



## Pre-K Family Frequently Asked Questions

### ◆ How is the UWG Pre-K preparing for opening the program during the COVID-19 pandemic?

A current health and safety protocol for the UWG Pre-K has been developed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines in the protocol are consistent with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Bright from the Start. Additional health and safety measures that are recommended by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) were also considered. The original recommendations can be found at:

- Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) Guidance for Child Care Settings: <http://www.dec.state.ga.us/documents/attachments/COVID-19ChildCareProgramsChecklistGuidance5292020.pdf>
- Childcare, Schools, and Youth Settings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>
- Coping with COVID: <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/covid-19>

### ◆ How do I know if my child is too sick for school?

Any time your child runs a fever (a reading of 100.4 or higher) or demonstrates illness, they should not come to school. Symptoms of illness include flushed cheeks, extreme fussiness, chills, achiness, headache, and not eating/drinking. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, respiratory symptoms, or any two (2) of the following: chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat. In the event that your child a) shows signs of illness of any kind, b) tests positive for COVID-19 or, c) has been exposed to someone who has tested positive or shown signs of COVID-19, they should not come to school.

### ◆ When can my child return to school?

Your child can return to school when they have been without a fever for three (3) days, and their symptoms have improved. If they tested positive for COVID-19, this must be accompanied by two (2) negative tests for COVID-19, at least 24 hours apart. You should notify the Pre-K as soon as possible if your child will not be attending school and any positive COVID-19 test should be reported immediately.

### ◆ How do I drop my child off at school?

Drop off begins at 7:40 a.m. Monday through Friday. A vehicle drop off line will form at the front entrance. Please pull to the side of any road so you do not impede traffic. Someone will greet your child at the vehicle. Temperatures will be taken *before* a child exits the vehicle. With no fever and no report of illness from the designated drop off person, the child will be removed from the vehicle and walked to the front entrance to go to their class. Please help us keep drop off procedures and screening protocols as quick as possible. Any lengthy updates or concerns/needs can be provided through a signed note, phone, or email. If you drop your child off late (after 8:00 a.m.), you must park and walk them to the front desk for sign in procedures.

### ◆ How do I pick my child up from school?

Pick up is scheduled for 2:35 p.m. Monday through Friday. A vehicle pick up line will form at the front entrance. Please pull to the side of any road so as not to impede traffic.

Someone will bring the child to your car. Ideally, the same person should be designated for both drop off and pick up of your child every day and all cars must display a pick-up sign in the front window, which will be provided to you prior to the school year. Children will not be released to anyone without prior approval. Please help us keep pick up procedures as quick as possible. If you pick up your child late, you will be charged a fee. If you pick your child up early, you must park and come to the front desk for sign out procedures.

◆ **Do I need to pack a snack or lunch for my child?**

Each day, children should come with a packed lunch in a marked bag or box. All meals will be served in individual classrooms and protocols are in place to limit potential cross contamination of food. You should pack items that your child can prepare and handle on their own and food should not be required to be heated. Remember to pack whole foods and healthy options. A fee, if applicable, will be charged for a snack, provided daily for all students.

◆ **Can I send my child's favorite toys or blankets to school?**

Please keep all toys at home. This will help the Pre-K follow cleaning and disinfecting protocols. You should send a small blanket for rest/nap time in a sealable extra large bag or container clearly marked with your child's name. These will be sent home weekly for cleaning/washing.

◆ **Does my child have to wear a mask at school?**

Masks are not required at the Pre-K facility for children. It is important to know that, currently, the CDC recommends that all children over the age of two (2) wear a mask to prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you choose to send your child in a mask, the Pre-K teachers will work with all children to encourage and reinforce understanding the importance of wearing them. Masks will not be provided.

◆ **Will my child's teacher wear a mask?**

Teachers and assistants will be screened daily for fevers and exposure to COVID-19. The requirement to wear a mask in classrooms will be determined by UWG's most current policy for faculty and staff. All visitors and volunteers will be required to wear a mask in the facility at all times. Teachers will wear a mask when in common spaces or in contact with other individuals that are not in their classrooms.

◆ **Will the Pre-K go on field trips this year?**

At this time, all field trips and events away from the University will not be scheduled, as recommended by DECAL, the CDC, and NAEYC. The Pre-K will utilize University opportunities to ensure children still participate in these valuable learning opportunities such as taking campus walking trips, visiting the UWG archeological site, going to the UWG greenhouse and garden, and taking virtual trips at the College of Education's Innovation Lab.

◆ **Can I visit my child's classroom?**

During scheduled drop-off and pick-up times, caregivers are not permitted inside the building. Also, we request that all visits wait until after the first three weeks of school, as children adjust to the new environment. At other times, all classroom volunteers and visitors, including caregivers, must be approved by the site director. To request approval, please email the UWG Pre-K ([prek@westga.edu](mailto:prek@westga.edu)). Once approved, visitors and volunteers will be required to follow all health, safety, and cleaning protocols.

◆ **What will happen if someone in my child's class has COVID-19?**

Coordination with the University of West Georgia and local health officials will occur when COVID-19 is suspected in a classroom or within the facility to determine the course of action. If temporary closure of the facility will occur, families will be notified as quickly as possible. Your child's teacher will communicate any at-home learning opportunities with you and, wherever possible, resources will be made available until the facility is able to be reopened.

◆ **Who is at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19?**

People aged 65 years and older, those with underlying medical conditions (e.g., chronic lung disease, heart conditions, immunocompromised), people with severe obesity, people with diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and/or liver disease are all at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. If you or your child are considered high risk, you should talk to the site director to ensure appropriate health and safety protocols are implemented.

◆ **How can I keep my child healthy and prepare them for changes at school?**

Young children are capable of understanding some information about viruses, COVID-19, and health requirements. Families should teach and reinforce preventative actions (e.g., handwashing, mask wearing, social distancing), help children stay active, help children stay socially connected, help children cope with stress, and support their children with understanding changes they may be experiencing. You can support the Pre-K by preparing your child for what to expect in Pre-K, including the fact that some adults will be wearing masks and that handwashing will be required. To help you in this process, please visit the following sites:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children.html>,  
<https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/emergency/>