

# **HERITAGE MONTESSORI SCHOOL**

## **COVID-19 OPERATIONAL SAFETY PLAN**

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# INTRODUCTION

We all must work together to make our school as safe as possible for students, teachers, and staff. While we are taking measures to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, we need our families to do the same.

This safety plan outlines COVID-19 policies, procedures, mitigation strategies, and safety protocols for our school as recommended by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) and the Deer Valley Unified School District (DVUSD).

## COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

If your child shows any signs of illness or symptoms of COVID-19, he/she should not go to school. According to the MCDPH, COVID-19 symptoms include:

- 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
- Gastrointestinal Symptoms (Stomach Ache, Diarrhea, Nausea or Vomiting)

## **DAILY SCREENING: BEFORE LEAVING HOME**

Parent/guardian should adhere to the protocol below for symptom screening:

- Check in with your child each morning for signs of illness. If your child has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, he/she should not go to school.
- Make sure your child does not have a sore throat or other signs of illness, like a cough, congestion or running nose, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, severe headache, vomiting, or body aches.
- If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 (or is awaiting test results), he/she should not go to school. Please notify the school immediately if your child has tested positive for COVID-19.

## **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**

We have implemented contactless drop-off and pick-up procedures. Parents (or other authorized individuals) will escort their child to the playground gate and sign-in or out using the Procure app and posted QR code.

To ensure everyone stays healthy, we will take each child's temperature, using a contactless, infrared thermometer, at drop off each day. Individuals who have a fever of 100.4 °F (38.0 °C) or above, or other signs of illness, will not be admitted.

## **AT SCHOOL**

Staff members will visually assess students for illness symptoms throughout the day. Any student with visible symptoms will be taken to an isolation area, where parents will be contacted for pick up.

### **PROTOCOL: CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19**

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, he/she should stay home and not report to school. Parents should notify the school immediately and follow the quarantine guidance provided by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

### **PROTOCOL: CHILD IS ILL WITH COVID-LIKE SYMPTOMS**

If your child exhibits any COVID-like symptoms, he/she should stay home, get a COVID-19 test, and follow the quarantine guidance provided by the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

If the test returns a negative result, the student may return to school when he/she has been fever-free without medication for 24 hours.

### **PROTOCOL: NOTIFICATION OF COVID-19 TO COMMUNITY**

We follow the guidelines outlined by Maricopa County Department of Public Health and notify current staff, faculty,

students, and students' parents and guardians if an outbreak due to COVID-19 occurs within the population of the school within 24 hours of confirming such information.

MCDPH defines an outbreak as two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing.

## **PROTOCOL: PARENT / GUARDIAN REPORTING**

Parents are required to notify Heritage Montessori School if their child has tested positive for COVID-19 or has had close contact with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period or had physical contact with a person with COVID-19.

If we believe your child has been in close contact with another individual that has tested positive for COVID-19, we will notify you immediately.

## **MITIGATION: HAND WASHING**

Frequent hand washing will be required at regular intervals throughout the day. At a minimum, this will be required at:

- Start and end of day.
- Before and after lunch and snack

- Before and after transitions/rotations/recess.
- After using the restroom.

## **MITIGATION: CLEANING AND DISINFECTION**

We regularly sanitize (using hydrogen peroxide) frequently touched surfaces (e.g. tables, desks, faucets, sinks, light switches, doorknobs, etc.) during the school day to reduce bacteria and viruses. Floors are cleaned at the end of each day.

## **MITIGATION: FACE MASKS**

Face masks are optional for enrolled children at Heritage Montessori School. While face masks add an extra layer of protection against COVID-19, they also make it more difficult for young children to develop language and social skills.

Visitors and non-enrolled children are required to wear face masks when entering the building.

## **MITIGATION: AIR FILTRATION**

To ensure a safe environment, we change air filters on a regular basis, and on an as-needed basis when warranted.