



Dear Montessori Children’s House Families:

Our schools primarily serve children in an age group that is not yet eligible for vaccination. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes using multiple COVID-19 prevention strategies together to protect the children and adults in our schools. 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"/> fever ≥ 100.4°F
<input type="checkbox"/> shortness of breath		<input type="checkbox"/> chills
<input type="checkbox"/> new loss of sense of smell		<input type="checkbox"/> muscle pain
<input type="checkbox"/> new loss of sense of taste		<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:

- 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 Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

- If you are age 2yrs and older, stay home for 5 days. You may return after 5 days if you can consistently wear well-fitting masks; remained symptom free, or fever has ended and symptoms have improved.
Fever is considered $\geq 100.4^{\circ}F$
- If you are under the age of 2, OR older but CANNOT CONSISTENTLY WEAR A WELL-FITTED MASK, you will need to stay home for 10 days.
- Siblings are no longer required to stay home from the center during this time as long as they can follow the guidance for EXPOSED individuals.
- **Positive individuals MAY end the home isolation following the above guidance. However, to return to center, after the home isolation of 5 days/10 days for children under 2 - MUST** provide a written doctor's note or a negative test result signed and verified by a physician or nurse practitioner (CRNP) clearing them to return to the childcare facility. A self-kit home test should be signed and verified by a physician, CRNP or by a pharmacist testing site operating with CLIA Certificate of Waiver or Certificates of CLIA Compliance, such as a CVS or Minute Clinic.

If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19

<p>If you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed the primary series of available vaccines according to current CDC guidance OR Have had COVID-19 within 90 days from the date of exposure <p>*Individuals are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after the completed primary series and/or booster</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear a well fitted mask around others for 10 days. No need to stay home. Test on day 5, if possible. For children under 2yrs old OR older but who are not able to keep the mask on consistently throughout the day will stay home for 7 days with testing on the 5th day or after and return on the 8th day with negative test. OR stay home for 10 days with no testing and return on the 11th day. <p><i>If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home. See the symptom chart on pg1.</i></p> <p><i>For Household Close Contact, test on day 5 from the ending date of the positive individual's quarantine if possible.</i></p>
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If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)

<p>If you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Are unvaccinated</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For children who are age 2 and up and able to wear masks: Stay home for 5 days. Return on the 6th day if remained asymptomatic and wear a well fitted mask for 5 additional days. Test on day 5 if possible. For children under 2yrs old OR older but who are not able to keep the mask on consistently throughout the day will stay home for 7 days with testing on the 5th day or after and return on the 8th day with negative test. OR stay home for 10 days with no testing and return on the 11th day Siblings are not required to stay home from the center during this time Any <p><i>If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home. See the symptom chart on pg1.</i></p> <p><i>For Household Close Contact, test on day 5 from the ending date of the positive individual's quarantine if possible.</i></p>
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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: All absent 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 March 28, 2022
INDOORS:
 –When the county-wide transmission level is “low,” masks will be optional for all individuals when indoors.
 *Mask-optional guidance may be revised at any time at the discretion of the organization and/or in accordance with any newly issued guidance.
OUTDOORS:
 ---When the county-wide transmission level is “low” or “medium,” masks will be optional for all individuals when outdoors.
 *Mask-optional guidance may be revised at any time at the discretion of the organization and/or in accordance with any newly issued guidance.
- Information on current county-wide transmission levels can be found here: [CDC COVID Data Tracker: County View](#)
- 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.
- If/When masks are again required, no masks will be worn at nap, snack and meal times.
- Families are asked to keep an extra mask available for their child in cases of exposure to a COVID-positive case and/or if symptoms develop during the school day.
- 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.
- Children's personal items from home are allowed when appropriate to meet the needs of that particular child.
- 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.
- 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 and report to your school principal if your child/you test positive regardless of symptoms.. 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