



Hello Families,

Here you will find our school's revised guidelines, which reflect the State of Vermont's reopening from the COVID crisis. Since children cannot be vaccinated, we must continue to be vigilant to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These guidelines have been created in alignment with the State of Vermont, Vermont Health Department (VTHD), Department of Children and Families (DCF), Agency of Education (AOE), World Health Organization (WHO), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As more information becomes available and/or as state/federal guidelines change, this policy may change as well, in which case we will notify you via email newsletter. *Please note:* Timson Hill Preschool = THP.

Shared Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of our entire community to protect the health of our students, staff, families, and greater community. The following is a mutual commitment to do our best to protect each other:

1. We trust that all families will also be forthcoming in reporting possible exposures to COVID-19, to help other families make choices that are right for them.
2. **Please do not send your children to school if they are showing signs of illness, or if a family member, someone who lives with the child, or other close regular contact has a fever, cough or sore throat.** Do not give a child fever-reducing medicine to reduce a fever and then send them to school. Parents must report if their child is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms to the school on the day the symptoms first appear, in order to help protect all other children and families. If a child becomes unwell at school, they will be isolated until picked up, which must happen as soon as possible. If you will be out of town or otherwise unable to pick up your child, communicate with your emergency contacts to identify who will pick your child up in an emergency.

All parents and staff are required to commit to our mutual responsibility to promote the health and well-being of our children, each other, and the community as a whole.

COVID-19 Policies:

1. Cleaning

Timson Hill Preschool has always provided a space for children to grow in an environment with staff who share a strong value for cleanliness. Staff will follow or exceed all state recommendations for cleaning. High touch surfaces, playground structures, toys and materials, and bathrooms will be disinfected as appropriate throughout the day. The building will be thoroughly deep cleaned weekly.

2. Safety Measures

Masks A clean face mask should be worn each day. Each child should bring a spare mask each day, or keep several spares in their cubby. Masks should be washed and dried after each use. Exceptions are made for students who are unable to wear masks for officially documented medical or developmental reasons such as an IEP.

Given both the low infection and high vaccination rates in our area, combined with the fact that young children cannot be vaccinated, and that every family is adjusting to changing guidelines based on their own comfort levels, our policy is updated for the summer as follows:

Indoors: All students and adults **must** wear cloth face masks when indoors, except during meals and naps (while distanced). *Masks are not optional indoors for anyone, regardless of vaccination status or personal preference.*

Outdoors: Masks are *no longer required* outdoors for children, except when distance is not possible. Children will keep their masks on a school-provided, child-sized breakaway lanyard around their neck when outside, so it is easy for them to put masks on if they are in a crowded area, need personal adult attention (e.g. a band-aid) or if they need to go inside suddenly. Alternatively, parents may choose to have their child keep their mask on the lanyard in their pocket at all times (in which case, parents must ensure their child always wears clothes with pockets), although wearing the lanyard is preferred for ease of use.

Any family that prefers their child remain masked outdoors should communicate this to the school in writing. The teachers will ensure those children remain masked outdoors, in accordance with their parents' wishes.

Vaccinated teachers may remove masks outside but will continue to wear them inside. *Unvaccinated adults must continue to mask at all times, including outdoors, without exception.*

Drop Off/Pick Up: Parents and children should continue to wear masks at drop-off, regardless of vaccination status and indoor/outdoor location, to ensure a smooth morning transition. Teachers will decide when it is time for children to remove masks based on the flow of drop-offs and activities planned for the morning.

Parents should wear masks at pick-up, regardless of vaccination status, due to the high likelihood of going inside and the potential for multiple families picking up at once.

Handwashing Any person entering or leaving our building is required to wash hands for a minimum of 20 seconds. There will be an increase in the amount of times students and staff must wash hands beyond what is already outlined in our original policy and that will include before and after using classroom materials. Please work with your child at home on proper hand-washing technique and help to reinforce this habit.

Outdoor Classroom Children at THP spend as much time as possible outside each day. Please be sure to dress your child accordingly and pack additional layers.

Sick Policy Addendum If the child, a family member, someone who lives with the child, or other close regular contact has a fever, cough or sore throat, please stay home. Timson Hill Preschool reserves the right to isolate and send home a child exhibiting any sign of illness and parents must be able to pick a child up immediately. Students with a temperature greater than 100.4 F must be sent home until they have had no fever for a minimum of 48 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (e.g., Advil, Tylenol). Families must indicate their arrival time for such an occurrence; if the child cannot be picked up within 45 minutes, a back-up person must pick up the child. If you will be more than 45 minutes away from the school, it is essential that you establish in advance who will pick your child up in this circumstance, so the 45 minute timeframe is met. This guideline is specific to our Covid-19 response and is in addition to the sick policy found in the Timson Hill Preschool Handbook.

3. **Visitors**

Timson Hill Preschool has temporarily canceled in-person special presenters to limit social contact to other communities and avoid additional non-essential social events or activities. District staff will continue to serve students at THP.

4. **Communication**

Timson Hill Preschool provides a weekly newsletter that discusses programming, activities and discoveries made through the week (be sure to add us to your contact list to make sure we don't go to spam). Please be sure to read all Timson Hill Preschool emails for updates on changing policies or potential closures. Photos are uploaded onto our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages regularly to give you a glimpse into your child's day.

Absences Any children who do not arrive at school and have not previously communicated an absence will receive a phone call from a staff member to inquire as to the reason for the child not attending school, and determine whether or not the child is showing COVID-19 symptoms. If the child is symptomatic, we will call the VT DH and the AOE and follow their direction. They are working directly with schools to determine on a case-by-case basis if the school needs to close for quarantining. In such a case, we would move to Remote Learning.

Exposures THP will communicate with our community regarding exposures via email. In turn, families are expected to communicate with THP regarding exposures (your information will be anonymous). More detail on what THP can and cannot share in point # 9, below.

5. **Supplies from Home**

In addition to the supplies listed in the handbook:

- Please pack 2 clean masks for your child every day, in case one becomes wet or dirty. Masks must be washed before being reused, using hot water and soap. These can be stored in their cubby.
- All children must have an extra change of clothes at all times. Clothes will be changed if they have any body fluids on them, including saliva. Warm layers and appropriate outerwear are essential.
- For children staying after lunch, please pack bedding that can be machine washed. Bedding must be washed weekly/over the weekend, using hot water and soap.
- Wash and dry lunch boxes daily
- At this time, teachers will not be heating up food in the microwave. Please send food that can be eaten cold, or use a thermos.
- Water bottles may be left at school if needed and we will wash and sanitize daily.
- Families will now provide all food, including snacks. Typically, 2-3 healthy snacks each for the morning and afternoon will give your child a strong base for the busy day ahead, in addition to lunch. We recommend avoiding single-serving items that require the teacher to touch the packaging where it goes in the child's mouth, or the food itself, such as yogurt tubes and lunchables. Instead, try to choose packaging that opens without touching the food or the part that goes in the child's mouth, such as cheese sticks, a reusable squeeze container, or a regular single serving yogurt. Please be mindful of choosing healthy snacks that are low in sugar.

6. **Positive Cases**

Anyone awaiting COVID-19 test results for any member of their household must self-quarantine.

Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 must self-quarantine until all of the following are met:

- It's been 3 full days of no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medication (e.g. Advil, Tylenol)
- Other symptoms have improved
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
- Negative COVID-19 test

THP requires a negative COVID-19 test to return to school following exposure to a confirmed case. Alternatively, a family may choose to self-quarantine for a full 14 days following exposure; if no symptoms arise in 14 days, a COVID-19 test will not be necessary.

The VT Department of Health requires that we notify families of first degree contact with a positive COVID test result.

- We, THP, are defining "first degree contact" as a staff person, student, or anyone that resides with a staff person or student.
- In addition to the state guidelines, we will share the following information:
 - If a child's or staff member's family is quarantined at home because of symptoms, awaiting test results, or exposure to a confirmed case.

- If we are provided any information of a confirmed case that has had potential contact with a family, we will share that with our community in a manner that protects everyone's privacy, and update the community if additional information is provided.
- All communicated information will be anonymous. We will not disclose the name of the child, the name of the family, or the last day the child was at school.
- If a child or staff member in the program has a confirmed case, THP will contact the state and await their instructions. These instructions are on a case-by-case basis, depending on multiple factors.
- Important to note: some of our parents are essential workers who are at high risk of exposure.

7. **Tuition Credits**

In the event that THP must close for in-person learning for an extended period of time or for the remainder of the school year, and the State of Vermont is unable to provide tuition reimbursement and/or subsidy, we will offer tuition credits and/or prorated tuition payment terms for the remainder of the year.

Additional Information

- [Parent Resources Document](#)
- [THP Google Classroom](#)
 - Click on large plus symbol...select JOIN CLASS
 - enter code: edwflby

TIMSON HILL PRESCHOOL COVID-19 POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE

I/we commit to share our mutual responsibility to promote the health and well-being of our children, each other, and the community as a whole. I/we have read through Timson Hill Preschool's modified guidelines and policies outlined in this document and understand that they could update again as a result of state requirements, CDC recommendations, or other changes to the COVID-19 crisis.

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Parent 1 Signature: _____

Parent 2 Signature: _____