



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

PRESCHOOLS

June 20, 2020

Aloha e nā 'ohana,

We hope that you are enjoying the summer and the new opportunities to be outside and enjoy the great weather. Mahalo for your patience and flexibility as we all navigate through the unfamiliar territory of living with COVID 19. As an organization, KS continues to work towards solutions that are supportive of our keiki, 'ohana, staff and communities and puts health and safety as a top priority. We are diligently working on plans to reopen our preschools and wanted to provide you with an update and insight into some of the factors and guidance that will shape the decisions we make.

Parent Survey Highlights

Mahalo to all of you who completed the parent survey. Your mana'o is important to helping us understand some of the concerns you may have about your keiki starting preschool in the fall as well as the needs of our 'ohana given the ongoing challenges that COVID 19 presents. We wanted to share with you some highlights from the survey and assure that we will take these into consideration as we move forward with planning for our reopening.

- **The top health and safety concerns about keiki coming to school**
 - 79% Keiki coming to school sick
 - 57% Cleaning of classrooms and facilities
 - 56% Children needing to wear face masks
- **What supports do your keiki and 'ohana need due to COVID 19?**
 - 47% Childcare or childcare subsidies
 - 44% Financial assistance due to loss of job or reduction in hours
 - 22% meeting basic needs (food, household items, transportation, etc.)
- **What other options would you need to consider if we had to reduce program hours or implement distance learning?**
 - 67% Keep keiki at home with other adults
 - 34% Find childcare elsewhere
 - 16% Keep keiki at home with older sibling

Background and Context

As the state reopens, we know that preventative and safe practices will help us to minimize the spread of COVID 19 and prevent any major surge in infections that would require another complete closure of the state. On June 9, the Department of Human Services (DHS) issued an update on the [Guidelines for Child Care Facilities to Reopen or Continue Care](#). The guidelines ensure that programs have the appropriate preventative practices in place to support the health and safety of keiki, 'ohana and staff. The guidelines address **cleaning and sanitizing, physical distancing, health and safety, facility safety,**

child and parent expectations and employee support. Below are some of the preventative measures we will take to align with the guidelines.

Activity	Action
Cleaning and disinfecting	Increase in cleaning and disinfecting throughout the day.
Hand washing	Increased hand washing will be required for keiki and staff.
Facility safety	We will limit who can be in the classrooms and on-site to staff and keiki.
Drop off and pick up	Staggered drop off and pick up times will help limit the number of people on-site at the same time and avoid congestion in the parking lot. Parents will drop off and pick up their child outside of the facility or the classroom. Adults will adhere to physical distancing when on-site or in the preschool office.
Daily temperature and wellness checks	Daily temperature and visual wellness checks will be required for keiki and staff and will be a part of the drop off routine.
Face coverings	All staff will be required to wear face masks as much as possible throughout the day and all parents will be required to wear face masks during drop off and pick up. Children will not be required to wear face masks.
Cohort groups	Each classroom is considered a cohort/group and will remain together throughout the day. Classrooms will not be able to mix.
Health practices	Staff and students who are sick may not be at school/work. Staff and parents will receive training on related procedures and policies.

Where we are

When the school year begins, we expect to be at a moderate risk level. This allows us to provide face to face learning to all our keiki with modifications to our program hours and operational procedures. If the risk level changes to high, we will transition to full distance learning. A description of KS risk levels can be found at this [link](#).

We know that keiki learn best through social interactions and hands on experiences and as a result we want to be prepared to provide your keiki with a learning environment and experiences that allow for those best practices. When we reopen in the fall, our program will be open **Monday through Friday and in general the program hours will be 7:30am – 2:00pm**. However, as a reminder we will need to stagger the drop off and pick up times so the hours could be slightly different depending on your preschool site. In July, you will receive a welcome letter from your kumu with information about the start of the school year and confirmation of the hours for your child’s preschool. The school year will begin on **August 10** with Home Visits that will be conducted virtually. The purpose of this time is it to give you and your keiki an opportunity to meet the kumu and for kumu to get to know you and your keiki. We believe this will help to ease your keiki’s transition to preschool especially under the current conditions with COVID 19.

Parent Choice

Some parents may have reservations about sending their keiki to school in the fall. To support you and your keiki, you may choose to have your keiki participate in the program through distance learning. By selecting this option, you are committing to distance learning only for the first semester (August – December). In December, you will have an opportunity to decide if you would like your keiki to participate in face to face learning on site. Distance learning will include live classroom sessions with kumu and keiki, weekly check ins with the kumu, online learning experiences and take-home learning

packets and supplies. You will also have access all the same supports that other keiki have such as the school counselor and behavioral health services. If you would like to select this option, please complete the distance learning form by July 1. You can access the form using this link: [Distance Learning Option](#).

Next Steps

We are looking forward to welcoming your keiki to school in fall. We are working with staff to finalize the orientation period which will be a little different this year in order to comply with the DHS guidelines. We are also working on finalizing our school calendar and revising the student and parent handbook and operational procedures to align with DHS new guidelines. We expect to complete these items in the next couple of weeks and will keep you informed.

As you begin to plan for the new school year, we wanted to leave you with a couple of tips you can use that may help your keiki prepare for some of the health practices we will use in preschool.

1. Practice handwashing with your keiki frequently throughout the day. Show your keiki how to wash their hands with soap and water by washing yours at the same time. Use a fun song like ABCs or Happy Birthday to teach your keiki how to wash their hands for 20 seconds.
2. Show your keiki how to use a tissue to cover their cough or sneeze. Try keeping tissues where keiki can easily see them and reach them. Remind keiki to throw the tissue in the trash can after using it and to wash their hands immediately.

We appreciate your patience, support and flexibility. We look forward to partnering with you to ensure a safe, healthy and nurturing learning experience for your keiki.

If you have any questions, please contact your preschool's office. A list of contact information can be found at this [link](#).

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Shelli Kim

Kamehameha Preschool