



Prairie Flower Children's Center

COVID-19 Guidance for Reopening for the 2021-22 School Year

Community Policies for Families, Children and Employees

Prairie Flower Children's Center is a licensed child care center. The Iowa Department of Human Services has provided all licensed child care centers and preschools with guidance on how to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prairie Flower will follow DHS guidelines and updates to reopen safely for the 2021-2022 school year. We will also stay informed of recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

As the COVID-19 pandemic situation continues to evolve, we will regularly evaluate our protocols and update them as needed.

The following procedures are specific to Prairie Flower:

Pick-Up and Drop-Off

- 1). All parents, caregivers and family members who are dropping off or picking up are required to wear masks if they are coming inside. Children should be dropped off at the door to the red cabin or at the outside greeting area. Families should limit their time inside the cabin as much as possible; families should not go inside the cabin if possible.
- 2). A family member who is self-quarantined due to close contact with a COVID-19-positive individual, or an individual exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 (see symptom list below), should not drop off or pick up children. Whenever possible, the same family member should perform pick-up and drop-off.

Note: If you've been exposed to COVID-19, or think you might have been, here is a [helpful infographic](#) that highlights what actions to take.

3). Families will be responsible for performing a wellness check on their child each day before dropping off to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. These symptoms may include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Please note: People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms. Learn more at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html).

Masks

All persons, including all staff and children over the age of 2, will be required to wear face coverings when inside the building. Masks will not be worn when eating or at rest time. We will have designated mask break areas inside the cabin, and masks will not be required when we are outside.

Handwashing

We will practice frequent handwashing. Children and staff will wash or sanitize hands upon arrival, before departure, before and after every activity and at every transition. We have a lovely song we sing that teaches children effective handwashing.

Group Size

We have decided to lower the total number of children in preschool and afterschool programming this year to ensure adequate distancing can be achieved inside the facility. We will also limit the total number of people in the cabin during events and other Prairie Flower community activities. We will give additional guidance at every PFCC event or activity at which people gather.

Daily & Weekly Cleaning

All door knobs, toilet flushes, faucets handles and other frequently touched places will be cleaned or sanitized daily. The children will still help with dishwashing, but we have a new dishwasher that we will use daily to wash all used dishes. We will do a deep cleaning of the indoor space each week.

Staff Requirements

All Prairie Flower employees are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 with the Johnson & Johnson, Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. All staff will model the same masking, cleaning, and handwashing guidelines written above.

Curriculum Addendums for Preschool:

As possible, we will try to do most things outside this year. When we get to the cold months, we will adjust accordingly.

1). Circle Time, Singing and Movement

We will create a circle time area in our outdoor space, and each child will have their own special designated "nest", which they will be able to decorate with special items from nature.

Our ample outdoor space will enable us to do our circle time--sing songs, recite poems, do fingerplays, engage in creative movement-- without masks on.

2). Story Time and Other Group Activities

As often as possible, story time and other group activities like painting and crafting will take place outside. We can use the picnic shelter near the cabin, the circle time area we create, or the Story Nook (in the woods) to tell stories.

3). Outside Play and Activities

Children will be able to play and participate in activities outside without masks on. However, children will be taught the concept of a breath circle and will be asked to put masks on when playing within each other's breath circles. This concept will be repeated every day multiple times, so it will become second nature for the children.

4). Food Prep and Snack Time (Family Style)

Children will be able to help prepare foods that are cooked afterwards, like soup vegetables, bread dough and pizza dough. Foods that are eaten raw will be prepared by teachers only. Teachers will serve the food instead of passing it around the table family-style. Children will have a designated spot where they sit every day at the snack table.

5). Rest Time in the Afternoon

Children will have designated rest areas that will be spaced out around the cabin, and will be the same each day. Children will wear masks when they leave their rest area.

6). Children's Items at Prairie Flower

Each child's hand towels and cloth napkins -- plus their blanket and pillow if they attend River Song extended afternoons -- will be sent home with parents at the end of your child's school week to be laundered and will need to come back with them at the beginning of their school week.

Children should bring their own clean water bottle each day and take it home each night to be cleaned. We will store children's extra items so they are not touching items belonging to other children. Children will not be able to store bulky things at Prairie Flower.

7). Toys and Inside Work and Play

Toys and materials will be limited. Extra precautions will be taken to clean all toys, art-making and crafting tools and other special sensory activity items. Activities will be set up so children can have plenty of space to work.