

# MCS Reopening Plan Fall 2021



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## Reopening Plans

Dear Co-op families

We hope you are all having a good summer and enjoying some quality time together. We are looking forward to welcoming families, both old and new, to the new school year. Our COVID team has put together a revised Reopening Plan that reflects where we are now with the pandemic and the information that is available to us at this time. We will continue to monitor and adjust our protocols and policies accordingly when necessary.

The faculty, administration and the Board of Trustees of the Montclair Cooperative School believe that our students' academic, emotional, social and physical well-being are best served by being back in school in person. We are prepared to shift to distance learning at any point should the New Jersey Dept of Health and or the Governor's office dictate that the school close due to the pandemic.

While the Delta variant Covid virus has increased transmission throughout the United States, the vaccine is still the best protection against that variant. We have not seen significant illness in the majority of vaccinated people. No vaccine is perfect, but this is excellent protection against the complications of coronavirus. What we know for sure about Delta is that it replicates about 1000 times more than alpha variant Covid. This results in a much higher transmissibility and contagiousness and may correlate to more severe infection in younger unvaccinated patients (as evidenced by the surge of hospitalizations of unvaccinated patients in their 20s and 30s).

We are not sure whether this translates to more severe infection in school-age children, however it has definitely shown to be more transmissible than alpha in children under nine years old. While these facts are disconcerting, we remain hopeful that vaccinations for younger children become available sooner than midwinter as is currently anticipated. In the interim, we as a school are committed to the safety of every community member. We have made vaccinations mandatory for all eligible students and staff members, we will wear masks while indoors and continue our focus on good hygiene and health, follow all social distancing and safety protocols and do whatever is required to keep our community safe.

We are living in a time where facts and updates are occurring on a daily basis. Our guide attempts to capture most if not all of the issues that are important to families, students and staff members based upon feedback we have received from our Co-op families and the advice and guidelines from the medical community, the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the NJ Department of Health. We hope you will see this document as a reference that helps you to better understand our back to school plan. Again, this is a guide based upon the information that is currently available to us and we will keep the community updated on any significant changes as they occur.

Please refer to the compilation of all Health & Safety Protocols, Practices, and Guidelines at the end of this document for full details.

Thank you.

Ana, Donna, Nurse Rita & The OCOVID19 Response Team

## Summary

- The Montclair Cooperative School has decided to make vaccinations mandatory for all eligible faculty, staff and students. Once a student becomes eligible for the vaccination they have 3 months to get the first shot.
- MCS will only consider requests for medical and religious exceptions to this mandatory vaccine policy
- We will continue weekly mandatory batch testing for students not yet eligible for the vaccine and all eligible unvaccinated individuals.
- **Test kits will be available for pick up on Wednesday 9/1/21 at 10:00 a.m. Return is on Thursday 9/2/21 at 10:00 a.m.**
- There will be no exemptions to testing. Symptomatic vaccinated and unvaccinated students and staff will be required to submit an individual negative PCR test before returning to school.
- All faculty, staff and students and anyone entering the school building for any reason, must provide Nurse Rita with proof of fully vaccinated status. **Please scan and email a copy of your vaccination card and your child's vaccination card to Nurse Rita: [Nurse@montclaircoop.org](mailto:Nurse@montclaircoop.org)**
- All students will return to a five day in person class. Every student will be supplied with a laptop in the event that whole class remote learning is required. Our relatively small class sizes 14 to 15 maximum, provide us with the flexibility of creating small, stable cohorts in each class.
- **Remote learning will only be offered under the following exceptional circumstances:**
  - If there is a resurgence of the pandemic which calls for the **entire school** to go fully remote.
  - If a positive batch test requires an entire Cohort to quarantine.
  - In the event of an individual student's **long term** absence due to COVID and or quarantine requirement due to a Covid exposure (**not related to travel and outside of the weekly batch testing**).
- **Remote learning in the event of an individual student's long term absence due to Covid and or quarantine requirement due to a Covid exposure not related to travel and outside of the weekly batch testing will only be offered in grades 1-8 as we**

**have learned that remote learning can be challenging for our younger students. Access will be specific to in class remote learning. If classes are outdoors equipment will not be set up for children to zoom into outdoor activities. Gym, Music, and outdoor trips will also not be zoomed.**

- Visitors to campus will be restricted to those who are fully vaccinated. We will be reinstating parent assists in the Early Childhood within the first few months of school, and we will consider expanding to Primary grades at a later date, to be determined. We will require that all vaccinated visitors to the campus provide the school nurse with evidence of full vaccination.
  
- By choosing to work or enroll in the Co-op for the 2021-22 school year, all community members acknowledge and agree that:
  - a) the school has taken reasonable steps to mitigate the risk of transmission;
  - b) despite these steps, there is a risk that a community member could contract COVID-19;
  - c) they knowingly and voluntarily assume that risk on their behalf (or their child's);
  - d) they accept full responsibility for their own health and safety on campus and commit to following all guidelines and instructions issued by the school.

## Health & Safety Protocols

### *Wellness Questionnaire: Acknowledgement and Daily Attestations*

The school will be using our Remind app for daily reporting and health attestations. On a daily basis all staff and families must complete the questionnaire prior to entering school grounds. No individual may enter Co-op property if they have responded “Yes” to any of the statements on the daily attestation.

All staff, students and visitors must take their temperatures before coming to school and remain home if they have a fever of 99.5 or higher.

### *Face Coverings*

**We are requiring that all those who enter school buildings, including all students, staff, and visitors must wear masks or appropriate face coverings at all times, regardless of vaccination status, except for outdoors and during scheduled and organized “mask breaks.”** This is consistent with Governor Murphy’s mandate.

It is recommended that you work with your child on mask tolerance over the summer. **The nose and mouth need to be covered.** Have your child wear whichever face covering/mask that they are most comfortable wearing. We understand that if your child is most comfortable in the mask they are wearing, there will be higher compliance. Please note that masks similar to the ones pictured below with the “valve” on the front are not adequate and should not be used.

**Face Covering or N95 with one-way exhalation valves are not acceptable**



## *Weekly Saliva Batch Testing*

We will continue weekly mandatory batch testing **for students not yet eligible for the vaccine and all eligible unvaccinated individuals**. There will be no exemptions to testing.

Symptomatic vaccinated and unvaccinated students and staff will be required to submit an individual negative PCR test before returning to school.

For testing purposes cohorts will be assigned by division. In the event of a positive pair the community will be notified of the cohort impacted, Within approximately 2 hours, the positive case will be identified and affected families will be notified as well as the community. We ask that you continue to exercise calm and patience through the process. We understand that some families may choose not to send their child(ren) to school until the positive is confirmed.

CDC recommends that anyone with any signs or [symptoms of COVID-19](#) get tested, **regardless of vaccination status or prior infection**. If you get tested because you have symptoms or were potentially exposed to the virus, you should stay away from others pending test results and follow the advice of your health care provider or a public health professional.

### *Who should get tested for current infection?*

- People who have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19.
- Most people who have had [close contact](#) (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone with confirmed COVID-19.
  - People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not need to get tested following an exposure as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- Unvaccinated people who have taken part in activities that put them at higher risk for COVID-19 because they cannot physically distance as needed to avoid [exposure](#), such as travel, attending large social or mass gatherings, or being in crowded or poorly-ventilated indoor settings.
- People who have been asked or referred to get [tested](#) by their healthcare provider, or [state](#), [tribal](#), [local external icon](#), or [territorial health department](#).

### *Proof of Vaccination*

**The Montclair Cooperative School has decided to make vaccinations mandatory for all eligible faculty, staff and students. Once a student becomes eligible for the vaccination they have 3 months to get the first shot.**

All people who will be entering the school building for any reason, must provide Nurse Rita with proof of fully vaccinated status. **Please scan and email a copy of your vaccination card and your child's vaccination card to [Nurse Rita: Nurse@montclaircoop.org](mailto:NurseRita@montclaircoop.org)**

### *Meetings & Gatherings*

For the start of the school year, we will continue to have our General Membership Meetings, assemblies and parent education programs take place virtually on the Zoom platform. We will continue to monitor the situation and when deemed safe, we will resume in person meetings and gatherings.

## *Before & After School Programs (BSP and ASP)*

The Before and After School Programs will resume for the 2021-2022 school year. The children will be grouped in the following manner for both BSP and ASP:

### Groupings:

Early Ages

Prek-4

5th-8th

More information about the program is available on our school website at <https://montclaircoop.org/co-op-student-life/before-after-school-programs> and the BSP/ASP online registration form is at <https://montclaircoop.org/before-after-care-registration>.

## *Lunch & Food Delivery*

Each cohort will eat together. Whenever possible, snacks and lunch will be eaten **outside**, where 3 feet of distance must be maintained. When eating inside, individual barriers will be used. Each child brings their own lunch and snacks. There are no group snacks or sharing food.

Lunch can still be ordered and delivered by outside vendors. However, delivery persons will not be allowed inside the building. The school's administration will meet the vendor outside and bring the food into the building for distribution to the students.

## *Field Trips*

Due to the risks involved in traveling and visiting unfamiliar places, daytime field trips will be limited to open outdoor areas such as parks and forests. Carpooling is permitted if the parent is vaccinated and masked, the students are masked and the windows remain open.

Overnight trips will be reviewed by the COVID response team on a case by case basis. We will review the safety protocols in place at the trip location. We have learned from our most frequently used bus transportation companies, that the majority of their employees are vaccinated. While we cannot absolutely guarantee that the driver is vaccinated, we will request this in all cases. The bus driver and students must be masked and socially distanced with proper ventilation.

We understand that field trips are an integral part of a Co-op education and we look forward to the possibility of resuming all field trips once it is safe to do so.

## *Travel (Domestic)*

People who are **fully vaccinated** with an FDA authorized vaccine, or a vaccine authorized for emergency use by the World Health Organization can travel safely within the United States.

### During Travel:

Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required on planes, buses, trains and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within or out of the United States and while indoors at a U.S. transportation hub such as airports and stations. Follow all state and local recommendations and requirements, including mask wearing and social distancing.

### After Travel:

Self monitor for COVID-19 symptoms, isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms  
Follow all state and local recommendations and requirements.

If you are **not fully vaccinated** and must travel, take the following steps to protect yourself and others against COVID19

### Before Travel:

Get tested with a PCR test 1-3 days before your trip

### During Travel:

Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required on planes, buses, trains and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within or out of the United States and while indoors at a U.S. transportation hub such as airports and stations. Follow all state and local recommendations and requirements, including mask wearing and social distancing.

### After you travel:

MCS requires individuals to get tested with a PCR test **on the 4th day after travel**, stay home if you test positive and self - isolate for a full 14 days after testing.

Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.

Self monitor for COVID19 symptoms, isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms

## *Travel (International)*

Do not travel internationally until you are [fully vaccinated](#). If you are not fully vaccinated and must travel, follow CDC's international travel recommendations for unvaccinated people.

Fully vaccinated travelers are less likely to get and spread COVID-19. However, international travel poses additional risks, and even fully vaccinated travelers might be at increased risk for getting and possibly spreading some COVID-19 variants.

### **For fully vaccinated persons:**

- Before you travel:  
Make sure you understand and follow all airline and destination requirements related to travel, mask wearing, testing, or quarantine, which may differ from U.S. requirements
- During Travel:  
Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required on planes, buses, trains and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within or out of the United States and while indoors at a U.S. transportation hub such as airports and stations. Follow all state and local recommendations and requirements, including mask wearing and social distancing.
- Before you arrive in the United States:
  - All air passengers coming to the United States, including U.S. citizens and fully vaccinated people, [are required](#) to have a negative COVID-19 test result no more than 3 days before travel or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past 3 months before they board a flight to the United States.
- After travel:
  - MCS requires individuals to get tested with a [viral test on the 4th day after travel](#).
  - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
  - Follow all [state and local](#) recommendations or requirements after travel

### **For unvaccinated persons:**

- Before you travel:
  - Get tested with a [viral test](#) 1-3 days before your trip.
  - Make sure you understand and follow all airline and destination requirements related to travel, testing, or quarantine, which may differ from U.S. requirements. If you do not follow your destination's requirements, you may be denied entry and required to return to the United States.
  - Check the [COVID-19 situation in your destination](#).

- While you are traveling:
  - [Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required](#) on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and while indoors at U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. Travelers are not required to wear a mask in outdoor areas of a conveyance (like on open deck areas of a ferry or the uncovered top deck of a bus). CDC recommends that travelers who are not [fully vaccinated](#) continue to wear a mask and maintain physical distance when traveling.
  - Avoid crowds and stay at least 6 feet/2 meters (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who is not traveling with you.
  - Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
- Before you arrive in the United States:
  - All air passengers coming to the United States, including U.S. citizens and fully vaccinated people, [are required](#) to have a negative COVID-19 viral test result no more than 3 days before travel or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past 3 months before they board a flight to the United States.
- After you travel:
  - MCS requires individuals to get tested with a [viral test on the 4th day after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel](#).
    - Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
    - If your test is positive, [isolate](#) yourself to protect others from getting infected.
  - If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
  - Avoid being around people who are at [increased risk for severe illness](#) for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
  - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
  - Follow all [state and local](#) recommendations or requirements.

## Hygiene & Cleaning Protocols

Careful and consistent personal hygiene is critical to fighting the spread of infectious disease. All members of the Co-op should wash their hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizer (especially before and after classes, meals, or using the restroom). Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and in various locations throughout the school.

The Co-op will follow cleaning and disinfecting protocols provided by the CDC to reduce the transmission of COVID19. This includes:

- Daily thorough cleaning of the facility and daily frequent wipe down of high touch areas using the EPA approved disinfectants.
- Every classroom and office will be equipped with disinfectant wipes.
- Teachers and staff are asked to wipe down high usage places (door handles) and wipe down desks when there is a changeover of class and or after eating.
- Sharing of materials by students will be limited to the extent possible, and all shared items will be cleaned between uses.

Students and teachers will be instructed and expected to wash hands before and after using the restroom, and when leaving and returning to classrooms. We will encourage hand washing multiple times each day, following CDC guidelines for use of soap and water or hand sanitizer.

## Instruction

### Classroom Layout & Spacing

CDC recommends schools maintain at least **3 feet** of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. **We will require mask wearing indoors for all students and staff.**

Stable groups (cohorts) in our early childhood, primary divisions will be maintained even when utilizing other spaces such as the annex, Library and Art room. Upper school will resume travel from classroom to classroom.

All classrooms at MCS have been configured to maximize spacing between students. In the Upper School, the largest classes have been assigned to the largest classrooms. Outdoor learning will continue at the discretion of the class teachers depending on the activity as well as the weather conditions.

Ventilation is one component of maintaining healthy environments, and is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy for our school. Our classrooms are equipped with fans to maintain constant circulation of fresh air and windows will remain open throughout the year. We have learned that in extremely cold weather conditions, windows can be opened just a crack to allow circulation while not making the classroom totally uncomfortable to occupy. Please ensure your child is adequately dressed for outdoor classes as the seasons change as well as for cooler classrooms in the colder months.

All necessary classroom materials and consumable materials will be provided for students. We ask students to bring their own labelled water bottles and sunscreen. Students and teachers will be required to wear masks while indoors. Students must have at least one back-up mask in their school bag. We will also have a supply of child sized masks for the inevitable lost or forgotten mask.

# Full Compilation of all Health & Safety Protocols, Practices, and Guidelines

## COVID-19 SCHOOL HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN

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## I. *Access Requirements*

### a. **Wellness Questionnaire: Acknowledgement and Daily Attestations**

No individual may enter Co-op property if you respond “YES” to any of the statements on the Daily Attestation listed below.

Before the start of the school, all staff and Co-op families will be asked to read the Wellness Questionnaire (the daily attestation) and acknowledge that they understand and comply with the access limitations described therein. In addition, staff and Co-op parents will need to confirm that they and, if applicable, their students continue to comply with access requirements. The school will provide technology for daily reporting prior to entering school grounds and provide the ability to provide written confirmation in person. To avoid delay at drop off, staff and parents are strongly encouraged to review requirements and submit written confirmation that all answers to screening questions are **NO** as it applies to their households **before** entering school grounds.

## DAILY WELLNESS QUESTIONNAIRE

PARENTS AND FACULTY/STAFF: For the safety of all, please answer the following questions truthfully.

Parent/Staff Name \*

Name(s) of student(s) entering the Co-op \*

Do you, your student, or any member of your household presently have a fever of 99.5F or greater?

- YES
- NO

Are you, your student or any member of your household presently experiencing new onset of any of the following symptoms?

- CHILD: cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, vomiting, sore throat, runny nose
- ADULT: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, muscle pain, loss of smell/taste

- YES
- NO

In the past 14 days, have you, your student or any member of your household been diagnosed with COVID-19, been strongly suspected of having COVID-19, or been directed to self-quarantine by a public health authority or health care provider?

- YES
- NO

In the past 14 days, have you, your student, or any member of your household been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is strongly suspected of having COVID-19?

Close contact is defined as: a) Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. OR b) Direct contact with infectious secretions from a patient with COVID-19. Infectious secretions may include sputum, serum, blood, and respiratory droplets (e.g. being coughed or sneezed on). This is with a mask on or off.

- YES
- NO

In the past 7 days, have you, your student or any member of your household traveled internationally?

(Note: At this time we are following CDC travel guidelines as stated in the updated reopening plan- testing on day 4).

- YES
- NO

**b. Requirements for return to school after COVID-19 related absence**

If an individual has been denied access under the access rules described above, they will only be permitted to access the school if they are able to answer “no” to all daily screening questions AND the following conditions are met:

<p><b>COVID-19 diagnosis</b></p>	<p>Mandatory fourteen day isolation and three days of improving symptoms and completely fever free without the use of anti-fever medications.</p> <p>Staff or household members who were hospitalized with COVID, a minimum 20 day isolation will apply.</p> <p>Parents or staff members must confer with Nurse Rita by phone before returning to school. A return to school note will be provided by the Primary doctor.</p>
<p><b>Contact with individual with COVID-19 diagnosis</b></p>	<p>Mandatory fourteen day quarantine <a href="#">for unvaccinated individuals</a>. If symptoms develop during that quarantine period, see guidance above on COVID-19 diagnosis. Parents or staff members must confer with Nurse Rita by phone before returning to school. <a href="#">Refer to grid for unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals</a>.</p>
<p><b>Any symptoms without known COVID exposure or quarantine</b></p>	<p>All members of the household are symptom free for three days or test negative for COVID-19. <a href="#">Refer to grid for unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals</a>.</p>
<p><b>Definition of COVID Exposure</b></p>	<p>COVID exposure is exposure to <a href="#">a "contact"</a>, someone with suspected or confirmed COVID, without wearing proper “PPE”. PPE stands for Personal Protective Equipment (mask, face covering, shield etc). For example, if a teacher or healthcare worker comes into contact with someone with COVID, but is wearing a mask AND a face shield, the CDC considers this NOT an exposure.</p>

If staff or students continue to have one or more symptoms identified on the wellness questionnaire, this would require that the individual (and all students in their household) continue to stay at home and/or the **symptomatic individual** provides evidence of a negative PCR test. Students or employees would need to be symptom free for at least 3 days or obtain a COVID negative test for re-entry.

### Re- Entry Points after Illness and/or Travel

Unvaccinated	Fully Vaccinated
<p><b>Failed attestation due to symptoms:</b></p> <p>All household members remain home until the symptomatic individual is 3 days symptom free or provides a negative PCR test.</p> <p>Only the symptomatic individual is being PCR tested.</p>	<p><b>Failed attestation due to symptoms:</b></p> <p>3 days symptom free or negative PCR test.</p>
<p><b>Failed attestation due to domestic travel:</b></p> <p><b>MCS</b> requires testing <b>on the 4th day</b> after travel. Monitor for Covid symptoms for 7 days. No quarantine.</p>	<p><b>No restrictions on domestic travel.</b></p>
<p><b>Failed attestation due to international travel:</b></p> <p><b>MCS</b> requires PCR testing on the <b>4th day</b> after travel, with quarantine for 7 days.</p>	<p><b>Failed attestation due to international travel:</b></p> <p>MCS requires PCR testing on the <b>4th day</b>, no quarantine.</p>
<p>Weekly batch testing required</p>	<p>Testing required in the event of an exposure and failing attestation due to symptoms.</p>
<p><b>Exposure:</b></p> <p>14 day quarantine with negative PCR test on day 11 if the individual is asymptomatic and a return to school after day 14.</p>	<p><b>Exposure:</b></p> <p>Testing only on <b>4th day</b> - no quarantine if asymptomatic</p>

### c. Drop Off and Pick-Up Procedures

Drop off and pick up of students will occur outside on school grounds. Cohorts will assemble in designated areas and all parents and students must observe social distancing. Parents may enter school grounds to drop students off or pick up for BSP and ASP but must not remain on school grounds.

### d. Guests/Visitor Policy

- Only vaccinated persons are permitted to enter the school building
- We will have parent assists in Early Childhood and will consider adding Primary when we feel that it is safe to do so. Parents who are assisting must be fully vaccinated.
- All visitors must acknowledge and comply with the wellness questionnaire and participate in daily attestation and temperature screenings described above.

## II. In-School Safety Measures

### a. Masks & Face Coverings

All those who enter school grounds, including students, staff, and visitors must wear [masks](#) or appropriate face coverings at all times except for the limited exceptions noted in this plan and except outdoors and during scheduled and organized “mask breaks.” If you are unable to wear a mask or face covering, you must not enter school property.

**Face Covering or N95 with one-way exhalation valves are not acceptable**



## **b. Testing**

Weekly saliva batch testing will continue to be required for all **unvaccinated** students and staff members.

CDC recommends that anyone with any signs or [symptoms of COVID-19](#) get tested, **regardless of vaccination status or prior infection**. If you get tested because you have symptoms or were potentially exposed to the virus, you should stay away from others pending test results and follow the advice of your health care provider or a public health professional.

*Who should get tested for current infection?*

- People who have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19.
- Most people who have had [close contact](#) (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone with confirmed COVID-19.
  - People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not need to get tested following an exposure as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- Unvaccinated people who have taken part in activities that put them at higher risk for COVID-19 because they cannot physically distance as needed to avoid [exposure](#), such as travel, attending large social or mass gatherings, or being in crowded or poorly-ventilated indoor settings.
- People who have been asked or referred to get [tested](#) by their healthcare provider, or [state](#), [tribal](#), [local external icon](#), or [territorial health department](#).

## **c. Social Distancing**

Students, parents, staff and teachers must remain at least three feet apart from others while on school grounds. The school has set up rules and requirements for pick up , drop off, and classroom size and seating to allow all those in our school community to comply with this rule while on school grounds.

## **d. Facilities Cleaning Practices**

An outside cleaning company will perform daily sanitization of school facilities. During the day, frequent hand washing/sanitizing will be enforced as part of the process for keeping common areas and high touch areas clean. With support of our school nurse, teachers will devote time at the beginning of the school year to train students on hand washing/sanitizing procedures.

- **RESTROOMS:** Restrooms will be stocked with soap and each classroom will have hand sanitizer stations outside of restrooms. Teachers will train students to utilize sanitizer before and after bathroom use and to properly wash hands after bathroom use.
- **CLASSROOMS:** In addition to daily cleaning, classrooms will be supplied with appropriate cleaning supplies for use by students and teachers. Hand sanitizer

dispensers will be in each classroom and teachers and students will be encouraged to use these as they enter and leave the classroom.

**e. Hand Hygiene**

Frequent hand washing is a critical part of keeping our school community safe and our school communities clean. Staff and students will be trained to frequently and properly wash hands and to use hand sanitizer that will be supplied and placed throughout the school, outside, and in classrooms and at our entrance. Signs will be installed throughout school (hallways, classroom, and outside) reminding students, staff, and visitors to frequently wash their hands.

**f. Annual Flu Vaccine**

The School will be sending out a notice in the fall to strongly encourage members of our school community and their families to get the flu vaccine no later than December 1. Students and staff with flu-like symptoms will not be permitted to come to school. Prevention of the flu is key to keeping your child in school and protecting our school community.

**g. Air Circulation**

Classroom & hallway windows will remain open year round and window fans will be installed to circulate air. Parents need to remember that in the colder months they need to dress their children in additional layers in anticipation of colder classrooms.

**h. Teacher PPE**

The School will provide all teaching staff with appropriate PPE

**III. Cohort Safety Measures - In School Learning**

**a. Cohort Learning**

There is one class or cohort per grade level. Cohort Learning refers to the practice of limiting each student's interactions to interactions with fellow members of the same cohort. In other words, programs such as reading buddies and the mentoring program will not proceed as in the past. While remote or online interaction with other grade levels may occur -- physical interaction with other grade levels will not occur. As explained in the Covid Response Plan below, maintaining distinct and separate Cohorts is key to limiting the impact of a Covid diagnosis on in-person learning across the Coop. It is also critical for implementing appropriate contact tracing as part of the school's incident response plan.

#### **b. Classroom Size and Social Distancing**

Each cohort classroom will be set up so that students are seated at least three feet apart at all times. Class size is limited to 14 or 15 students so that we are able to easily comply with social distancing requirements.

#### **c. Supplies**

Generally, students should not share supplies such as markers, crayons, pencils. However, where there is a need for shared use of supplies, such as math manipulatives, teachers must ensure that such materials are properly sanitized between use. Supply kits will be provided by the teacher and contents will be decided by division. At a minimum, scissors, pencils, erasers, markers, ruler and glue sticks will be included in the supply kit.

#### **d. Classroom Snacks and Lunch**

Each cohort will eat snacks and lunch together, either inside with a barrier or outside while maintaining social distance.

Each child brings their own lunch and snacks -- no group snacks or sharing food. Lunch deliveries will be accepted and brought up to the classroom by an administrator or assistant teacher. Packaging will be removed before placing it on the student's desk. Staff members will perform hand hygiene before and after handling each delivery.

### ***IV. Field Trips & Transportation***

Due to the risks involved in traveling and visiting unfamiliar places, daytime field trips will be limited to open outdoor areas such as parks and forests. Carpooling is permitted if the parent is vaccinated and masked, the students are masked and the windows remain open.

Overnight trips will be reviewed by the COVID response team on a case by case basis. We will review the safety protocols in place at the trip location. We have learned from our most frequently used bus transportation companies, that the majority of their employees are vaccinated. While we cannot absolutely guarantee that the driver is vaccinated, we will request this in all cases. The bus driver and students must be masked and socially distanced with proper ventilation.

We understand that field trips are an integral part of a Co-op education and we look forward to the possibility of resuming all field trips once it is safe to do so.

## V. COVID Response Plan

### a. Reporting

When a Covid 19 positive case is self-reported to the school nurse, the Montclair Health Department will be immediately notified. The School Community will also be notified, in keeping with confidentiality.

In the event there is a circumstance that a student needs to isolate or quarantine per order of the Montclair Health department, and /or has an unvaccinated sibling, that sibling's cohort will isolate or quarantine as well if the sibling is positive. The health department will work with the school nurse on assessing the exposure, contact tracing and provide a plan. (See definition of exposure above).

### b. Risk Mitigation Plan

Students or staff presenting with Covid 19 symptoms during school hours will be isolated. Social distancing and PPE will be required. A HEPA filtered air purifier will be available. Staff and students with symptoms will be required to leave school grounds within one half hour of presentation of symptoms. Our emergency contact form requires that parents list two people who are available to pick up their children in the event of illness. We strongly encourage parents to have a third contact person available to pick up their child if possible. This is important to have in the event the primary or secondary contact cannot come to the school within that one half hour time frame. Your Emergency Contact Card must be on file by September 9th 2021, in order for your child to enter the campus. **This information is generated from your completion of all tabs in the TADS enrollment process.**

In the event there is a suspected or confirmed case of Covid 19, the Montclair Health Department will be contacted.

- **Quarantine:** There is "Self" Quarantine that is required if you have traveled (see travel advisory above). There is a Quarantine that is directed by your Primary doctor and NJDOH, secondary to a possible Covid 19 exposure. (see definition of exposure above).
- **Isolation:** As directed by your Primary doctor and NJDOH.  
[NJDOH Home Isolation Algorithm.](#)

### c. Contact Tracing

The school nurse is certified in contact tracing and will work with the Montclair Health Department as required.

### d. Health Department Reporting Requirements

At this time, all symptoms of Covid 19 will be recorded and reported to the health department as outlined in the "GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTROL OF OUTBREAKS IN SCHOOL AND CHILD CARE SETTINGS"

## **e. Members of Our Committee**

### **Covid Team:**

Dr. Eric Cioe Pena, Dr. Dan Friedman, Nurse Rita Olcay, Lesley Hayes, Ana Younghusband, Donna Ellwood, Hilary Fandel and Suzanne Nakamura.

**Medical Professionals Sub Committee:** Dr. Eric Cioe Pena, Nurse Rita Olcay, Dr. Siddhu Nadkarni, Dr. Dan Friedman, Dr. Elaine Aufiero, Dr. Peter Yonclas, Dara Goldberg Spar, Hannah Kiernan, Marie Boucher, Gene Boucher, Deirdre Sheridan, Dr. Dave Fernandez, Dr. Payal Maniar and Joe Hayes as Tech Support.

## **RESOURCES TO REVIEW**

[COVID-19: Quarantine vs. Isolation](#)

[CDC If You are sick Resource](#)

[NJ Dept of Health on Contact Tracing](#)

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

- World Health Organization's examples of COVID-19 symptoms can be found [here](#)
- CDC COVID-19 information can be found [here](#)
- **CDC Travel Notices By Destination can be found [here](#)**
- Places/Options for PCR testing outside of the batch testing cohort:
  - Local CVS (Nutley CVS closest to school)
  - [testnj.online](#)
  - A+ Urgent Care in Clifton
  - MedRite @ 50 South Park Street Montclair (YMCA)
  - Finding a site via the [NJ Covid-19 Information Hub](#)
  - At cost rapid PCR test in Garfield: <https://urgentcaregarfield.com/>
  - Lucira Home Kit: [Lucira Home Test](#)
- Vaccine Resources:
  - [Getting Ready to Go Back to School](#)
  - [Where to get a Pfizer Vaccine for your Child](#)