



# Pathways School

At Dripping Springs United Methodist Church

## COVID-19 Response Plan

Updated: July 22, 2020

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The health and safety of our children, staff, and families is paramount. The below-listed policies and protocols are designed to help parents understand their role and the school's role in providing a safe and healthy school environment. **These policies and protocols will be followed to the greatest extent practicable, will be adjusted as we continue to receive updated recommendations,** and will supersede the policies listed in the Pathways School Parent Handbook where applicable. **Please read through the policies and protocols carefully and please keep a copy handy for review as necessary. If you need an additional copy, please contact the Pathways School office at [pathways@dsunc.org](mailto:pathways@dsunc.org) or 512-858-7541.**

### 1 | Texas Minimum Standard Health Protocols

We will continue to operate within the guidelines of the Texas Minimum Standards for Licensed Child Care Providers, as we previously have done. The Texas Minimum Standards includes a checklist from the Governor's Strike Force to Open Texas, in which we have used to create these policies and protocols.

In addition, we will follow CDC Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open for increased health and safety protocols. The areas of guidance the CDC and Texas Minimum Health Protocols addresses, and are specifically included in our Pathways School policies and procedures, are:

- ✓ Implement [social distancing strategies](#)
- ✓ Intensity [cleaning and disinfecting efforts](#)
- ✓ Modify [drop-off and pick-up procedures](#)
- ✓ Implement [screening procedures upon arrival](#)

Pathways School staff will take additional health and safety training related to COVID-19 through the Texas A&M AgrilLife Extension. These trainings include:

- ✓ Providing High Quality Experiences during COVID-19 for Emergency Child Care Settings
- ✓ Special Considerations for Infection Control during COVID-19

## 2 | Preventative Health Measures

- **Preparing Supplies**

Pathways School has already begun purchasing and confirming the orders of needed supplies, such as non-contact infrared thermometers and personal protective equipment.

- **Staying Home**

It is vital that ***you keep your child home if they are ill or acting in such a manner which you believe they are becoming ill.*** We encourage you to check your child's temperature before leaving for school and for any symptoms associated with COVID-19 (described below). We will first rely on the social responsibility of each family to be as prudent as possible in sending their child to school only when healthy, but our second step is to screen each child and parent at drop-off. It is important for each family and staff member to be as vigilant as possible in monitoring for symptoms and communicating with the School Office if or when they start to feel sick. A doctor's note of clearance to return to school may be required. Please email (pathways@dsumc.org) to communicate any health concerns.

- **If a Child or Staff Member Is or Becomes Sick**

If a child or staff member should become ill while at school, they will be isolated and made as comfortable as possible. As stated in our School Handbook, a parent of the sick child will be called to come pick him/her up. To the extent possible, we encourage the designated parent or child caregiver, who normally drops-off/picks-up (more on this request below), be the person to pick up the ill child from school. An ill child must be picked-up within 30 minutes of the first communication alert by the school. Additional cleaning and disinfecting will be completed of the classroom or space where an ill child or staff member was present.

- **If COVID-19 is Confirmed in a Child or Staff Member**

If your child, a member of your child's household, or person your child has *close contact\** with is confirmed with COVID-19, you must inform Pathways School via email (pathways@dsumc.org) ***immediately and no later than*** 24 hours of the diagnosis.

*\*"Close contact" is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:*  
*a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield; if either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious. Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.*

If a child or staff member are diagnosed, Pathways School will contact the Hays County Health Department and Child Care Licensing for guidance on how to respond. Parents will also be notified if there is a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in a child or Pathways School staff member.

**Children or staff with new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19** (see list under Screening below) may not return to school until the following criteria have been met:

- ✓ At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
- ✓ The individual has improved respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath);
- ✓ At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; and
- ✓ Has received a doctor's note of clearance to resume participation at the Pathways School.

- **Allergy symptoms**

Children or staff who show persistent signs of runny nose, coughing and other respiratory issues that may be due to seasonal allergies will be asked to obtain a doctor’s note of clearance to participate in school. This note will be dated, filed in the office, shared with your child’s classroom teachers, and kept for 2 months. If symptoms are persistent after two months, we will ask that you obtain another doctor’s note of clearance to continue participating in school. Please inform the school during the daily screening process about any allergy symptoms your child may be experiencing that day. **Please do not give your child fever reducing medicine if they have an elevated temperature and send them to school.**

- **Monitoring Absenteeism**

As we have in the past, the Pathways School office will continue monitoring absenteeism each school day. The parent will be contacted if we have not heard why a child is absent. We track the trends in absences for each class and the school overall.

- **Group Events**

For the time being, Pathways School will not hold on-campus parties or other special events involving parents and other guests during the school day. Weekly chapel will continue to be offered with increased frequency to limit the number of children and staff in each chapel service and allow space for social distancing between classes.

- **Limiting Access to Pathways School**

Only the following will be allowed to enter Pathways School during operating hours:

- ✓ Pathways School & DSUMC Staff (and substitutes);
- ✓ Persons with legal authority to enter, including law enforcement officers, Licensing staff, and Department of Family and Protective Services staff;
- ✓ Professionals providing services to children;
- ✓ Enrolled children (non-enrolled siblings or other children not allowed); and
- ✓ Parents who have children enrolled and present at the operation. Parents should only enter Pathways School when necessary.

In-person, public tours of Pathways School during school hours will be discontinued until further notice.

### **3 | Social Distancing Strategies**

Since the grouping method allows for children within each group to intermingle, all stakeholders, especially parents and staff, must be aware that their actions play a critical role in reducing the risk of infectious disease transmission in our school community. Staff and parents are asked to maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face coverings, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.

- **Class Sizes and Classroom Space**

Pathways School has always had small, individual class groupings which fall below even the *new* Modified Child Care Ratios (page 6) listed in the Minimum Standard Health Protocols published by the Governor’s “Task Force to Open Texas.” The classes already meet in individual classrooms, have the same children in class each day which makes for stable grouping, and have the same regular teachers. All classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized each evening. As possible, classroom arrangement will include the use of additional tables and spaces so children can have better separation when doing table work or eating. Toys and materials that cannot be

easily cleaned and sanitized will not be used, and sensory tubs/tables will be used individually. In order to reduce sharing of materials, children will have individual sets of crayons, markers and other art supplies.

- **Outside Playtime**

Teachers will be encouraged and supported in using other outside spaces on the DSUMC campus whenever possible. We will stagger outside recess time on the playground so no more than 2 class groups will use each defined playground area at one time. High-traffic metal and plastic surfaces will be cleaned routinely. Each class will have designated outdoor toys (buckets, shovels, etc.) for their use each day and supplies will be sanitized between uses.

- **Enrichment Classes**

Our school-wide enrichment classes: science and music & movement, will look different this year but students will still receive regular enrichment in these areas. Enrichment activities will be conducted in a variety of settings: the students' personal classrooms, utilizing the enrichment area classroom, outside, and virtually. Every class will not visit the enrichment classrooms on a weekly basis, but they will still receive regular learning opportunities in that field of study. Enrichment teachers and other staff will support the classroom teachers in learning activities related to their field. This will mitigate the use of shared spaces, allow ample time for disinfection of materials and resources between class groups, and reduce exposure for all.

- **Rest time**

Children's nap mats will be spaced out, and as possible, at least 6 feet apart. They will also be positioned head-to-toe to further reduce the potential of viral spread. As always, the mats are disinfected with each use.

- **Before-School Care and Extended Day**

Mixing of student groups cannot be avoided during Before School Care and Extended Day. Please be aware that your child will be in contact with children and staff different from their regular class during that time (7:30-8:30am and/or 2:30-4:00pm). The policy of "**No Drop-Ins**" will continue to be strictly enforced to maintain regular student groups during those times. Every effort will be made to establish regular groups by age, and manage children during these programs with no more than 8-10 children per group. Because this is an additional layer of exposure for staff and students, families will be asked to voluntarily drop these additional services if adequate staffing cannot be met to keep groups appropriately sized.

Parents arriving to drop-off for Before School Care and pick-up from Extended Day will continue to use the green kitchen doors. Ring the doorbell upon arrival, and a Pathways staff member will screen and check-in your child or bring your child to you for sign-out. School staff will assist your child in getting their personal items put away after arrival at school and ready to take home at the end of the day.

- **Face Shields, Masks, Sneeze Guards & Signage**

Face shields and/or masks will be used by Pathways Staff at the doors during drop-off and pick-up periods, or any other times when reasonable social distancing cannot be maintained. Pathways School will also have signage around campus reminding persons and students to social distance and employ good personal health practices. Clear, plastic sneeze-guards may also be used in the school office/sick isolation area.

- **Water/Splash Days**

For the time being, class Splash Days will be suspended.

- **Field Trips (Kindergarten only)**

Until further notice, there is no guarantee that off-campus field trips will be planned. Only outdoor field trips where social distancing can be maintained will be considered. Regular field trip policies apply that children must be chaperoned and transported by a parent.

- **Birthdays**

We want your child to celebrate their birthday with their class at school, but we encourage you to consider some ways to celebrate that are not food- or trinket-related. Your child's teacher will be happy to consult with you on this. If a special snack is served, it must be individually portioned and packaged. Unfortunately, we cannot allow homemade "treats" this year.

#### 4 | Parent Drop-Off and Pick-Up Protocols

- **Designated Parent/Caregiver**

It is recommended that one parent or caregiver be designated to drop-off and pick-up the child at school each day. If possible, older people such as grandparents or those that are immune-compromised should not be the designated person, because they are more at risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

- **Drop-Off Protocols**

- ✓ Student drop-off will occur at 2 different doors in the Pathways School wing at DSUMC: the "main" west double glass doors and the east "office" doors. Families will be assigned to a door and adjacent parking area according to their classroom teacher. (Sibling families will be assigned to 1 door/parking area). Pathways Staff will be available at the doors to greet and screen your child from 8:30-8:45.
- ✓ As recommended and to provide the best opportunity to socially distance, remain in your car until you see a staff member at the door ready to receive your child. Please do not gather/congregate outside the door.
- ✓ Check-in stations will be set-up at each door where your child will be welcomed, checked-in, and screened. (Please see details about the screening process below.) A staff member will escort him/her to their classroom where they will wash their hands and begin their day.
- ✓ Sign-in: Pathways School is considering an app-based system for sign-in and sign-out. Until a new system is in place, a Pathways School staff member will sign-in your child with their teacher after the screening is complete.
- ✓ Each child/family (if parent must enter) will be screened before the child can be dropped-off for school. Please see details about the screening process below.
- ✓ Each parent or caregiver dropping-off their child must wear a mask. Pathways Students will not be required to wear a mask but are welcome to do so during drop-off time, if willing. Any adult entering Pathways School must wear a mask.
- ✓ Late Drop-Off: It is **essential** for the efficiency of the drop-off process for parents and caregivers to be on-time; however, we understand there will be mornings when an emergency will arise delaying your arrival at school. If you are late, please go to the "main" west doors and ring the doorbell so a Pathways staff member can check your child into school and escort them to his/her classroom.

- **Pick-Up Protocols**

- ✓ Student pick-up will occur at the same doors in the Pathways School wing at DSUMC: the "main" west double glass doors and the east "office" glass doors. You will use the same door to pick-up your child in the afternoon as you did to drop-off in the morning. Please arrive between 2:15-2:30 to pick-up your child.
- ✓ Sign-Out: Pathways School is considering an app-based system for sign-in and sign-out. Until a new system is in place, a Pathways School staff member will sign-out your child with their classroom teacher and bring them to your assigned door for pick-up.
- ✓ Each parent or caregiver picking-up their child must wear a mask. Pathways Students will not be required to wear a mask but are welcome to do so during pick-up time, if willing. Any adult entering Pathways School must wear a mask.

- ✓ As recommended and to provide the best opportunity to socially distance, remain in your car until you see a staff member present to facilitate pick-up of your child. Please do not gather/congregate outside the door.
- ✓ Late Pick-Up: Please use the “main” west doors for any late pick-ups. Pathways School will follow the Late Pick-Up policy that is outlined in the School Handbook.

- **Communication**

Since we will be losing the regular face-to-face contact we normally have during the drop-off and pick-up process, please be sure to communicate with the school and most importantly, your child’s teacher, by phone, text, and email. Pathways teachers and administration will also be available for phone and virtual appointments to answer any questions or concerns you might have. We highly value clear and frequent communication with parents and will do our best to maintain the open lines of communication that we are used to as a school. **The Pathways School office relies heavily on email communications to distribute information. Please make sure the email on file for your child is an email that you check regularly.** Classroom teachers will also establish additional communication lines with their parents.

## 5 | Screening: Staff, Children and Parents

- **Who Will be Screened**

The following individuals are required to undergo a health screening every day before entering the facility:

- ✓ Pathways School Staff;
- ✓ DSUMC Staff that would be working in or around the Day School facility
- ✓ Persons with legal authority to enter, including law enforcement officers, Licensing staff, and Department of Family and Protective Services staff;
- ✓ Professionals providing services to children;
- ✓ Enrolled children; and
- ✓ Parents who have children enrolled and present at the school. Parents should only enter Pathways School when necessary.

- **Screening**

Upon dropping your child off at school, each person will be screened for the following:

- ✓ Temperature check:  
Using a non-contact infrared thermometer, each person’s temperature will be checked. For children, we will follow the requirement listed in the School Handbook; which is, if a child has a temperature of 99.7\* or higher they may not attend school for at least 24 hours and must be fever and medication free for at least 24 hours before returning to school. *In addition, if the parent or caregiver dropping the child off at school has a temperature of 100.4\* or higher, the child may not attend school for at least 24 hours so the child can be monitored for any potential symptoms while at home.* If a child presents with a temperature of 99.7 degrees or higher **and** COVID-19 symptoms as stated above, the protocols for *Children or Staff with new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19* will be in effect. (see page 2)
- ✓ Symptoms of COVID-19 monitored in screening include:  
Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeating shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, feeling feverish or measured temperature >99.7 (for children)/ >100.0 (for adults), and/or has had known contact with a person lab-confirmed to have COVID-19.

- ✓ Review of a child’s close contacts and if any of them have a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19. If so, the child or staff member may not return to school until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for health care workers and critical infrastructure workers.) If a parent believes that they or their child has had close contact to someone with COVID-19 but are not currently sick, they should monitor their health for the above symptoms during the 14 days after the last day they were in close contact with the individual with COVID-19.
- ✓ Please be familiar with Pathways School’s Health/Illness policy as listed in the School Handbook. We will be enforcing our policy of exclusion if your child has any of the listed symptoms. We appreciate your diligence and understanding when we must exclude a child because they have an illness symptom present.

- **Travel Alerts**

- ✓ If anyone in a child’s household or a close personal contact (e.g. nanny, parent) travels on an airplane, please monitor yourself or other persons very closely for any possible symptoms.
- ✓ Parents and children returning from travel to areas with community spread of COVID-19 must follow the guidelines they have received from the local health officials.
- ✓ Children and staff who have traveled to a CDC Level 3 area or international travel will be excluded from school for 14 days.
- ✓ Please stay up-to-date with the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control – Travel information website and notify Pathways School in writing ([pathways@dsumc.org](mailto:pathways@dsumc.org)) with any possible concerns or questions.

## 6 | Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfectant Measures

- **Cleaning Products and Supplies**

- ✓ Pathways School uses Buckeye ECO Hydrogen Peroxide Cleaner E16 and ECO Neutral Disinfectant E23, which is EPA approved for use against SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19). The staff will be trained how to use it effectively and safely. For instance, knowing how long the product must remain on the surface to be effective and using it safely around children.
- ✓ Pathways School teachers will disinfect their classroom surfaces, toys, and materials at the end of the day after the children have left and each classroom will be cleaned every evening by the DSUMC facilities crew.
- ✓ DSUMC facilities crew will be trained in required daily cleaning measures and expectations.
- ✓ The HVAC system in the Pathways School wing will be optimized to incorporate more fresh air from the outside and use MERV 13 filters to provide a more efficient air filtering system.
- ✓ The classrooms will be supplied with disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content. These items will only be used by staff and kept out of reach of children.

- **Cleaning and Sanitizing Toys, Materials and Surfaces**

- ✓ We will continue our practice of collecting toys throughout the school day that have been put in a child’s mouth (or that are otherwise contaminated) and place them in the “to be cleaned” bin to be sanitized at the end of the day.
- ✓ Staff will be cleaning and sanitizing other toys and surfaces frequently throughout the day.
- ✓ The DSUMC facilities crew has been trained on the cleaning procedures and expectations for Pathways School hallways and classrooms. This crew will focus on cleaning and sanitizing surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, counter tops, toilet areas, tables, desks, chairs, cubbies, and other high-touch areas.
- ✓ High-touch surfaces in hall and class restrooms will be disinfected at least three times a day by Pathways Staff.

## 7 | Caring for Young Children

- **Holding, feeding and helping**

The hardest part about social distancing is the thought that we will not be able to give the snuggles and hugs like we are used to. However, we know it is still important to comfort crying, sad and anxious children, so in order to provide the safest environment possible for our children and staff, the teachers will wear face masks or shields, to the extent possible, when in close contact with the children. If a staff member is not able to wear a face covering, they will exercise best respiratory practices, like covering their mouth if they have to cough, not talking directly in the child's face as much as possible, and washing their and the child's hands as soon as able.

All the staff will be required to bring a change of clothes to school each day so they can change into clean clothes, if or when needed. It's also suggested that long hair be worn up and/or away from the face. All families will be asked to provide at least two extra changes of clothes for their child.

## 8 | Healthy Hand Hygiene and Face Mask Wearing

- **Handwashing: Frequency**

Handwashing is the number one method of stopping the spread of an infectious disease in a school community. Pathways School has always placed high value on good handwashing practices, and we will be placing even more emphasis now. Each regular classroom is equipped with a sink for children to wash their hands, and teachers will supervise as necessary to ensure good handwashing techniques are being used. The teachers will be building lessons about handwashing into their daily curriculum so that the children can develop the healthy habit of frequent and correct handwashing. Children and staff will wash or sanitize their hands multiple times throughout the school day; including, but not limited to, upon entering school, after using the restroom or diaper changing, before and after eating, and after outside playtime.

Bottles of hand sanitizer and mounted sanitizing stations will be available throughout the Pathways wing and DSUMC campus. We encourage children and adults to sanitize their hands one more time before drop-off or pick-up.

- **Handwashing: Method**

When handwashing, the teachers will have the children wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and then use a paper towel to dry their hands. Pathways School has "touchless" automatic water faucets and soap dispensers in the hall restrooms. Children will be instructed on how to use their paper towel to turn off a faucet when necessary. If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol will be used if soap and water are not readily available.

- **Face Coverings**

Pathways School staff will wear face coverings in and out of the building, in common areas with other students or staff throughout the day, or when social distancing cannot be maintained. All other adults (DSUMC staff, parents, necessary visitors, etc.) in the Pathways School will be required to wear a mask unless otherwise unable to because of health reasons. Face shields may also be used by staff in lieu of or in conjunction with masks.

Per the Governor's order, children under 10 in Texas are not required to wear masks. However, the CDC suggests using masks with children over 2 years of age. We realize many preschool-aged children are now in the habit of wearing masks in public and it is a significant measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Any Pathways student over the age of 2 is welcome to wear a face covering while at school if...



- ✓ the mask is appropriately sized for the child & clearly labeled
- ✓ the child can manage it independently
- ✓ parents have clearly communicated their expectations and responsibilities for wearing a mask at school.

We feel it is potentially unrealistic and not developmentally appropriate to expect a very young child (2- or 3-years-old) to manage a mask during school. It could also create a less safe environment if the teacher must constantly manage other children's masks. Please give clear and specific guidance to your child and his/her teacher on this matter.

## 9 | Food Preparation and Serving

- **Snacks**

All students at Pathways School will need to bring their own snack for the morning (packed separate from lunch). Pathways School will provide an afternoon snack for students enrolled in Extended Day. All students will eat snack with their class group, and staff will wear gloves when assisting children with their food. Please send a snack that is easily managed by your child.

- **Lunch**

Please reference the policy in the School Handbook for complete details about providing a lunch for your child. We are also asking that EACH serving container (top and bottom) be labeled with your child's name or initials so they can be easily identified if separated from your child during lunchtime. Children should not bring food to share with others. Please send a lunch that is easily managed by your child.

- **Water**

Please provide a clean water bottle with fresh water for your child each school day. Clearly label the bottle with your child's name in a manner that it will not rub or come off.

## 10 | Preparing Your Child to Return To/Start School

Many children have some form of separation anxiety when beginning school or being away for an extended break. After months of spending lots (and lots) of time with you during a period where there has been a level of stress and anxiety when interacting with other people, we realize this could be a challenging transition. Later in August you will receive a "Welcome to School" packet which will have resources to help smooth the transition for your child, details about what your child will need to bring to school, virtual "Meet the Teacher" experiences, etc.

We are planning to offer our annual "Meet the Teacher" event in-person on Thursday, August 27th and Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. **(Note date change!)** However, this will be an optional event for families, and it will be by appointment only. If you and your child feel comfortable beginning school after the virtual interactions offered by their teacher, then you don't need to schedule the additional visit. We'll just see you on the 1<sup>st</sup> Days of School! 😊

**Pathways School will begin the 2020-2021 School year for students on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup> (for M-F and MWF classes) and Tuesday, September 1st (for TTH classes).**

## 11 | Pathways School and DSUMC

Pathways School and Dripping Springs United Methodist Church have agreed to immediately notify one another if someone on either staff or an immediate constituent has contracted COVID-19 so that we can determine if there was any potential for cross contamination.

## 12 | Financial Responsibility Policy

The Pathways School enrollment and tuition policies for the school year as stated in the Parent Handbook are still in effect. However, the following additions and changes to each family's financial responsibility are being added and shall be confirmed upon this document being signed by the parent who enrolled the child.

- Should the community be ordered to shelter-in-place and the school must close, the current month the closure begins will not be eligible for a refund or credit. Pathways School will immediately commence an online learning platform. If school resumes before 30 calendar days, tuition will continue as scheduled.
- If a shelter-in-place order and school closure continues past 30 calendar days, Pathways tuition will be reduced by 40% for the next tuition installment. This will maintain your child's enrollment, retain our staff, and the online learning platform will continue through the end of the 30-day cycle or end of the month. When school resumes, regular tuition will be due at the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month or prorated accordingly.
- Pro-longed personal absence because of COVID-19 illness or related reasons (i.e. a child must quarantine with their household) will not be eligible for refunds or credits.
- If Pathways School is advised by the local health authorities to close for a quarantine period (1-14 calendar days) or if Pathways School decides to close for 24 hours or more, the tuition for that period will not be eligible for a refund or credit. If subsequent closures occur specific to Pathways School, financial considerations could be made by the Director based on the extent and frequency of closures.
- The Enrollment and Tuition policies listed in the Pathways School Parent Handbook (including early withdrawal from program) remain the same.

Due to the delay in starting the 2020-2021 school year and given you already pre-paid your 1<sup>st</sup> installment at enrollment, all September student invoices (2<sup>nd</sup> installment) will receive a one-time, flat rate credit according to the child's enrolled class:

- TTH classes- \$100 credit
- MWF classes- \$125 credit
- M-F classes-\$150 credit

## 13 | Covid-19 School Attendance Waiver

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. While the risk of serious illness or loss of life is greatest in those 65 years of age and older and/or are immune compromised, persons in every age group can get COVID-19 which may result in a severe illness or death.

We should all be thankful that, with rare exceptions, COVID-19 is not claiming the lives of our children. However, we can never forget that a child with a mild or even asymptomatic case of COVID-19 can spread that infection to others who may be far more vulnerable.

Based upon what information we have COVID-19 is spread from person to person contact that is close enough to share droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, speaking and even just breathing. COVID-19 can also be spread by touching objects where contaminated droplets have landed. Because of this easy manner of transmission, an infant, child, or young person who is infected with COVID-19 can spread the infection to others they come in close contact with, such as members of their household, teachers, or other caregivers. We have learned that infected persons with mild or even no symptoms can spread COVID-19.

These facts are vitally important when considering returning to the Pathways School environment and should be considered by each parent before returning their children to our programs. Dripping Springs United Methodist Church (DSUMC) and Pathways School are taking specific measures, as recommended by the CDC and Texas health authorities, to promote a safe environment. However, it must be clear that each family has to understand the inherent risk of their child participating in any kind of group care. We cannot eliminate all potential risk. We do not expect young children to effectively social distance from other children in their small class. We expect that preschool aged children will, for example, continue to play in proximity to one another, share toys, or touch surfaces that may not be sanitized. Young children also need help from their teacher that requires close contact, for example, putting on clothing items, putting their lunchbox away, or need help with restroom and diapering needs. Young children may also seek, and emotionally benefit from, comfort when sad or anxious. While our staff will generally not initiate hugs, it is expected that children will need hugs at time, thus, there will be some physical contact between teacher and children. To the extent possible, the teachers will remain with the same groups of children. However, there will inevitably be times when, for example, the teacher needs to take a break or is out sick and another teacher will step in from another group to cover them.

All of these factors mean that while Pathways School will take many precautions recommended to combat the spread of COVID-19. These measures may differ from those suitable for other social, business and commercial settings that adults may be more familiar with due to the unique characteristics concerning the Pathways School environment.

Therefore, as a parent or guardian, I agree that I will monitor the health of my/our child(ren) and not send them to Pathways School at DSUMC if my child(ren) are displaying any symptom of or have COVID-19. I agree not to send my child(ren) to the Pathways School if my child (or any of his or her siblings), or any other member of our household, or any other person with whom we have been in close contact, are showing symptoms of or have COVID-19. I agree to seek COVID testing promptly and promptly report results to Pathways School given the implications for other children, families, and staff. Likewise, I understand that parents or guardians should protect any vulnerable persons who are members of the same household or come into frequent, close contact with children who attend Pathways School.

I understand that participating in the Pathways School at DSUMC program (the "Program") or accessing the facilities could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19. Dripping Springs United Methodist Church can in no way assure, guarantee, or warrant that COVID-19 infection will not occur though participation in these programs or by accessing the facilities.

I understand that I may and should consult my family's health care providers about the risks of COVID-19 and participation in the program and to continue to do so as conditions surrounding COVID-19 change.

By signing below, I acknowledge receipt of the Pathways School COVID-19 Response Plan and, particularly, this COVID-19 School Attendance Waiver (the "Waiver and Release"). I am 18 years of age or older, of sound mind, and understand and agree to the terms of this Waiver and Release. I have been afforded the opportunity to review the contents of this Waiver and Release with an attorney of my choosing if I believed it was necessary to do so, and that participation in the Program is strictly voluntary and I/we are/ am under no legal obligation whatsoever to enroll my/our child(ren) in the Program or to continue to do so.

I understand and acknowledge that participation in the Program may expose me, members of my family, or those with whom I have close contact to COVID-19 and to a risk of COVID-19 infection. I understand that medical research

regarding the potential for infection with and harm caused by the COVID-19 is ongoing and incomplete, and that no widely-accepted vaccine against or cure for COVID-19 is currently available.

As a result, I understand that the potential risks associated with exposure to or infection with COVID-19 are not fully known, but may include significant and serious illness, bodily injury, disfigurement, temporary or permanent disability, and/or death. Nevertheless, having considered the risks of participation in the Program, including those outlined in this Waiver and Release, I have determined that I desire for my child(ren) to participate in the Program, of my own free will and out of my voluntary desire for my child(ren) to have the benefit of the Programs. Accordingly, for good and valuable consideration, including without limitation the opportunity to participate in the Program, I HEREBY ASSUME ALL OF THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION THE RISK THAT I, MY CHILD(REN), FAMILY OR OTHER PERSONS WITH WHOM I MAY COME IN CLOSE CONTACT, MAY BE EXPOSED TO OR BECOME INFECTED WITH COVID-19. I HEREBY, FOR MYSELF AND MY CHILD(REN) AND MY AND THEIR RESPECTIVE HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, AND ASSIGNS, AND ALL THOSE CLAIMING BY OR THROUGH ME OR MY CHILD(REN), WAIVE, RELEASE, AND AGREE TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS DRIPPING SPRINGS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND ITS AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, MINISTERS, TEACHERS, TRUSTEES AND VOLUNTEERS (COLLECTIVELY, "INDEMNITEES") FROM AND AGAINST ANY LIABILITY, LOSS, EXPENSE, OR OTHER DAMAGE—INCLUDING PERSONAL INJURIES, PROPERTY DAMAGE, DEATH, COSTS OF COURT, AND ATTORNEY'S FEES—ARISING FROM, RELATING TO, OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF MY CHILD(REN) IN THE PROGRAMS, **INCLUDING THOSE WHICH ARISE OR ARE ALLEGED TO ARISE FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF ANY INDEMNITEE SET FORTH ABOVE.**

I have read, understand, and agree to the above Pathways School COVID-19 Response Plan and the Release and Waiver contained in the Covid-19 School Attendance Waiver.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name

Names and ages of child(ren) attending: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN #2 (IF APPLICABLE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name