

Children's House Montessori School

COVID-19 Policy

2020-2021 Academic School Year

We are monitoring guidelines from the CDC, Mississippi Department of Health, Mississippi Department of Education and Ocean Springs School District regarding school policy changes due to COVID-19. **Because of the seemingly every changing situation we are all in we appreciate you understanding these policies are subject to change. You will be made aware of any adjustments/changes to these decisions affecting your child or the Children's House in a timely manner.**

Effective immediately, we are implementing the following until further notice:

OPEN COMMUNICATION between families and Children's House is paramount to the safety of our school community. Parents must report all relevant health information, including COVID-19 diagnoses within the household, and non-COVID-related illnesses in students to the school by email, text. As always, all health information is strictly confidential and will not be shared beyond Children's House staff.

- We will have 2 classrooms of 20 children. Each classroom will be treated as static groups and will remain separate during the school day. Outdoor play time will be staggered. Lunches will be eaten in the classroom.
- Students and staff will have their temperature taken with a non-contact thermometer upon arrival each day and may not attend school if they have a fever of 100. or greater.
- **Teachers will be required to wear masks** as we are in such close contact with the children all throughout the day, giving lessons etc. **The Ms State Health Department (our licensing official) is asking that we implement mask wearing for everyone including children at this time while inside the school.**
- Students will be greeted by a teacher who will take their temperature, assess the child and have the parent answer a few questions before being brought up and into the classroom each morning.
- **Parents and children may not gather to socialize at morning drop off or at pick up. State Regulations require that masks be worn during these times for both children and any adult who is dropping off or picking up.**
- Children with fever may not return to school until they are fever-free for **72 hours (3 days)** without the use of fever-reducing medication. Exceptions to this will only be made with a doctor's note stating a non-COVID diagnosis and advising that the student is cleared to return to school.
- **MSDH Child Care Facilities Guidance recommends that children who have traveled to a state/country that is experiencing a "widespread transmission" of COVID-19 within the last 14 days be restricted entry/attendance to a childcare center or preschool. We are asking that if you travel to a state/country with "widespread transmission" of COVID-19, your child stays home for 5 days from the day they return home from this trip before attending school.**

- Students testing positive for COVID-19 must satisfy the following criteria before returning to school
 - Three (3) days with no fever
 - Improved symptoms (no cough)
 - 10 days have elapsed since the onset of symptoms
 - A negative COVID test dated within 48 hours of returning to school
 - Students with a family member in their household testing positive for COVID-19 **must quarantine at home for 14 days and be monitored for symptoms.**
 - Students exhibiting symptoms during the school day will be separated from other students and picked up by a parent as soon as possible.
 - Should we become aware that an infected person has entered a school building, Children's House will close for two (2) days to allow for complete disinfecting of the classrooms. We will communicate with parents via email and text message immediately once we are notified.
 - Should a school community-spread outbreak become evident, Children's House reserves the right to close school for an appropriate period to ensure the safety of our families and staff.
 - Students must bring a water bottle labeled with their name each day. Students will have access to water to refill their bottles.
 - Students will NOT be issued a Children's House tote bag this year. Children **will not** bring bags, book bags etc. to and from school. The only thing that should come to school with a child is a lunchbox that has a water bottle compartment, a water bottle and their snack in the lunch box and a lunch if they are staying for the afternoon.
 - Students must be able to open their lunch containers independently. Teachers and/or fellow students will not be able to touch food containers to assist opening them. This includes items such as yogurt pouches, string cheese wrappers, orange peels, etc. We will eat on disposable place mats instead of plates. Students are to bring milk or water to drink with their lunch. Although we have warmed up lunch items for children in the past, we are not allowed to do so at this time.
 - Community-style snack will not be served in the classrooms. Students should bring a small snack in their lunch box and will be allowed time to access it independently throughout the morning.
 - Adult visitors to campus are restricted to emergency situations.
 - **ANY adult visitor will be required to wear a mask when entering a classroom.**
 - Students and staff will sanitize their hands (soap and water and/or hand sanitizer) upon arriving at school, before and after eating, after using the bathroom, and upon returning to the classroom from outside, or when needed. Many times throughout the day.
 - Hand sanitizer will be stationed at the entrance and throughout the school for adults to

use upon entering the building.

- Classroom materials will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected as needed throughout the day and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at the end of the day every day using cleaners approved by the EPA for use against the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Common surfaces (switches, door knobs, bathroom fixtures, tables, chairs) will be disinfected several times daily. *We will ask for your help with this by asking for a container of disinfecting wipes / spray from each student if your family is able, as purchases of these products are currently limited per store visit.*

IMPORTANT: Parents are ultimately responsible for making decisions regarding their child's attendance at school. While students will not be penalized for absences related to COVID-19 concerns, Children's House will only provide support materials and/or preserve a student's enrollment status with timely tuition payments.