



A Community Outreach of First Presbyterian Church
215 Locust NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
www.achildsgardenabq.org

September 20, 2021

Dear Families of the Garden,

We are so pleased to welcome you to ACG for the 2021-2022 school year. We are looking forward to another year of growth and learning in the Garden.

The challenges of living in the circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic affect families tremendously. We are committed to making the children's experiences as normal as possible in this new climate.

As you know we operate within the parameters and safety guidelines set by the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department. We want to take this opportunity to update you about the information from these guidelines.

First of all, all people age 2 years and older are required to wear a mask at school except when drinking, eating, napping, or playing outside.

Daily screenings for staff and children are required.

Per the CDC, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- 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

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

As we all are aware, children do get sick and experience childhood illness. After speaking with local pediatricians, it can be anticipated that common childhood illnesses, colds and flu may be more frequent and severe this year after the past year of isolation. Flu shots are strongly recommended for all eligible children and adults. As with the potential for covid symptoms, please keep your children home if they exhibit symptoms of any contagious illness as outlined in the family handbook. Please have a back up plan for childcare when your child is ill.



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Since the symptoms of such diseases are often the same ones of COVID-19, we are asking you to keep your child home if any of the symptoms are exhibited.

Please remember to inform the school of the reason for any absence.

We also ask you to inform the school and keep your child home if they have been in close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Testing for COVID-19 remains a mainstay in keeping our community safe. Vault offers testing by mail for children (and adults) who are able to produce the saliva for the test. Please see the link below for information on how to obtain the test kit by mail.

Given the ever changing COVID-19 NMECECD, state, and CDC guidelines, any updated mandates will supersede information in the ACG Family Handbook.

Lastly, please know that we are committed to your children and promise to provide a loving, relationship-based atmosphere of acceptance and respect where they can learn and grow.

Sincerely,

ACG Board President, Pam Kerkmans
Health Safety and Nutrition Committee, Marjorie Buck, Committee Chair

Sites for current information include:

Policies for the Prevention and Control of Covid-19 in New Mexico March 12, 2021

<https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/EPI-COVID19-Containment Policies-3.12.21.pdf>

New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department

<https://www.nmececd.org/covid-19/>

Vault Testing Link

<https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-19-testing/>