



2020 COVID Plan

In light of the COVID-19 situation, Riverbanks Nature Preschool will operate with enhanced safety measures and operating procedures in place. It is important to understand that the COVID-19 emergency is a changing situation, and that as CDC and/or State of South Carolina guidance changes, Riverbanks Zoo and Garden will update our procedures.

SAFETY ACTIONS:

Riverbanks will promote healthy hygiene practices by:

- Washing every child's hands at drop-off before joining the group and again at pick-up, before leaving with their family members.
- Teaching and reinforcing hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes among children and staff.
- Requiring the use of cloth face coverings or face shields among all staff. Face coverings will not be required for preschool children.
- Having adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand-washing stations in the forest classroom, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, tissues and no-touch trash cans.
- Posting signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures, and properly wear face coverings.

Riverbanks will intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation, including:

- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects (for example: games and art supplies) between uses whenever possible.
- For objects that are difficult to disinfect such as sensory bins, loose parts, and natural items, we will be using a UV wand to sanitize.
- Wiping down the golf cart "bus" with disinfectant after each use.
- Ensuring safe and correct application of disinfectant and keeping products away from children.
- In the event that Nature Preschool needs to be held indoors, we will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors and using fans.

Riverbanks will promote social distancing by:

- Limiting the use of the indoor classroom to only times when inclement weather makes the forest classroom unsafe.
- Ensuring that student and staff groupings are as static as possible by having the same group of children stay with the same set of teachers.
- Continuing our policy of restricting nonessential visitors and volunteers during our preschool day.
- Providing a variety of engaging activities throughout the forest classroom to encourage the children to play over a wider area.
- Encouraging the children to respect everyone's "space bubble."

Riverbanks will limit sharing by:

- Keeping each child's belongings separated from others.
- Ensuring adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible.

Riverbanks will train all staff in the above safety actions through a combination of virtual and in-person trainings.**HEALTH SCREENINGS:**

All staff and children will be screened for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress.

- Temperatures will be taken of staff and children at arrival to confirm temperature below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Any child who appears to be sick or suddenly exhibits signs of illness will be taken to a designated sick room while their parent is called.

ILL STAFF OR CHILDREN:

Staff or children that are sick or suspect they are becoming sick, will not be permitted in the program.

Staff or children that have had a high-risk exposure, or suspected high-risk exposure, to COVID-19 will not be permitted in the program.

Staff or children who have a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees are not permitted in the program.

If a child or staff member who has been present in the program is diagnosed with COVID-19, Riverbanks will:

- Notify families and staff of the program about the exposure.
- Report cases of COVID-19 infection to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) on the day of recognition or strong suspicion of the disease.
- Exclude the children and staff members who are determined to have had close contact with the affected child/staff member for 14 days after the last day they had contact with the affected child/staff member.
- Conduct appropriate cleaning and disinfection:
 - ◆ Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
 - ◆ Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
 - ◆ Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before cleaning or disinfecting to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.
 - ◆ Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas.
 - ◆ If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
 - ◆ Continue routine cleaning and disinfecting.

