



March 26, 2021

Dear Montessori Families and Staff,

Spring break is upon us! Next week our schools will be closed completely, reopening face-to-face on Monday, April 5.

We are taking this opportunity to remind you that nothing has fundamentally changed regarding both travel and gathering for most people in our Montessori communities. The current policies (see below) are still in effect for children, families, and staff, with the exception below.

FULLY VACCINATED STAFF POLICY

Teachers and other staff who are fully vaccinated (as most are) may return to school after travel or gathering without a COVID test or mandatory quarantining. This is in keeping with the latest CDC guidance.

SUCCESS IN MITIGATION

As has been reported on the news, Michigan is again experiencing a surge in COVID cases. Some schools that have recently reopened are closed again, or whole classes are being quarantined. Because of our COVID-19 protocols and the caution of enrolled families, we have been open since September. DHMC has had no active COVID cases among children or staff. PCMS and LMS have each had one child test positive, but in both cases parent honesty and our own practices resulted in mitigation—and the virus did not spread to classmates or teachers.

PRAISE FROM MIOSHA

Last week, two of our three schools underwent a voluntary evaluation of our COVID-19 protocols by a representative from MIOSHA (Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration). Both PCMS and DHMC received a rating of 97.8% (88 points out of a possible 90). The only thing we were lacking was a page for the file assessing the risk levels of our staff, which was completed on site. The assessor was impressed by our practices, which exceed requirements, especially in sanitation. LMS's evaluation is pending, and we expect the same result. "I can certainly see why you have been able to remain open!" was the assessor's comment. "Tell your families that you're doing a great job!" (consider this note the "telling.")

WE DEPEND ON YOU

That said, we DO want to remain open. We have been successful so far in part because we follow strict protocols. But the real reason COVID hasn't spread on our campuses is because YOU, our parents, are careful in your lives outside of school, and honest when there has been a potential exposure. For that we thank you sincerely, and say, "Please keep it up!"

We hope you enjoy the upcoming break (think Spring!), and we look forward to welcoming you back on April 5.

Stay safe and well,

Kay Neff and Laura Springer

POST-TRAVEL & POST-GATHERING POLICY:

After traveling away from the family's primary residence or gathering with people outside his or her own household, a child or staff member poses a risk to family, friends, and community. In consideration of that risk, and in keeping with current CDC guidelines, the following policies apply:

- a. A **fully vaccinated staff member** may return to school after travel or gathering without a COVID test or quarantining. Other protocols such as masks and handwashing will still be required.
- b. A **staff member not fully vaccinated** may return to school after:
- 1) receiving a negative PCR COVID test (not a rapid test) that is administered **five days** after returning from travel away from his or her primary residence, or participating in a gathering with people outside his or her own household **and**
 - 2) quarantining for seven days after possible exposure, **and**
 - 3) being **symptom-free**.
- c. A **student** may return to school after:
- 1) receiving a negative PCR COVID test (not a rapid test) that is administered **five days** after returning from travel away from his or her primary residence, or participating in a gathering with people outside his or her own household **and** quarantining for seven days, OR
 - 2) may return to school without a test after quarantining for 10 days after traveling or gathering as above.
 - 3) In both cases, the student must be symptom-free.**



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