

PRECIOUS LAMBS Pandemic Policy

COVID-19
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Introduction

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Knowing these facts, Precious Lambs has implemented many new safety measures for families, children and teachers to follow so that we are an important part of reducing the spread and keeping everyone as healthy as possible.

Social Distancing Strategies

Precious Lambs staff and families will work with the local health officials to determine a set of strategies appropriate for Precious Lambs. We will use preparedness strategies and consider the following social distancing strategies that may/may not be implemented at some point of time during Covid-19

- If possible, childcare classes will include the same group each day.
- Precious Lambs will Cancel or postpone special events such as festivals, holiday events, and special performances.
 - Precious Lambs will keep each group of children in a separate room.
 - We will limit the mixing of children, such as staggering playground times and keeping groups separate for special activities such as art, music, and exercising.
- Precious Lambs will stagger arrival and drop off times and/or have childcare providers come outside the facility to pick up the children as they arrive. Our plan for curb side drop off and pick up will limit direct contact between parents and staff members and adhere to social distancing recommendations.

Guideline for onset of illness at Precious Lambs

Child

- If a child becomes sick during the day. The first teacher will remove the child to the Director's office and keep child comfortable until the family can arrive.
- The Center Director or other personnel will immediately call the child's family and request an immediate pick up.

Employee

- Employees who appear to have symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) upon arrival at work or who become sick during the day will immediately be separated from other employees, customers, and visitors and sent home.
- If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, Precious Lambs will inform fellow employees of possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The fellow employees should then self-monitor for symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath).

Guidelines for onset of illness while at home

Child

- If a child becomes sick at home with any symptoms, cough, fever, muscle aches, generally not feeling well, we ask that you notify us and keep your child at home. Follow our current Illness Policy to understand the return to school policy. If symptoms are consistent with Covid-19, please phone your child's pediatrician and ask for guidance. Please phone us and share that guidance so that Precious Lambs will know how to proceed with our next steps of notifying the proper and required people, and/or authorities.

Employee

- Stay home: Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and are able to recover at home without medical care. Do not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.
- Stay in touch with your doctor
- Stay away from others: As much as possible, you stay away from others. You should stay in a specific "sick room" if possible, and away from other people and pets in your home. Use a separate bathroom, if available.
- If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately. Emergency warning signs include*:
 - Trouble breathing
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion or inability to arouse
 - Bluish lips or face

Family member

- If caring for a sick household member, follow recommended precautions and monitor your own health.
- Have the person stay in one room, away from other people, including yourself, as much as possible.
 - If possible, have them use a separate bathroom.
 - Avoid sharing personal household items, like dishes, towels, and bedding.
 - Have them wear a cloth face covering (that covers their nose and mouth) when they are around people, including you.
 - If the sick person can't wear a cloth face covering, you should wear one while in the same room with them.
 - If the sick person needs to be around others (within the home, in a vehicle, or doctor's office), they should wear a cloth face covering that covers their mouth and nose.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after interacting with the sick person. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Every day, clean all surfaces that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs.
 - Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.
- Wash laundry thoroughly.
 - If laundry is soiled, wear disposable gloves and keep the soiled items away from your body while laundering. Wash your hands immediately after removing gloves.
- Avoid having any unnecessary visitors.
- For any additional questions about their care, contact their healthcare provider or Department of Health.

Keep surfaces disinfected

- Avoid sharing personal items
- Monitor for emergency signs, prevent the spread of germs, treat symptoms, and carefully consider when to end home isolation.

Children/Staff who have had close contact with a person with symptoms or diagnosed with COVID-19

- Children who have symptoms should stay home
- Employees who have symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) should notify the Director and stay home.
- Sick employees should follow CDC-recommended steps. Employees should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.
- Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and follow CDC recommended precautions.
- If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Fellow employees should then self-monitor for symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath).
- Employees should not return to work until the criteria to end home isolation is met as instructed in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.

Children/Staff with COVID-19 who have home isolated can stop isolation with these conditions

- If a test will not be administered to determine if you are still contagious, children and staff can return to Precious Lambs after these three things have happened:
 - No fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)
AND
 - other symptoms have improved (for example, when cough or shortness of breath have improved)
AND
 - at least 72 hours have passed since symptoms first appeared
- If a test is required to determine if a person is still contagious, children or staff can return to Precious Lambs after these three things have happened:
 - No fever (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers)
AND
 - other symptoms have improved (for example, when cough or shortness of breath have improved)
AND
 - Received a negative test. Your doctor will follow CDC guidelines
- Time-since-illness-onset and time-since-recovery strategy (non-test-based strategy)
 - Following government mandates, all persons should continue to limit contact from others (staying 6 feet away from others) and limit potential of dispersal of respiratory secretions by wearing a covering for their nose and mouth whenever they are in settings where other people are present. In community settings, this covering may be a barrier mask, such as a bandana, scarf, or cloth mask. The covering does not refer to a medical mask or respirator.

If PRECIOUS LAMBS has a case of Covid-19

- Precious Lambs will notify the Department of Health and will get direction from the Department of Health immediately and follow their specific guidelines.
- Precious Lambs will notify the Office of Children and Family Services and let them know what was stated by the Department of Health and follow their specific guidelines.
- Precious Lambs will notify the families and staff of the exposure.
- Determine the date of symptom onset for the child/staff member
- Determine if the child/staff member attended/worked at the program while symptomatic or during the 2 days before symptoms began
- Identify what days the child/staff member attended/worked during that time
- Determine who had close contact with the child/staff member at the program during those days. Refer back to Child/Staff Movements form
- Close off areas used by the individuals with COVID-19
- Exclude the children and staff members who are determined to have had close contact with the affected/child/staff member for 14 days after the last day they had contact with the affected/child/staff member
- Wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfecting to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets.
 - Open outside doors to increase air circulation in the area.
 - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the sick person, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, and remote controls.
 - If more than 7 days since the sick person visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary. –
 - Continue routine cleaning and disinfection
 - When cleaning
 - Wear disposable gloves for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.
 - Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash.
 - Gloves should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.-Always wash immediately after removing gloves and after contact with a sick person.

Dismiss students and most staff for 2-5 days

This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the local health officials to help the school determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.

- Local health officials' recommendations for the scope (e.g., a single school, multiple schools, the full district) and duration of school dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis using the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the specific cases in the community.
- During school dismissals, also cancel extracurricular group activities, school-based afterschool programs, and large events (e.g., assemblies, spirit nights, field trips, and sporting events).
- Discourage staff, students, and their families from gathering or socializing anywhere. Health Screening of Children/Staff

All children and staff are required to be screened for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress, and to confirm temperature below 100 degrees

Child

- Perform hand hygiene
- Staff will wear a mask and gloves while checking child's temperature
- Check each child's temperature upon arrival. Currently, a fever is considered 100.4 degrees
- Thermometer must be disinfected and after use of checking children's temperature
- Staff can protect themselves by wearing an over-large button-down, long sleeved shirt and by wearing long hair up off the collar in a ponytail or other updo.
- Staff should wash their hands, neck, and anywhere touched by a child's secretions.
- Staff should change the child's clothes if secretions are on the child's clothes. They should change the button-down shirt, if there are secretions on it, and wash their hands again.
- Contaminated clothes should be placed in a plastic bag or washed in a washing machine. Infants, toddlers, and their providers should have multiple changes of clothes on hand in the child care center.
- Show the temperature to the parent, and have the parent write in the correct column the child's temperature.
- Staff should sign off on Student/Staff Arrival Questionnaire.

Staff member

- Staff should expect to arrive at least 5-10 minutes early than their scheduled shift
- Staff should use Precious Lambs thermometer, depending on supply and demand issues
- Staff should answers the questions on Student/Staff Questionnaire, record their temperature, and document the temperature reading
- Return thermometer to staff assigned area

During the day- prevention of Covid-19

Arrival of children

- The same parent or designated person should drop off and pick up the child every day
- If possible, older people such as grandparents or those with serious underlying medical conditions should not pick up children, because they are more at risk for [severe illness from COVID-19](#)
- Each family will to complete questionnaire in binder while using gloves. The binder is located outside the entrance into the school [in the foyer area]]. Once completed pen will be sprayed down with bleach and water after family uses it.
- Parents should use the Hand hygiene station set up at the entrance of the facility, once they remove gloves and complete the questionnaire. Children will have their hands washed in the bathrooms prior to going into their respective classrooms.
- Check each child's temperature upon arrival. Currently, as of 6/8/20, a fever is considered 100.4 degrees. Families also need to complete a daily summary of child's exposure to COVID-19, and if child has any of the identified symptoms set by the CDC guidance, the child should will be permitted to attend.
 - There are several methods that staff can use to protect themselves while conducting temperature screenings. The most protective methods incorporate social distancing (maintaining a distance of 6 feet from others) or physical barriers to eliminate or minimize exposures due to close contact to a child who has symptoms during screening.

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- Staff will help child remove coats, sweaters/jackets and get hands washed
- Staff will take child's lunch from family
- Assure that the family has completed the sign in/check in sheet

Arrival of Staff

- Bring in to the center as little as you possibly will need for the day.
- Staff must wear a mask all day excluding meal times and/or break time
- Place your items down and wash hands
- Take temperature and have another staff person or designee witness
- Put other items away
- Sign in
- Wash hands and put on your mask
- Put on your "center shoes"

Departure of children

- Currently there is staggered pick up, if enrollment increases and staggered pick up cannot be practiced, Precious Lambs will practice the Call practice
 - Upon arrival into the driveway and parking area, the family will phone the center of their arrival
 - The staff member will gather the child's things
 - The staff member will have child wash his/her hands
 - Staff member will take child, belongings, and clipboard to the family who will complete the pickup.

Departure of Staff

Once all children have departed and center is cleaned

- Use a glove to remove any more garbage to the dumpster
- Wash hands
- Take off "center shoes"
- Take all belongings home
- Complete Closing COVID Checklist

Various times of the day

- All children's blankets, slippers or inside shoes, extra clothes are to stay at the center to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 from home to school
- Keep classroom size as small as possible. Current OEC/Covid-19 recommendations as of 6/2/20 is no more than 10 children per classroom
- At nap time, ensure that children's cots (or cribs) are spaced out as much as possible, ideally 6 feet apart. Continue to practice head to toe in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.
- Children's books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered as a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures. We do encourage a light spray down of bleach throughout the day
- Break room will have a bleach spray bottle for staff to use before and after use of table if employee needs to eat lunch.
- Use of cloth face covering for each staff person at all times while in the workplace is mandatory. Instructions for use of cloth face covering are available from the CDC.
 - Exemptions to anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition

- A child in a child care setting
- Under the age of 2

Midday cleaning

- Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then, use disinfectant.
- Recommend use of Bleach Water Solution.
Follow the instructions on Exhibit ____ of our Health Care Plan effective use of the solution.
- Keeping surface wet for a period of time two minutes
- Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

Soft surface Cleaning

For soft surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes

- Clean the surface using soap and water or with cleaners appropriate for use on these surfaces.
- Launder items (if possible) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely or
- Disinfect with Bleach/water disinfectant. This disinfectants meets criteria for use against COVID-19.

Electronics

For electronics, such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, and remote controls

- Consider putting a wipeable cover on electronics.
- Follow manufacturer's instruction for cleaning and disinfecting.
- If no guidance, use alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol. Dry surface thoroughly.

Clean and Sanitize Toys

Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used.

- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions should be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. Clean with water and detergent, rinse, sanitize with bleach water disinfectant, rinse again, and air-dry.
- Be mindful of items more likely to be placed in a child's mouth, like play food, dishes, and utensils.
- Do not share toys with other groups of infants or toddlers, unless they are washed and sanitized before being moved from one group to the other.
- Set aside toys that need to be cleaned. Place in a bin or put in a separate container marked for "soiled toys." Keep bin out of reach from children. Washing with soapy water is the ideal method for cleaning. Try to have enough toys so that the toys can be rotated through cleanings.
- Children's books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.

Washing, Feeding, or Holding a Child

It is important to comfort crying, sad, and/or anxious infants and toddlers, and they often need to be held. To the extent possible, when washing, feeding, or holding very young children.

- Staff can protect themselves by wearing an over-large button-down, long sleeved shirt and by wearing long hair up off the collar in a ponytail or other updo.
- Staff should wash their hands, neck, and anywhere touched by a child's secretions.
- Staff should change the child's clothes if secretions are on the child's clothes. They should change the button-down shirt, if there are secretions on it, and wash their hands again.
- Contaminated clothes should be placed in a plastic bag or washed in a washing machine.
- Infants, toddlers, and staff should have multiple changes of clothes on hand in the child care center or home-based child care.
- Staff should wash their hands before and after handling infant bottles prepared at home or prepared in the facility. Bottles, bottle caps, nipples, and other equipment used for bottle-feeding should be thoroughly cleaned after each use by washing in a dishwasher or by washing with a bottlebrush, soap, and water at home.

Group Size

Group size during the Covid-19 Pandemic is to limit no more than 10 children in once classroom.

Hand washing

All children, staff, and volunteers should engage in hand hygiene at the following times

- Arrival to the facility and after breaks
- Before and after preparing food or drinks
- Before and after eating or handling food, or feeding children
- Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
- After diapering
- After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- After handling animals or cleaning up animal waste
- After playing outdoors or in sand
- After handling garbage
- After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After using the restroom
- Before coming in contact with any child
- After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated
- After using shared equipment like toys, computer keyboards, mouse, scissors, pens. etc
- All staff and children must adhere to regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - Turn water on and wet hands, remove from water
 - Add soap to hands and create friction to make bubbles
 - Scrub for 20 seconds, sing Happy Birthday or This is how we wash our hands
 - Rinse hands under running water
 - Dry hands with single use paper towels
 - Turn off faucet with paper towels

Alcohol based sanitizers

Use of an alcohol based hand sanitizer should only be practiced when soap and water method is not available. If a child needs to use alcohol based sanitizer, an adult/staff member must be physically present to observe and guide child in proper use.

Respiratory Hygiene

- All staff should cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow
- Encourage children when appropriate to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow
- Dispose of soiled tissues immediately after use

Eliminating transmission points

- Reduce common touch points by opening internal doors where possible.
- Frequent cleaning of all touch points.
- The wiping down of commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks, other work tools and equipment) should be done daily and throughout the day.
- Staff should not share phones, desks, or other work tools and equipment, when possible. If shared, clean and disinfect equipment before and after use.
- Employees should clean their personal workspace at the beginning and the end of every shift.
- If a sick employee is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, follow the CDC cleaning and disinfection recommendations.

Essential functions and reliance that the community may need us for our services

- Precious Lambs is prepared to change our business practice to maintain critical operations this may include enrolling on a temporary basis children of various ages of essential personal
- Precious Lambs will identify alternate supply chains for critical goods and services. Some good and services may be in higher demand or unavailable.
 - Currently, the best defense to Covid-19 is hand washing therefore, using gloves all day everyday could become the false security therefore gloved hands will be reserve for the following times
 - Universal Precautions
 - Diaper changing
 - Nose blowing
 - Garbage removal
- The Director or her designee will communicate often with companies including fire and safety about sick employees of their companies staying home.
 - Precious Lambs procedure for these persons to enter the building
 - Visitors conducting business must wear a mask
 - Director or her designee will take visitors temperature
 - The visitor will complete a questionnaire form

Center Family/Staff Communication Plan

- Communication is important for all center staff and families. Regular communication will continue through communication app and/or face to face from teachers.

How Precious Lambs will operate if absenteeism spikes amongst staff

While assuring that same staff person is to remain with the same children over the course of the day it is understandable that absenteeism may increase in employees, those who stay home to care for sick family members, and those who must stay home to watch their children if dismissed from [childcare programs and K-12 schools](#).

- Precious Lambs will plan to monitor and respond to absenteeism at the workplace to provide consistency for families and children
- Implement plans to continue essential business functions in case you experience higher than usual absenteeism.
- Prepare to institute flexible workplace and leave policies.
- Cross-train staff to perform essential functions so the workplace can operate even if key employees are absent.

Tuition/Reduced work

- At this time, if parents are choosing to keep their children home, we understand and support that choice. In order to keep your children's teachers employed and continue operating while continuing to offer a quality experience for children and families we must continue to charge tuition based on enrollment. Parents could also choose to withdraw their child from our program and attempt to re-register, paying a registration fee when they are ready to re-enroll in order to avoid weekly charges, however, this may put your child's spot at risk. If a parent is out of work, or would struggle to make these payments, due to COVID-19 reasons, but want to keep their child's spot secured, you are encouraged to see the Director so that payment arrangements can be made.

PROGRAMMING

- Effectively immediately, federal mandates are implemented to maintain enrollment numbers to 10 persons per room, including staff and to encourage social distancing. In order to promote this Precious Lambs will no longer be facilitating Circle Time Activities in class for the children. We will encourage small group activities and designate space in the classroom for individual open play throughout our day. We will also teach children about physical boundaries and personal boundaries. Children will also be spread out within the classroom and their furniture will be set up so that they can still see their friends, but will be encouraged to remain in their center of choice.
- We will plan activities that do not require close physical contact between the children.
- Refrain from activities that promote touching or closeness (such as circle time, hand-holding, etc.
- Set up individual play activity stations, i.e., art, puzzles and reading.
- Increase the distance between children during table work.
- Limit item sharing, and if items are being shared, remind children not to touch their faces and wash their hands after the items use.
- Limit shared teach materials to those that can be easily cleaned and disinfected at the end of the day or more often as needed.
- Playdough will be limited to individualized contained labeled with the children's names.
- Precious Lambs will ensure that children's naptime cots (or cribs) are spaced out as much as possible. We will place children head to toe in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.
- If you use non-contact thermometers, clean them with an alcohol wipe (or isopropyl alcohol on a cotton swab) between each client. You can reuse the same wipe as long as it remains wet.
- Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness, and confirm that the child is not experiencing coughing or shortness of breath

Staff/Student Arrival Health Questionnaire

Please help us to protect your children and others by completing this form regarding symptoms of COVID-19 immediately upon entry to Precious Lambs. Temperatures will be checked upon arrival, and at midday.

If your child has any symptoms on this form, we cannot allow your child/family to enter until your symptoms have resolved.

If you, a member family living with your child, or your child has traveled outside the state of New York please notify us for additional guidance

Date	Drop off Time & Parent/Staff Signature/ Witness	Close contact with person diagnosed Covid-19 (Y/N)	Cough/Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing/ Chills/ Repeated shaking with chills/Muscle pain Headache/ Sore throat/ New loss of taste or smell (Y/N)	Fever 100 or greater Checked at arrival, midday, departure (Y/N)	Pick Up Time & Parent/Staff Signature

Acceptance of new procedures for children/families/staff Precious Lambs, Inc. Early Learning & Child Care Center

Anyone who is using the center must read, sign, agree and follow the policy and procedures in order to be participating in Precious Lambs programs.

I have read and fully understand Precious Lambs, Inc. Early Learning & child Care Center policy and procedures for Covid-19. I also understand that this document can be changed at any time with or without notice by the director or her designee.

I understand that the safety, health and the well-being of children, families, and staff rely on my due diligence to keep myself and family following Social Distancing rules set by the Governor at any given time.

Family/Staff Signature

Date