



The Children's House Montessori School COVID-19 Policy 2021-2022 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.

- **Masks wearing will be optional for all teachers, students, and visitors** at this time. We will re-evaluate this policy each week and make decisions with the help of the Montessori School Board here at FPC, local doctors, the Health Department of MS, local school districts, and state and local governing offices and officials.
- The Children's House will be **extending our outdoor time by 30 minutes each morning** (weather permitting). The playground doors will be left open to allow children the freedom to choose work indoors or play outside and take their masks off. This allows for safer social distancing and more fresh air consumption for us all.
- Two air purifiers are running at all times in our classroom and windows are opened often (weather permitting) to allow fresh air to circulate around the classroom.
- Our HVAC system is properly maintained with routine maintenance checks and clean air filters. All to increase ventilation rates to the greatest extent possible.
- Students must bring a water bottle labeled with their name each day. Students will have access to water to refill their bottles.
- Family Snack Weeks will be a part of our schedule this year, however, we ask that each family individually wrap or package the food item(s) being brought in. Snack items may be pre-packaged and store bought or homemade. For now, children will not be using communal serving utensils. Food will be available "grab-and-go" style. Children will eat snack at a table with 1 other friend and the table will be sanitized after each child has eaten snack.
- CH events and parties are currently scheduled and on the calendar. All events will take place mainly outdoors or in the sanctuary/fellowship hall at FPC to allow for safe social distancing.
- 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 throughout the school for adults to use throughout the day as well.
- Cleaning products and practices used last year (20-21) will continue and remain in place for this current school year.
- Classroom materials will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected as needed throughout the day/week 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 also have someone who comes in each evening and “deep cleans” the entire school.
- Should a school community-spread outbreak become evident, The Children’s House reserves the right to close school for an appropriate period to ensure the safety of our families and staff.

Addendum for Parent Handbook:

The Children’s House Policies regarding Covid-19 Exposure/Infection:

If a child/teacher has been diagnosed with Covid-19:

-The child/teacher will be isolated from school and all activities related to the school for 10 days.

-Alternatively, if the child/teacher provides a negative Covid-19 test on the 5th day following diagnosis, the child/teacher may return to school on the 8th day.

If a child/teacher is known to have been in contact with someone who has Covid-19 and the child/teacher has been fully vaccinated, the child/teacher does not have to isolate. Contact is considered within 3 feet for 15 minutes or more.

If the child/teacher has not been fully vaccinated and is known to have been in contact with someone who has Covid-19, the following will apply:

-The child/teacher will be isolated from school and all school related activities for up to 10 days after the last contact with an infected individual.

- Alternatively, if the child/teacher provides a negative Covid-19 test on the 5th day following diagnosis, the child/teacher may return to school on the 8th day.

Any area not addressed in this document will continue under normal operating procedures as outlined in The Children’s House Parent Handbook for 2021-2022.

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.