

Montessori School of Pensacola
Elementary/Middle School Pandemic Policy
Updated 1/15/2021

MSP will monitor local and state government, CDC, and the Pandemic Severity Index guidelines for child care centers and schools regarding closures and physical distancing recommendations. In addition, MSP will undertake the following practices:

- Parents will be given COVID health screening questions at the beginning of the school year. By sending their child to school, parents are affirming that they have answered the questions and that their child is in good health and meets the criteria for attendance.
- Any child with a confirmed positive test result may not be on campus as long as is deemed necessary by the Escambia County Health Department.
- MSP will notify parents and staff of any confirmed cases, so that they may be vigilant in monitoring their child's health.
- MSP will comply with any and all state or local health department guidelines regarding school closures, cleaning and sanitization practices, reopening, and re-entry of students and/or staff who have tested positive.
- MSP will utilize School Cues (email and text) as the primary method of communicating school closures and other information. In the event of an extended closure, we encourage parents and teachers to utilize email to keep in touch.
- MSP reserves the right to close the school at any time that such action is deemed appropriate in order to minimize the transmission of disease and ensure the safety of children and staff.

Signs and Information

Signs with information on COVID-19, its symptoms, when not to enter the building, risk factors, information on our daily health checks, and other conditions of exclusion of students are posted at all locations.

Additional signage will be posted in each classroom and/or restrooms, including handwashing procedural illustrations.

Family Responsibility

Parents are strongly encouraged to keep their child home if the child is showing COVID-19 related symptoms. The child must stay home for an additional 72 hours after the fever and/or other symptoms are gone and no medication has been given.

If a child becomes ill or exhibits any signs of COVID-19 while at school, the child may be sent home. The child will be isolated until they can be picked up. Timely pick up of a sick child is required. Emergency contact(s) must be available and kept up-to-date.

Any child who is vomiting, has a sore throat, diarrhea or fever of greater than 100.4, will be sent home and may not return until the fever or other symptoms are gone for 72 hours and no fever reducing medication has been given.

Families are asked to review and follow the CDC information and guidance.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Families are expected to report any known exposure to COVID-19 positive individuals to the school and follow established COVID-19 protocol.

Anyone, other than the parent, who is dropping off the child, must be aware of the screening questions and be able to accurately answer on behalf of the parent.

If a child is sent home because of COVID-19 like symptoms that are unusual for them, siblings of theirs may also be sent home.

If a parent keeps one child home for COVID-19 like symptoms that are unusual for them, the sibling may be asked to stay home as well.

Arrival/Dismissal

It is ideal to have the same person drop off and pick up the child every day.

Children will be received at designated arrival locations by a staff member wearing a mask.

Parents who walk on campus to drop off and pick up their child are required to wear masks. Parents who stay in their cars are not required to wear masks.

Staff will sign children in and out each day.

No visitor or parent will be allowed in the classrooms, while school is in session. All persons entering the school office must wear a mask.

Physical distancing guidelines will be followed during arrival and departure times. This may mean families need to remain in their vehicles until proper distancing can be followed.

Each child will have their temperature taken and logged, daily, at a designated arrival location. Temperatures may be taken at other times throughout the day.

Children will wash their hands upon entering the building.

Groups and Outside time

Group sizes may be smaller than usual. Every effort will be made to keep groups separate and to have mixed ages groups. All curriculum areas will be available in each class space.

Groups may need to combine at the end of the day for Extended Care. Physical distancing measures will still be in place (i.e. Lower EL and Upper EL may combine on the East campus playground, but levels will remain in designated areas).

Each group will have its own designated classroom space and outside area.

Activities and lessons will be held outside whenever possible.

Outdoor space will rotate so that children receive a variety of play opportunities. Equipment will be sanitized as required.

Physical distancing will be practiced, modeled, and encouraged in an age-appropriate manner. Staff will model and instruct as needed, with an understanding of the limitations of physical distancing with young children.

No field trips will be scheduled.

Staff

Staff will be trained on all the new health procedures.

Staff will explain and model safety, physical distancing, handwashing, and hygiene procedures to students in an age-appropriate manner.

Staff members will check their temperatures everyday before entering the classroom.

No staff member may report to work if showing symptoms of COVID-19 and/or have had known exposure.

If soap and water are not available in an area, a supply of hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol will be used. CDC recommends rubbing for at least 30 seconds to be most effective.

Masks will be worn by all Elementary and Middle School staff.

Any staff member showing signs of illness will be isolated until their departure.

The school will report to families any known exposure to COVID-19 positive individuals while respecting the privacy of the individual.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

Child

- Fever
- Cough
- Nasal congestion or rhinorrhea
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Myalgia
- Poor feeding or poor appetite

Child MIS-C

(Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome)

- Fever
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea
- Neck pain

- Rash
- Bloodshot eyes
- Feeling extra tired

Adult

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Staff will be given screening questions. By entering the building, they are consenting to good health and meet the criteria for working. MSP reserves the right to require an employee be tested, based on the answers to the screening questions.

Any person in a high-risk population is encouraged to stay home, not work in childcare settings and avoid entering the school buildings.

Children

There will be regular and frequent hand washing with soap and water for children.

The sharing of materials will be minimized. When possible, individualized work will be provided.

All meals and snacks will be in the classroom or outside weather permitting.

Masks will be worn by all students in Elementary and Middle school.

Elementary and Middle school students must come to school wearing a mask and must have an additional mask at school.

Food

Left-over food and all containers will be sent back home at the end of the day. Nothing will be thrown away or recycled after lunch time.

Water bottles will be stored with lunch bags and may remain at school until Friday. Disposable water bottles may be sent in daily, if preferred.

Middle School students will not be allowed to share food.

No “passing of the plate” option will be available if a child forgets their food in El/MS levels.

Elementary and Middle School students must label their lunch boxes, water bottles, and any other personal items. All personal items will be stored separately.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

All surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected as required. At the end of the day, more extensive cleaning and disinfecting may take place.

Playgrounds will be disinfected as required.

Adequate cleaning and disinfecting supplies will be maintained.

Bathrooms and sinks will be sanitized as necessary.

CDC cleaning and disinfecting protocols will be followed to sanitize classrooms and playgrounds.

