



Spuyten Duyvil

P R E S C H O O L

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Dear Families:

When I sat down to update last year's Community Commitment Letter as we came to call it, I was surprised to see that there is very little to change from what I sent last summer. We worked very hard then to consider all the most appropriate CDC, DOH, DECE guidelines and then design a program and schedule that kept all parties safe while providing your children the caring, personal and active learning environment you expect. We learned a lot by living through last year and have been able to add more details to this list knowing what implementation and enforcement was like. Overall though, This plan served us extremely well so with only slight clarifications we are following these protocols again.

SDP COMMUNITY COMMITMENT LETTER

As we prepare for our scheduled opening in September, we understand the decision of sending your child out into the world is a difficult one. We do not take for granted your trust in us to do our best to keep your children and our staff safe during these unprecedented times but we cannot do this without your help.

We would like to take this time to reiterate what you can expect from us. We would also like to ask you for a few things as well. As part of the Spuyten Duyvil community, and the local community, we are stronger when we work together. We would like to take this opportunity to ask for your commitment to help us have a safe and healthy school year.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US

As stated in previous communications, we will continue to follow all CDC and DOH guidelines and requirements for including, but not limited, to the following -

- Every staff member at Spuyten Duyvil is **required to be fully vaccinated** with documentation of this on file. Any DOE, DOH representative or service person will be required to show proof of vaccination as well before allowed to enter the premises.
- Face masks will be worn by all staff members and approved visitors to the building when they are with children, families, visitors and other staff members without exception
- Staff members will be aware of physical distance from families, visitors and other staff members and will keep children in small groups and have instruction conducted outdoors as much as possible
- Daily health checks, including temperature checks, will be conducted on children, staff members and official visitors upon entering the facility. Caregivers will be asked to initial their compliance with the health check daily when signing the child into school.
 - Note – If an individual presents a temperature of greater than 100.0°F, the individual will be denied entry to the school.
- Children will remain in their own class/group, i.e. during outdoor time, extra activities, early drop-off or late pick-up *as much as possible*. While indoors in their classrooms all children will be encouraged to wear face masks, as much as they are able. Consideration is given to children with special needs or wearing eyeglasses as this may interfere with vision and not always be compatible with the child's development or sensory comfort. Following

DOHMH directives, children are NOT to wear masks when playing outdoors, eating or sleeping.

- Regular cleaning of manipulatives and common spaces will occur throughout the day, including a mopping and wipe down of all bathrooms midday (outside of regular bathroom clean-up), and a heavy school cleaning at the end of each day
- COVID-19 testing of all staff members and students is required within 7 days before returning to school in Sept. and will be repeated during the school year after December, February and April school breaks. There are many free testing sites in every neighborhood. We have all had success using CityMD and Imperial Pharmacy on the corner of 231 & Corlear. This website can also assist.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page>

No child or staff member will be allowed into school on the 4 return dates, starting Sept. 9 without a negative test result

- Frequent hand washing will take place by staff members and children including upon arrival, after restroom use, before all meals and snacks and when changing activities and sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the school. Children are taught to use sanitizer throughout the day as they change activities.
- Classrooms are ventilated as much as possible including keeping fans running as needed, having placed air filters in every room and common space, lowering the thermostat in the winter and opening windows and doors completely when children are not in the rooms as weather allows. In addition, each classroom has a metal screen door inside of the door going to the outside, allowing for a continual input of fresh air while still maintaining student security.

Protocols for reporting positive COVID cases were very clear last year and will be followed again. That is, when we are notified of a positive case within any family/household I call it into the Dept of Ed Hotline where contact tracing begins. If there has been direct exposure within the school, the affected group may be quarantined. I notify those families directly. We had several isolated instances last year; the whole school was never closed which we are very grateful for.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING OF OUR FAMILIES

While the staff at Spuyten Duyvil can do our best to maintain a clean and safe environment, a lot of the success of this upcoming school year again depends more on what happens off school premises. While we cannot dictate any particular lifestyle for our families, we would strongly encourage all families to follow the recommended CDC safety guidelines related to COVID-19 to keep our children and our staff safe. The commitment from our families and staff to follow these guidelines will help us maintain the health and safety of our community and more importantly, will clearly show that we all care about the well-being of one another. These guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following –

- While we cannot mandate vaccination for all our families, we strongly urge everyone to take advantage of this life-saving intervention. Until this becomes an accepted mandate for all members of society, we will all be forced to maintain the conservative restrictions we put in place last year.
- All parents, caregivers and other family members are required to wear a face mask (covering your mouth and nose) during drop-off, pick-up and any other time while on school premises
- NYC and state guidelines continue to adapt to latest best practice, but we ask that caregivers *and children* continue to wear a face mask or face covering in public when social distancing is not possible, especially on public transportation, in stores and on crowded sidewalks
- Limit travel where possible, especially to any state that is considered at-risk, but if you must travel, please follow all travel guidelines at that time. Knowing that families do travel at holiday times we are requiring all children and staff to return after school breaks with a current negative COVID-19 test.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick and keep your children home if they are sick; this is always best practice to avoid any contagious illness including the common cold.
 - We ask that you inform the school of the following -

- If anyone in your immediate household has come in contact with anyone that is currently positive for COVID-19
- If anyone in your immediate household is being tested for COVID-19
- If informed, the school will maintain confidentiality as required

Our hope is that all families will commit to following the above guidelines and understand that every one of our individual efforts (or lack thereof) affects the community as a whole. Our priority is the health of our staff members, your little ones and our overall community and we hope that you will join us in our determination to have a safe and successful school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judi". The letters are fluid and connected, with a small dot above the 'i'.