



We are **HEROES**

- H**ygien e. We wash our hands and cover coughs and sneezes.
- E**mpower. We take precautions to protect ourselves and others.
- R**ecognize. We know the symptoms and stay home if we're sick.
- O**rganize. We work together to stay together to minimize exposure.
- E**mbrace. We follow these guidelines for the greater good.
- S**pace. We maintain social distance whenever possible.

LBM COVID-19 Guidelines

We are all understandably concerned about recent news related to COVID-19. The safety of children in our care is our highest priority. As a preschool we recognize that child health includes social, emotional and mental well-being. Providing a safe place for children to learn and grow together can be critically important to establishing a sense of comfort and normalcy.

Our **HEROES** campaign is designed to guide our approach to life at the preschool during COVID but also to encourage the entire LBM community to work together to mitigate community spread. We continue to carefully monitored the pandemic, and, in response, we will be implementing the following policies and procedures on our campuses. We will make sure our children are nurtured, loved, learning, and joyfully engaged in their preschool experience in this new reality.

Modified Campus Policies

Hygien e. We wash our hands and cover coughs and sneezes.

1. Children will wash hands upon arrival prior to class and throughout the day. We will educate children about how to cover their cough or sneeze.
2. We will work to follow CDC guidelines for cleaning and sanitizing toys and surfaces whenever possible.
3. Playground equipment will be cleaned between classroom visits.

Empower. We take precautions to protect ourselves and others.

4. Parents should check their children's temperature from home, prior to school, every day. We have a collective responsibility to protect one another. Please keep your child home if they are exhibiting shortness of breath or rapid breathing, cough, fever, lethargy, flushed cheeks, or other COVID-related symptoms.

Recognize. We know the symptoms and stay home if we're sick.

5. If a child shows signs of illness in the classroom, they will immediately be removed and isolated in a private area. Parents will be asked to pick their child up from school. A child who exhibits 2 or more symptoms on the COVID checklist will not be able to return to school without a doctor's note.
6. If a child in the classroom exhibits any of the symptoms related to COVID, the child will be sent home and all families of children in that class will be notified of the symptoms.
7. A child who tests positive for COVID will not be able to return to the classroom for 10 days.

Organize. We work together to stay together to minimize exposure.

8. Children will be placed in classrooms according to age and program.
9. We are working toward a cohorting policy on all campuses. Given a quickly evolving situation and staffing shortages, we will not be able to implement this policy immediately but we will attempt to prevent or limit all co-mingling of children wherever possible.
10. Curbside or gate service will be available where possible. Teachers will wear masks to collect students from your vehicle or meet you at the gate and walk children to their classroom. Parents will sign children in/out from their car or at the gate using a QR scanner. We encourage adults to wear mask at drop off and pick up.

Embrace. We follow these guidelines for the greater good.

11. Among the many lessons we have learned from COVID, the most enduring will be that we are all interconnected. We do not live in a bubble. What we do affects those around us. We are asking our community to embrace our mask policy, screen children for symptoms, and keep children home when they are sick. These simple measures will help us protect one another. Thank you for embracing these policies so we can keep our community safe.

Space. We maintain social distance whenever possible.

12. Adults will be allowed on campus if they are wearing masks. No parents will be allowed inside classrooms until further notice (except in case of emergency). We know this feels scary and it is contrary to all of our core values (community, collaboration, cooperation) but, the need to limit exposure is paramount. We will joyfully welcome parents back into classrooms as soon as it is safe to do so.
13. Playground times will be staggered to limit comingling of classrooms where possible.
14. Classroom parties and school events will be "children only." We will provide you with live streaming experiences, videos or lots of pictures so you can be part of all of these magical moments as much as possible
15. We will attempt to continue to provide enrichment and aftercare independent provider activities in cohorts but we reserve the right to re-evaluate this policy as the situation continues to evolve. Programs are scheduled to start in September. We will notify you if we decide to postpone.

We appreciate your support as we move forward together and embrace this new normal with patience, understanding and unity. Let's be our little **BIG** minds **HEROES!**

LBM COVID-19 FAQs

1. What is going to be different this school year?

- We will attempt to prevent or limit all co-mingling of children wherever possible. Due to staffing shortages, we cannot guarantee full cohorting initially but are working to achieve that end as quickly as possible. Please be patient as we work to respond to this quickly evolving situation.
- No parents will be allowed inside classroom until further notice (except in case of emergency).
- All arrivals and departures will be done at exterior doors or through curbside or gate drop-off/pick-up.
- Classroom parties will be “children only” until further notice.

2. Can I still visit my child’s classroom?

Parents will not be allowed inside classrooms except in case of emergency. Child safety is of paramount importance and one of the best ways we can limit unnecessary exposure is to limit the number of adults on campus. Throughout our history, we have celebrated our Open Door policy and we have invited and encouraged parent participation and involvement on our campuses. We can’t wait to welcome you back to our classrooms. Until then, thank you for your understanding as we work together to protect one another.

3. What kind of cleaning measures are being implemented?

Classroom surfaces, furniture and toys will be cleaned daily. We are using guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting set forth by the Center for Disease Control and approved by the Arizona Department of Health Services.

4. What new expectations are there of me as a parent with regard to COVID?

You can help us by embracing the **HEROES** guidelines attached here.

- Take your children’s temperature daily,
- Work with your children to teach and reinforce proper hygiene at home,
- Maintain social distance at arrival and departure times,
- Avoid gathering in groups outside of school,
- Model mask wearing and encourage children to wear masks in all public places, and
- Keep your children home if they are sick.



5. Will children or teachers be wearing masks?

Teachers will wear masks indoors at all times. Children are **STRONGLY** encouraged to wear masks indoors as well. Please note that enforcing mask use in the classroom for extended periods of time will be difficult. We will encourage children to wear masks and model mask-wearing but we will not force a child to do so. We will focus instead on regular handwashing, encouraging children to keep their hands away from their mouths and eyes and disinfecting shared toys and surfaces regularly.

6. How is drop-off and pickup handled this year?

Due to restricted parent access, arrivals and departures will be handled through curbside / gate service or outside classroom doors. Parents should be masked at all times on campus.

7. Will my child’s temperature be taken each day?

We are asking parents to conduct daily health screenings prior to sending their child to school. Using the “LBM Daily Health Screening” (below), parents should check for any change in symptoms. If a child exhibits any of the listed symptoms they should not be sent to school. Combatting this illness and preventing its spread is all of our responsibilities. Parents will be asked to acknowledge that they have successfully completed the symptom check when they sign their child in each day.

8. What symptoms require that I pick up my child?

• Fever/Chills/Sweats	• Body Aches
• Cough	• Loss of Taste and/or Smell
• Shortness of Breath or Rapid Breathing	• Diarrhea
• Fatigue / Lethargy	• Nausea
• Nasal Congestion/Runny Nose	• Vomiting

Children who are sent home from school with two or more of the above symptoms must provide a doctor’s note to confirm the symptoms are not related to COVID prior to their return to school. If a child presents with a fever, they must stay home for a minimum of 72 hours for ongoing monitoring and they must present a doctor’s note to return to school.

9. What happens if a child or teacher tests positive for COVID?

The person who tests positive must stay home for 10 days from initial presentation of symptoms.

Children and teachers in the affected classroom will be quarantined for 7 days and must provide proof of a negative COVID test to return to class. (Note: Test must be performed no earlier than day 5). If you choose not to provide proof of negative COVID test, you must quarantine for the full 10-day period to ensure absence of symptoms. Note: Children and teachers who practice correct and consistent use of masks in the classroom will be exempted from quarantine due to classroom exposure.

Important: We will not refund tuition for short term closures or absence due to illness, quarantine, vacation or any other reason.

10. What if someone in my household has tested positive?

To stop the spread, we will require children with family members or members of their household who have tested positive to stay home for 7 days and provide proof of a negative COVID test to return to class. (Note: Test must be performed no earlier than day

5). If you choose not to provide proof of negative COVID test(s), the child/teacher must quarantine for the full 10-day period to ensure absence of symptoms.

11. Under what circumstances do I need to provide a doctor's note for my child to return to school?

- During this time of heightened concern, please understand that we will err on the side of caution. We are tasked with protecting all of the children in our care. If a child is exhibiting symptoms, we will ask their parent to pick them up.
- If a child presents with two or more persistent symptoms that align with COVID, a doctor's note will be required prior to their return to class. For example, if a child has shortness of breath and a runny nose related to allergies, a doctor's note would confirm that the symptoms are not related to COVID. If your child has any of the above symptoms and you are confident they are not related to COVID, please be proactive and seek a doctor's note in advance.
- If a child tests positive for COVID they must stay home for 10 days or provide proof of negative test (see #9).
- If a child has a fever, they must stay home for 72 hours and provide a doctor's note to return to school.

12. How will LBM track and trace COVID exposure and transmission?

As a childcare provider licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services we are always required to report communicable diseases to the local health agency through the Communicable Diseases Outbreak Report.

13. What are the common areas and how often will they be sanitized?

Playgrounds and restrooms are the only common areas. High-touch surfaces will be sprayed with DHS-approved disinfectant after each class use and before the next class enters the playground or restroom area.

14. What happens if school is closed for an extended period of time by Arizona mandate?

If we are forced to close campuses at any time due to government mandate or force majeure, we will follow the financial policy set forth in our Parent Handbook which states that we will not refund current month tuition but future charges will be halted until the school can re-open.

15. Will all parents be notified of a positive COVID result in any of the classrooms?

All parents will be notified of a positive COVID result on campus. Please understand that due to privacy laws, we cannot disclose ANY individually identifiable information about the affected person (even whether the affected person is a child or an adult).

IMPORTANT:

The decision to return to school is highly personal and should be made by each family based on the child's present health, the risk of infection and the presence of any vulnerable individuals within their household. Sending your child to school is voluntary. Little Big Minds will take appropriate precautions whenever possible, but there are inherent risks of exposure in all school environments. By sending your child to school, you acknowledge the risks and agree to hold harmless, Little Big Minds, its representatives, or members of its community.

LBM Daily Health Screening

As LBM Health **HEROES**, we are asking all parents to check their child for any change in symptoms daily. Temperature checks alone are not an accurate predictor of COVID, especially in children. This list, provided by the CDC, is a better predictor of early symptoms.



Please post in a conspicuous location and check your child for symptoms every day before you bring your child to school.

COVID Symptom Checker

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher or chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle aches
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Change in congestion or runny nose
- Cough
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell
- Household exposure to COVID



If your child exhibits ANY of these symptoms, s/he should not come to school. If any of these symptoms appear during the school day, your child will be sent to the office and you will be called for immediate pickup.

Thank you for helping us keep our community safe and healthy!

HEALTH POLICY



We are all understandably concerned about recent news related to COVID-19. The safety of children in our care is our highest priority. As a preschool, we recognize that child health includes social, emotional, and mental well-being. Providing a safe place for children to learn and grow together can be critically important to establishing a sense of comfort and normalcy.

Please review the following Sick Child/Health Policy and strictly adhere to the guidelines presented here. If your child feels sick, please keep them home. For the health and safety of all of our children, symptoms that would exclude a child from care include:

- Fever of more than 100°.
- Unexplained rash or sores. (children may return to school with a written notice form a doctor)
- Discharge from eyes, ears or nose (especially green-colored phlegm). (children may return to school with a written notice form a doctor)
- Vomiting or Diarrhea.
- Productive cough or dry cough lasting more than one week without doctor attention.
- Any illness or injury that keeps a child from participating in regular activity.
- Two or more COVID-related symptoms (muscle aches, sore throat, fatigue, headache, cough, runny nose, shortness of breath, fever/chills, loss of taste/smell, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting)

From time-to-time our children are unavoidably exposed to contagious illness. If that happens, we alert parents through Health Notices. These notices outline school policy and individual prevention measures with regard to specific illnesses and will be posted in the office, and outside the classroom.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Given ongoing COVID concerns, we will err on the side of caution. Children/teacher may not return to school until they have been FEVER-FREE for at least 72 hours. Children/teacher with a fever and/or two or more COVID-related symptoms must also provide a doctor's note or a negative COVID test in order to return to school.

COVID: A child or adult who tests positive for COVID will be subject to quarantine for 10 days from start of symptoms and may return to school after 7 days with a negative COVID test.

Confirmed classroom exposures will result in a 7-day classroom closure. The affected child/teacher must quarantine for 10 days from initial presentation of symptoms. Everyone (children and unvaccinated teachers) in the affected classroom will be quarantined for 7 days and must provide proof of a negative COVID test to return to class. (Note: Test must be performed no earlier than day 5). If you choose not to provide proof of negative COVID test, you must quarantine for the full 10-day period to ensure absence of symptoms. The same policy will apply for household exposures. Note: Children and teachers who practice correct and consistent use of masks in the classroom will be exempted from the quarantine due to classroom exposure.

Disclaimer: The decision to send your child to school is highly personal and should be made by each family based on the child's present health, the risk of infection, and the presence of any vulnerable individuals within their household. Sending your child to school is voluntary.

Little Big Minds will take appropriate precautions whenever possible but there are inherent risks of exposure in all school environments. If you or your child have underlying health risks, please consult a doctor. By sending

your child to school, you acknowledge the risks and agree to hold harmless, Little Big Minds, its representatives, or members of its community.