



RETURN TO LEARN PLAN VALLEY PARK EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Procedures outlined in this document will help the Valley Park Early Childhood Center (VPECC) adhere to accepted guidelines provided by the Valley Park School District, the CDC, and local health agencies for school reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic. Similar to the district, the VP Early Childhood Center has created a tiered approach to reentry. The VPECC plan is a modified version of the district's plan.

RETURN TO LEARN PLAN FOR VPECC STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS:

PHASE 1 - All students return to school with additional safety measures in place:

- Every effort will be made to maintain stable groups (children will remain in one classroom for learning, including Before and After Care and lunch).
- There will be time for students to use the restroom, wash hands on a regular basis and be in large building motor spaces and outside with peers.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the VPECC.

PHASE 2 - The VPECC will follow Phase 1

- If the district should **move to Phase 2 of the k-12 in-person instruction** model, which is a hybrid model, the VPECC will continue/enter Phase 1 identified in this document (all students return to ECC).

PHASE 3 - If the district moves to phase 3 of in-person learning (100% virtual instruction) the VPECC will be closed. Early childhood education is centered on the principles of hands-on learning, exploration, socialization and play and not designed for independent and virtual instruction.

- Families would not be charged tuition at this time.
- A VPECC employee will hold Monday morning meetings with their classes to build rapport and relationships.
- Certified teachers and staff will email parents resources and activities weekly (every Monday) to be done with their child.
- Plans are being developed for online parent learning (workshops).

Parents As Teachers (PAT) Program - All home visits will be virtual visits with district certified Parent Educators for Fall 2020. Spring semester is yet to be determined.

OVERALL AREAS OF CONCERN AND FOCUS FOR THE VPECC

- Social distancing in an early childhood setting
- Hand hygiene for all staff and students
- Daily health screenings for all staff and students-to be done at home before coming to school.
- Cleaning/Sanitizing/Disinfecting process
- Clear communication for all parents and staff

SOCIAL DISTANCING IN AN EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTING:

Only VPECC staff and students will have access to the school. No outside visitors, including parents, will be allowed inside the building.

- Parents will be asked to wear a mask while interacting with all staff.
- All staff will be wearing a cloth face covering at all times. The VPECC will follow the local health guidelines regarding children under 5 years of age wearing a face covering. If face coverings are required per guidelines, families must provide a clean, cloth face covering daily.
- Some classrooms may have fewer students to encourage social distancing.
- Classrooms will limit rotating teachers and aides to the extent possible.
- Each classroom will be a 'cohort' with their next-door classroom for before and aftercare. Any child needing before or aftercare will be in their individual classroom, or the classroom next door, with a teacher supervising.
- Only one class will be allowed in community spaces at a time including the outdoor playgrounds and gym; no mixing of classes throughout the day.
- No sharing of school supplies; each child will have their own art supply container with scissors, crayons, glue sticks, etc. Please refer to the supply list in the ECC handbook.
- The classrooms will limit the amount of furniture in the room to allow children to sit in a larger circle for group time.
- Full-day students will be separated as much as possible at rest time, in the head to foot pattern.
- All classrooms will eat snacks and lunch in their classrooms. Students will have assigned seats in the classroom while sitting at the tables.
- All parent conferences/meetings will be virtual as well as the VPECC Parent Orientation. This will be scheduled the week prior to children returning to the classroom.
- Special School District services will continue to be provided.

HAND HYGIENE FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF

- All students will wash hands upon arrival in the classroom.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided as well with teacher supervision.
- When students enter the classroom, they will wash their hands with soap and water.
- Students and staff will wash hands upon entering and leaving all common areas, playgrounds, gym, etc.

In addition, children and staff will wash their hands:

1. Before and after eating, or handling food
2. After using the bathroom
3. Before leaving their classroom
4. Returning to their classrooms
5. When their hands are visibly dirty

- All classrooms will have a handwashing lesson provided by the school nurse at the beginning of the school year.

DAILY HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS

- **Healthy Hawk Daily Health screening** must be completed by a parent before a student can enter the school.
- The screening will include a daily temperature check by the parent.
- When a family arrives with a student, the parent will assist the child out of the car and meet the teacher/aide. The teacher will also do a visual inspection of the child at this time. Parents must be wearing a mask.
- If a child begins to show symptoms of illness during the school day, the VPECC staff will escort the child to the nurse. The nurse will evaluate the child's condition.
- Parents must immediately pick up their sick child(ren). Once a parent arrives, the sick child will be escorted to the car by a school staff member.
- All staff will perform daily health screening before coming to school.
- The VPECC will follow the Valley Park School District's guidelines if a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19 or exposed to someone who has COVID-19.

CLEANING/SANITIZING/DISINFECTING PROCESS

The VPECC will continue to follow the state standards and protocols for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting in an early childhood setting. The state required methods of cleaning and sanitizing will be done before and after children eat at the classroom tables as well as when children use the tables for centers.

- All toys that were used and played with during the school day will be cleaned daily by the teachers. Toys that are mouthed or soiled during the day will be removed from the play area to be cleaned and sanitized at the end of the day. Toys that cannot be cleaned or laundered will not be in use (including cloth toys).
- Teachers will refrain from sharing toys with other classrooms.
- Toys in any area will be cleaned by the teacher at least once a day.
- The classrooms and community areas will continue to be cleaned using the Valley Park School District standards. The classroom bathroom and high touch areas such as doorknobs, hand railings, sink faucets and handles will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the school day and again at night. Students will not be present in the room at the time of the disinfecting. A school custodian (district or ABBCO) will follow a schedule to clean the classrooms.
- Each student is encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle that will return home with the student daily. The water bottles will be refilled by staff and students throughout the school day.
- Personal nap items will be stored in individual bags and labeled. The items will be sent home at the end of your student's week to be laundered and then sent back to school.
- Cots will be cleaned daily by the staff.

CLEAR COMMUNICATION FOR ALL PARENTS AND STAFF

The VPECC Director will schedule a virtual meeting to review and answer any questions for parents before school starts.

- For health, immunization, and medication questions please contact our District Nurse, Tina Elsner at telsner@vp.k12.mo.us. For medication drop off, please schedule a time with Tina before dropping off medication.
- Plans will be developed by staff and parents for a child who may have separation issues at the beginning of the school year. We hope to allow parents (fully masked) to walk their students to the classroom on the first day of school. The staff will schedule small groups of families/students to visit the classroom before school starts to become more comfortable with the school environment.
- The success of the VPECC reentry to school will rely both on the staff as well as our families.
- We ask all our parents not to send their child to school if the child is showing any signs of illness, even if the child does not have a fever. Therefore, we ask that all parents have an alternative plan for childcare if your child is showing any symptoms listed on the Healthy Hawk Checklist.