



Dear Montessori Children’s House Families:

As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues, will be implementing the following procedures within our schools:

**At home before departure:**

- Conduct the attached health screening each morning before arriving at school. In addition to the symptoms below, do not send your child to school if they have taken fever reducing medication with the last 6 hours.
- People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Please keep your child home if they exhibit symptoms based on the chart below which defines the criteria for a COVID-19 like illness:

A COVID-like illness is defined as:		
At least ONE of these symptoms	OR	At least TWO of these symptoms
<input type="checkbox"/> new or persistent cough <input type="checkbox"/> shortness of breath <input type="checkbox"/> new loss of sense of smell <input type="checkbox"/> new loss of sense of taste		<input type="checkbox"/> fever ≥ 100.4°F <input type="checkbox"/> chills <input type="checkbox"/> muscle pain <input type="checkbox"/> headache <input type="checkbox"/> sore throat <input type="checkbox"/> nausea/vomiting <input type="checkbox"/> diarrhea <input type="checkbox"/> fatigue <input type="checkbox"/> congestion/runny nose

**PLEASE NOTE: As per Montessori Children’s House policy, a child with a single symptom of a fever above 100.4° is to be kept home.**

- In case of absence due to any illness symptoms, please follow the guidance for returning described later in this policy.

**Drop off procedures:**

- We will resume carline drop-off for 9am.
- For early care, families will enter the building and drop off at the entrance to the classroom. Drop-offs should not last longer than 5 minutes.
- Only parents/guardians or other designated guardian may drop off during this time- it is important that there are minimal visitors and a consistent person is able to answer the health screening questions.
- If your child does not meet screening criteria, we will ask you to take your child home and follow the guidance described later in this handbook.
- Please maintain 6 ft social distancing in the parking lot while awaiting your child’s check in.

### When arriving for pick-up:

- Carline will be available for mid-day and 3pm pick-up times.
- Only parents/guardians or other designated guardian may pick up during this time- it is important that there are minimal visitors.
- Families will enter the building to pick up children from after-care. Families should wait at the entrance to the classroom while the teacher brings the child to the family.
- Please remember to social distance when you are picking your child up at the school.

### Personal items:

- Children ages 2 and up will be required to wear face coverings in accordance with current CDC and local Department of Health guidance. See "Changes to Routines and Environment" section for more information.
- PA Department of Health recognizes that getting younger children to be comfortable wearing face coverings/masks and to keep them on may create some difficulties. If a teacher or a parent/guardian is unable to place a face covering/mask safely on the child's face, the child will not be required to wear a face covering.
- Any child who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability, and children who would be unable to remove a face covering without assistance, are not required to wear face coverings.
- Items such as extra clothing and masks, mittens and gloves brought into the school will be stored in a non-porous bag to eliminate cross-contamination. Please be sure to provide a re-usable, non-porous bag for storage your child's personal belongings.
- For nappers, bring clean nap linens in plastic non-porous bag on the first day, then the nap linens will remain in the building and sent home at the end of each week to be laundered.
- Children's clothes will be changed if soiled even just a little- so please have plenty of complete, spare changes of clothes available at the school. We are recommending 4 changes toddlers (more if potty training).

### Self-Care and Self-reporting:

- Please be diligent regarding self-care- minimizing outings, handwashing often and sanitizing to prevent the spread of germs.
- **DIRECT EXPOSURE:** If your child has had direct exposure to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, please notify us immediately. Direct exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of the individual who tests positive for COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. Persons who test positive are considered infectious 48 hours before the onset of symptoms. Persons testing positive but who do not have symptoms are considered infectious 2 days after exposure (if known) or starting 2 days before test date (if exposure is unknown).
- If you have had direct exposure as described above, you will be required to self-quarantine. Local public health authorities determine and establish the quarantine options for their jurisdictions. CDC currently recommends a quarantine period of 14 days. However, based on local circumstances and resources, the following options to shorten quarantine are acceptable alternatives. We follow the recommendation and authority of local Department of Health and/or individual health care providers regarding required quarantine length.
- Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring. OR

- Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation (day 5 or after), but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.
- A child who has a family/household member that has been exposed and is asked to quarantine OR are awaiting the results of a COVID test, will be asked to stay home during this time.
- A child asked to self-quarantine as a result of exposure within the school will also require any enrolled siblings to also stay home from school during this time.

### **Exclusion from Group Care:**

Children who meet criteria for illness on screening or who become ill while at the facility and are sent home should be referred to their healthcare provider for evaluation.

Children presenting with symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19 may return to a facility when:

- **Symptomatic child who is not tested:** exclude for 10 days from symptom onset AND at least 24 hours after fever resolution (if present) without the use of fever reducing medication AND improved respiratory symptoms.
- **Symptomatic child determined by a health care provider to have an illness other than COVID-19:** exclude until without a fever for 24 hours (if fever present) without the use of fever reducing medication and symptoms improving.
- **Symptomatic child with test negative:** exclude until without a fever for 24 hours (if fever present) without the use of fever reducing medication AND improved respiratory symptoms.

### **Discontinuing at home isolation:**

A symptom-based strategy (i.e., time-since-illness-onset and time-since-recovery strategy) is the only recommended strategy in discontinuing at home isolation. A test-based strategy is no longer recommended to determine when to discontinue home isolation, except in certain circumstances as determined by a healthcare provider.

**Symptom-Based Strategy** Individuals with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 1 day (24 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms; and,
- At least 10 days have passed AFTER symptoms first appeared.

For Persons who tested Positive for COVID-19 but have NOT had COVID-19 Symptoms in Home Isolation: Persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation after no less than 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, provided no symptoms have developed during that 10-day period.

If a doctor has diagnosed your child's symptoms as being unrelated to COVID-19, and has cleared your child to return to school, the medical professional MUST provide a doctor's note, stating "                     was seen in the office and was evaluated for                     . The child does NOT have Covid-19 and safe to return to a group care."

- In the event of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case within the school, the school follow local CDC and Health Department guidance for proper cleaning and disinfecting.
- In the event a self-quarantine due to symptoms and/or positive case is necessary: any required absences longer than 3 days will be considered an “LOA” and a ‘freeze’ will be placed on billing. Any tuition already paid will be held as a credit for your return.
- In the event of any possible emergency closures going forward (for any reason—weather, pandemic, etc): Tuition will be due as usual for any emergency closures. Emergency closures will be charged for no more than 15 days total in a school year, and no more than 3 consecutive days. If a closure extends beyond 3 consecutive days, tuition paid will be held as a credit to be applied upon re-opening.

### **Travel Restrictions:**

With frequent updates in the CDC guidance, please check the PA orders for your upcoming travels and follow the guidance.

### **Changes to routines and environment:**

- **Beginning August 9, 2021**

#### **INDOORS:**

--When county-wide transmission level is “low” or “moderate,” fully vaccinated individuals will not be required to wear face coverings when indoors. Unvaccinated individuals ages 2 and up will still be required to wear a face-covering when indoors.

--when the county-wide transmission level is “substantial” or “high,” all individuals ages 2 and up will be required to wear a face covering, regardless of vaccination status.

#### **OUTDOORS:**

--When the county-wide transmission level is “low,” “moderate,” or “substantial,” fully vaccinated individuals will not be required to wear face coverings when outdoors. Fully vaccinated individuals will be required to wear face coverings outdoors when the county-wide transmission level reaches “high.”

--When the county-wide transmission level is “low,” unvaccinated individuals will not be required to wear a face covering. Unvaccinated individuals ages 2 and up will be required to wear a face covering outdoors when the county-wide transmission rate reaches “moderate,” “substantial,” or “high.”

- Information on current county-wide transmission levels can be found here: [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)
- We will not be warming lunches to reduce the handling of children’s food. Please send your child’s lunch ready to eat.
- A mask/face covering will be removed when we notice the child is having difficulty breathing or unreliable due to constant touching. The mask/face covering will be stored in plastic or paper bags during non-use.
- Consistent grouping will be maintained in each classroom to the maximum extent possible with limited mixing between classroom groups.
- Social distancing will be encouraged and attempted in the classroom and on the playground.
- Children will be placed 3-6 feet apart during nap time with children laying in a head-to-toe fashion to cut down on the spread of germs.
- Children will wash hands frequently throughout the day and may use hand sanitizer under appropriate circumstances- if age eligible.

- Daily activities will continue in small groups, distancing when possible, materials may be rotated throughout the day/week to ensure proper sanitizing.
- Regrouping at the beginning or end of day will be limited to the maximum extent possible- children will stay in their own classrooms as much as possible throughout the day.
- Toys and other items from home may not come into the school.
- Temporary school closure may be necessary in the event of linked transmission with a classroom or building. Closure will occur for 10 days from the last known exposure to the school.

**Responsibility to the MCH Community:**

Montessori Children’s House is following guidance of OCDEL and the CDC in order to keep your child and staff healthy. We have adjusted many of our policies and protocol to align with recommendations and guidance that will keep children and staff safe.

We need your help in keeping students and staff healthy. It is the responsibility of families to be honest with staff about any illnesses you or your child may be experiencing. We ask that all families continue to practice social distancing and follow current CDC guidance as best as you can at all times.

Thank you for your understanding and patience. Our focus is the health of all children, families, staff and the community at large.

Montessori Children’s House