

We are sharing these Frequently Asked Questions with you based on current recommendations from the CDC as of August 23, 2023. The Department of Early Education and Care has not provided additional guidelines for the upcoming school year. We will update these FAQ's and continue to communicate with you as information and changes are released. Future edits will be noted in green.

General Questions

What date does preschool start?

September 13 is the first official day of school.

Will my child have to wear a mask?

Yes, your child will be required to wear a mask in the building. However, there will be designated areas where the children can take a break from wearing the mask while maintaining safe physical distance. Children will not wear masks when out on the playground, during snack/lunch and at rest time.

Will teachers be wearing masks?

Yes, the staff will all be wearing masks when unable to physically distance. This (as well as constant hand washing and cleaning) is our best defense against the virus. We will help to prepare the children to recognize their teachers in masks before school opens. It is our hope to host an outdoor Student Orientation, where masks will not be necessary. However, if the weather is inclement, we will hold the Orientation in the Preschool and all participants will be required to wear a mask.

How will you schedule drop off and pick up?

We are resuming drop off and pick up from Door # 4 for the 2021-2022 school year. Family members will be allowed to enter the building to assist the student in the coat room and escort them into the main classroom. Anyone over the age of 2 must wear a mask when entering the building.

What will drop off and screenings look like?

At this time, we will not be requiring a signed Health Attestation at drop off, nor will we be formally screening students. However, we are asking families to perform their own health screening at home. The success of the previous school year was largely due to each families' commitment to keeping their children home if they displayed any symptoms:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue

- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Will family members be allowed in the school?

At this time, we will be allowing family members to enter the building at drop off and pick up. As stated above, anyone entering the building, over the age of 2, must wear a mask. Additionally, for the health and safety of the Knowledge Tree community, we ask that families limit the number of individuals accompanying a student into the building.

Will children be kept socially distant in the classrooms?

Children will be free to move about and we will redirect, if necessary, to encourage them to work/play in small groups. We will also work on reducing the number of children in any given area by increasing the number of learning areas. Children will only be socially distanced during snack time, lunch time or rest time.

Additional Plans

- We will work in small groups for activities and all adults will wear face coverings.
- We will increase outdoor time and outdoor activities.
- All children will have an individual container for art supplies (Crayons, markers, scissors, glue sticks, etc.)
- Children will be discouraged from bringing any toys from home with the exclusion of lovies for Rest Time.

Will my child play with other children?

Yes. It is our firm belief that while we need to minimize close contact, children in the same classroom will play together. As mentioned above, we will do our best to ensure that the children stay in small groups.

What will monitoring of teachers?

As with students, we are asking that all teachers perform a health assessment prior to coming to school. If they are symptomatic, they will contact the Preschool and a substitute teacher will be scheduled, based on student:teacher ratio.

How will you ensure that all areas, materials, furniture, and equipment used are safely and properly cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected?

- The Preschool's classrooms, bathrooms and materials will be cleaned by designated staff throughout the day and get a thorough cleaning nightly (all cleaning materials are EPA approved for use in a preschool classroom).
- Air purifiers have been installed in the classrooms.

Are there additional health and safety measures that are in place?

Children will wash hands (or use hand sanitizer, with parent permission) upon entering the building, before and after eating, after visiting the bathroom and between classroom activities, after blowing their nose and throughout the day, as needed.

All Knowledge Tree Preschool staff have either been vaccinated or will be tested regularly. Additionally, in line with the CDC guidelines, we are strongly recommending that anyone entering the build that is over the age of 12 be vaccinated.

How will you account for asymptomatic transmission?

We will follow all the protocols for tracing children and staff. Our attendance records will allow us to manage which children are exposed to which staff each day and week.

If a student or teacher tests positive will the school be closed for a period of time?

The classroom affected will need to be closed for 24 hours and disinfected. We are required to notify our local board of health and they will ultimately decide on what merits a shutdown. The protocols include notification to both EEC and DOH in the case of a positive test result. All of this information will also be communicated to each family. In the event that we are required to shutdown for more than 24 hours, we will host virtual classes via Zoom

What process should I follow if a child is sick?

If a child presents with symptoms, they should not come to school. If a child becomes symptomatic during their school day, they will be sent home immediately. If the child has been exposed to an individual who is COVID positive or presumed to be COVID positive, then they may not return to school until their pediatrician, or their local Board of Health has cleared them. If the child has symptoms but not otherwise exposed, then they must be symptom free without medication for 48 hours before returning to school (see Parent Handbook for details).