

# STOREHOUSE GROW & GO PRESCHOOL

## Parent Handbook Addendum - COVID-19 PROCEDURES

### 2022-2023 School Year

This document describes the procedures and protocols that will be in effect for the 2022-2023 school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These procedures will be updated and refined as directed by appropriate agencies. This document supersedes SGGP's COVID Health and Safety Plan in its entirety.

**HEALTH/SAFETY GUIDELINES:** Storehouse Grow & Go Preschool (SGGP) intends to follow the current recommendations by the Department of Human Services (PA DHS); the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (PA OCDEL); the Department of Health (PA DOH); and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**VACCINES:** Vaccines are considered one of the best ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and prevent serious illness. All of our students at SGGP are now old enough to be vaccinated. SGGP strongly encourages all staff and students who are eligible for a vaccine to get vaccinated and stay up-to-date with booster shots. **If your child is fully vaccinated (or if he/she becomes fully vaccinated in the future), kindly send a copy of the vaccination card to SGGP for inclusion in your child's health records.**

**FACE MASKS:** At this time, masks are optional for both students and staff at SGGP.

**DAILY HOME HEALTH CHECK:** Please check your child's temperature and general health each morning before sending him/her to school. If your child shows symptoms of illness, keep him/her home. If your child is sent home due to a teacher's observation of symptoms that could be evidence of COVID, proof of a negative COVID test result will be required before your child is allowed to return to school. If you choose not to test your child, your child may return to school when either of the following is true: 1) your child no longer has any symptoms of illness; or 2) your child has stayed home from school for 5 additional days, has been fever-free for 24 hours, and has experienced a substantial improvement with respect to all other symptoms.

**HANDWASHING:** All children will wash their hands immediately upon entering classrooms. Children will also wash their hands after using the bathroom, before eating, and as needed. Hand sanitizer will be used when soap and water are not available. Teachers will teach and reinforce proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes).

**SANITIZING/DISINFECTING:** All hard surfaces in the classroom will be cleaned and disinfected at least once every class session to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces. Professional custodians clean SGGP's facility every evening.

**VENTILATION:** Each classroom has an air purifier to clean and circulate the air. During mild weather, classroom windows will be opened to increase air circulation. Fitness classes will continue to be held outside, weather permitting.

**REPORTING COVID CASES AND CLOSE CONTACTS:** SGGP has developed a Google Form for parents to use whenever a child who attends SGGP tests positive for COVID-19 and/or has a close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. By signing the handbook acknowledgement form, parents agree to utilize the COVID-19 reporting forms whenever applicable. After filling out either of these forms, parents will be informed of a “Return to School Date” and/or guidelines for mask wearing for their child, whichever is applicable. This information will be based on CDC guidelines.

**NOTIFICATION OF COVID CASES:** Parents will be promptly notified by e-mail whenever there is a positive COVID case in their child’s classroom. The notification will summarize the CDC’s recommendations regarding mask-wearing for the other children in the classroom. When legally required, SGGP will also report positive COVID cases to the PA DHS and the Montgomery County Board of Health.

**KEEPING CLASSES OPEN:** The CDC no longer requires school students exposed to COVID-19 to quarantine, regardless of vaccination status. Therefore, SGGP intends to keep classes open when there is a positive COVID-19 case within a class. However, we reserve the right to close a class in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak or if otherwise directed to by the county health department or any governing agency. The CDC highly recommends that all individuals exposed to COVID-19 wear a well-fitting mask for ten days following the exposure (regardless of vaccination status). SGGP teachers will follow this policy and wear a mask for 10 days whenever there has been an exposure within a class. We ask our families to similarly follow this CDC recommendation to help ensure the health and safety of all of our students, families, and staff members.

**LARGE GROUPS/PARENT PROGRAMS:** SGGP intends to return to normal as much as possible this year with respect to parent/family events and opportunities for visiting the classroom. Depending on the current level of COVID-19 transmission in our county, however, we may need to limit the number of family members attending certain events or impose special instructions to prevent overly crowded spaces.