

God's Garden desires to keep all of our Parents, students and staff as safe as possible during this Pandemic, yet balance the needs of children in a practical way. We have designed some specific protocols for infants and toddlers, keeping in mind their developmental needs. New Guidelines for Safe Child Care Operations During Covid-19 has been given, so these protocols have been updated. We will continue to monitor and adjust as new information is provided.

1. No outside visitors may enter God's Garden while we are in session. This means that parents of potential new students will be given a "virtual tour" instead of an on-site tour.
2. Limited numbers of people inside the door is best. Parents are asked to bring their child to the outside playground door, where their lead caregiver will greet them and discuss care needs. Please wait until it is your turn to drop off your child. This may take a few moments, so your patience is appreciated.
3. At the door, parents of infants will be asked to wipe their child's hands off with a provided wipe and throw the wipe away. Children who are old enough to wash at the sink will be helped to do so upon entry.
4. Fever is the Key indicator for young children. If a child's temperature is above 100.4 degrees, the child will be excluded from childcare and not allowed to stay. We shall use a non-touch thermo-scan to evaluate student temperatures as they arrive at the center.
5. The parent will also be asked a set of health questions about the family's current state of health and whether or not they have come in contact with anyone having the virus.

-Has your child been in close contact with a person who has COVID – 19?

If the answer is yes, the family should self-quarantine for 14 days.

-Has your child felt unwell in the last 3 days? (Persistent cough, temperature, difficulty breathing, cold, diarrhea and / or vomiting). If a staff member or child exhibits multiple symptoms of COVID-19, you suspect possible exposure, or an individual tests positive for COVID-19, the individual must stay home until:

They have been fever-free for 72 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fever
+AND other symptoms have improved -
+AND at least 10 days have passed since the symptoms first appeared.

Parents are asked to call the center and speak with Jeni Khon at 517.917.8782 or Karen Williams at 517.917.8783 before returning to the center, so that we can discuss your symptom free status before coming back.

6. Students who are admitted for the day will be asked to remove their "outside" shoes, and we shall place these in their cubbies. Clean slippers or crocs may be worn inside the center. Please be sure to label your child's name inside both shoes with magic marker.

7. Teachers will mark attendance on their room computers instead of asking parents to touch pens and paper to sign in or out.
8. Lead morning caregivers are not planning to wear masks during their time with your child. Very young children need to see their caregivers face to develop social skills and language skills – and under age 3 is a critical time for this development. However, parents are encouraged to wear masks as they drop off their children if they are able to.
9. To be as sterile as possible, we are no longer allowing cloth diapers. Disposable diapers only. Please continue to label all of your student's belongings as well as food items. This helps your caregiver keep your child's belongings safer.
10. Parents may call the center at 517-917-8782 to ask for their child to be brought to the door area with his/her things when it is time to go home.

COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan with Required Actions

Monitoring symptoms of COVID-19 (from the LARA Guidelines issued May 21, 2020)

Child care providers are required to check for COVID-19 symptoms when children and staff arrive. This will happen at the playground door. Staff will immediately screen at the door before entering the center. Parents will be asked to wait with their child at the door as the children are screened. A re-check is required if an individual appears sick or displays symptoms for COVID-19.

Children

- Fever is the key indicator for young children. If a child's temperature is above 100.4 degrees, the child should be excluded from care. Cough and/or diarrhea in addition to fever is suggestive of coronavirus.
- When children arrive, we will perform temperature checks with our scanner. Thermometers will be cleaned and disinfected between uses following the manufacturer's instructions.

Parents will be asked health related questions.

- **Has your child been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19?**
(If yes, the family should self-quarantine for 14 days.)

- **Has your child felt unwell in the last 3 days?** (persistent cough, temperature, difficulty breathing, cold, diarrhea and/or vomiting) We will visually check the child for signs of illness, including flushed cheeks, rapid or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.
- As young children are not reliable reporters of their symptoms, asking children about additional coronavirus symptoms is not useful (for example, shortness of breath, change in taste).
- Continue to monitor symptoms throughout the day and monitor temperatures when children appear ill or "not themselves."

- Children with a fever alone, or a fever with a cough and/or diarrhea should be isolated from the group and their parents contacted for prompt pick up. Their parents should contact their primary care physician/medical provider.

Staff

We will perform temperature checks daily when staff arrives. Thermometers will be cleaned and disinfected between uses, with alcohol or disinfectant. Staff will screen for cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, change in smell or taste, and diarrhea. Staff arriving with fever above 100.4 or other symptoms will be sent home. Staff will report contact with anyone outside of work who has had a documented case of COVID-19. Staff will be instructed to self-quarantine if they have been exposed to COVID-19.

Because child care staff members are part of Michigan's essential workforce, they are eligible to be tested for COVID-19.

Social distancing, as developmentally appropriate

Our center has four different spaces for children: infants, waddlers, young toddlers, and older tots. We routinely join together in 1 space in the early mornings, and as more children arrive, we spend most of the day in separate classrooms, joining back together at the end of the day. While it is impossible to keep infants and toddlers 6 feet apart, we will endeavor to maintain as much social distancing as is possible and practical for this age group.

Hygiene (including regular cleaning and disinfecting)

Staff and students are instructed to wash their hands with soap under running water for 20 seconds. This should happen as students enter the classroom, and repeated often throughout the day as needed.

The staff will be following a detailed checklist for cleaning protocols throughout the day, and after students leave in the evening. We consistently use a 3 step method to wipe down changing tables and food surfaces. We will also implement a "rotating toy" bucket system so that toys can be cleaned and returned to the students to keep toys as clean as possible.

Safety equipment (including PPE, when appropriate)

The center will maintain the scanner for daily temperature checks along with disinfecting wipes. We will also have alcohol-based hand sanitizer, tissues, gloves and face masks available.

Staff will wear gloves when changing diapers, and will dispose of these gloves following every diaper change. Staff will be provided face coverings (masks) and may choose to wear these at the center. However, best practice suggests that very young children need to see their caregivers face to develop social skills and language skills – and under age 3 is a critical time for this development.

Communication protocol for families to report symptoms or a positive test

Families should tell Karen Williams about possible or confirmed cases of COVID-19. Families should report possible illness if anyone in their household shows symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19, including the child or family members if they or their children experience possible symptoms or have a positive test. The office number is 517.917.8783.

Policies on when children will be excluded from care.

Staff members and children should stay home and self-isolate if they show symptoms of COVID19. It can be challenging to determine when to isolate young children because they are ill more often than adults, and the cause of a fever is sometimes unknown.

If a staff member or child has a fever or a cough, providers should follow their child and staff illness policy. At this time, it is recommended that children be fever free for 72 hours before returning to care (even if other symptoms are not present).

If a staff member or child exhibits multiple symptoms of COVID-19, you suspect possible exposure, or an individual tests positive for COVID-19, the individual must stay home until:

- Has been fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers AND
- Other symptoms have improved AND
- At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

Most children and staff members can return to care/work based on improved symptoms and the passage of time. Local health departments may recommend that some individuals (for example, immune compromised individuals) receive two negative tests in a row, 24 hours apart.

Isolation procedure in case of symptoms or confirmed cases onsite.

In case an individual develops symptoms during care, they shall be moved to an isolated spot to wait for their parent/caregiver to arrive. If possible, this will be a separate room behind the center, and away from other children where the sick individual can wait until they are picked up.

Required staff to child ratios in the event that a staff member(s) becomes ill.

Alternate Staff members will be called in if a staff member becomes ill. Substitute Teachers, as well as the Executive Director and On Site Director will be on call. Our morning staff often fills in for the afternoon staff, and afternoon staff fills in for morning staff. God's Garden has an amazing team spirit and are excellent about helping out in this manner on a day by day basis.