies. The Handbook is available on our website, under the “Forms” tab:

<https://www.stclairespreschool.org/forms/>

I acknowledge that I have read and agree to abide by these protocols.

Signature of parent or guardian: _____ **Date:** _____

Child’s First and Last Name (*PLEASE PRINT*): _____