

Mansio Montessori of Geneva

Overview of COVID-19 related Health and Safety Procedures

Fall Session, 2020

Overview

Ensuring the health and safety of our school community, including our children, families and staff will require active participation in and adherence to the guidelines and protocols outlined in this document on the part of each of us. We all share a commitment to returning to in person learning and development on the part of our children, but we must do it carefully adhering to CDC guidance and safety protocols, which serve as the guidance to these protocols.

We urge you to to review this material carefully and keep it on-hand for ongoing reference. Updates will be provided when appropriate.

Reopening in-school learning entails risks. We can greatly mitigate these risks by communal adherence to scientifically- developed guidelines, even as these guidelines evolve with experience and increasing data. This involves inconveniences, changes in our normal lifestyle and social practices. It also involves always being conscious of the immediate environment in which we find ourselves.

It All Starts At Home

We're a community. To keep the school environment safe, each family must fully dedicate themselves to keeping their home environment safe. Children will bring the virus into the school environment if they contract the virus, either in the home or by not following CDC-recommended guidelines for social interaction externally. This means the following:

- Continuous monitoring of the children for COVID-19 related symptoms. These include temperature of 100.4 or higher, sore throat, new coughing that causes difficulty in breathing (for children with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline), diarrhea, vomiting or abdominal pain, onset of headache, especially with a fever.
- Social distancing (6+ feet) in public.
- Wearing masks when social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Isolating family members who are symptomatic and/or test positive for the virus.

Precautions and Protocols

Our staff has been trained to organize activities, execute cleaning protocols, enhance child hygiene, maintain distancing when possible, encourage the wearing of masks and, in general, do everything possible to maintain a safe environment. They will:

- Upon arrival, take their own temperatures, wash their hands and wipe down surfaces.
- Before 8:00AM meet arriving children and parents on the driveway.
- After 8:00AM meet arriving children and parents at the doors to the individual classrooms.
- Upon arrival take temperatures of the children outside the building.
- Take children's temperatures mid-day.
- Ask checklist questions of the children and parents.
- Do frequent wipe-downs of internal and external surfaces as well as education materials
- Supplement our cleaning vendor's activities with additional cleanings during the week.
- Wear masks throughout the day while inside the building.

Checklist Questions

(Staff Member to child and/or parent upon arrival)

1. Symptoms

If your child has any of the following symptoms, he/she may have an illness that may decrease his/her ability to learn and put them at risk for spreading illness to others.

- Temperature 100.4 degrees or higher?
- Sore throat?
- **New** uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for children with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)?
- Diarrhea, vomiting or abdominal pain?
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever?

2. Close Contact/Potential Exposure

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19?
- Traveled to an area where the local/state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases?

Arrival Procedures

Staff will greet parent and child on the premises upon arrival

- Before 8AM at the main driveway entrance.
- After 8AM at the door closest to the child's classroom

Arrival after 8:00AM

- Parents should park on the street near their entry point, which will be specified at the parent Zoom conferences Monday August 17 beginning at 6PM
- *Only* P1 parents may park on the driveway. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated to ensure an even flow
- Wearing masks, parent and child should approach the entry point and socially distance while awaiting staff greeting.
- Staff will take both the child's and the parent/guardian's temperature and ask child/parent checklist questions concerning symptoms and contact with any infected persons.
- Parents are not permitted in the building at any time.

Daily Procedures

- Masks required for 3-6 children and all staff throughout the day (except for lunch, napping, playground). Toddlers permitted to remove masks upon entry.
- Children's temperatures will be taken twice a day, upon arrival and after lunch
- Everyone will wash hands before snacks, lunch, re-entrance from playground as needed.
- Staff will prepare and deliver individually-plated snacks/lunch to children using disposable plates, cups and utensils.
- Refrigerators and microwaves available only for staff (individually labeled).
- School supplies will not be shared.
- Adherence to DCFS/IDSPH capacity limits
- Enhanced cleaning procedures for facility and playground, including multiple cleanings during and after each day.

What If?

A child becomes ill at school

- Will be taken to the open office area. Temperature taken. Notification to parents that he/she needs to be picked up
- A minimum of 10 days quarantined at home with a minimum of 48 hours without symptoms

A staff member becomes ill and/or displays symptoms

- Will depart immediately and, if appropriate, go for testing. Remain at homes until results are known and for 48 hours after symptoms fully resolved.

A Staff member tests positive

- A minimum of 10 days quarantined with a minimum of 48 hours without symptoms. As an added precaution, we will require a negative test before returning.

Please note: All information shared with the school is considered private and will not be shared with any individual, group or institution, except as required by state or local health officials. Any notifications/updates to parents will protect the privacy of our children and families.

What if? Continued

A family member of a child or staff tests positive

- Must notify the school
- Child or staff member must quarantine at home for 14 days from last day or symptoms or first day of isolation (i.e. last exposure)

A family member displays symptoms

- We urge the family member to get tested.
- In the absence of a test, the child should remain home for a minimum of 48 hours or longer if the child experiences similar symptoms., in which case 48 hours after the resolution of the symptoms.

A parent travels out-of-state or overnight within Illinois*

- Honor system. No notice to the school required. However, our expectation is that that the travelling parent will not drop off or pick up for a minimum of a week.

A staff member travels out-of-state or overnight within Illinois*

- Staff travel has been restricted except for family emergencies through September (renewable as needed)
- If travel does occur, she will quarantine at home for a minimum of a week.

Mandated area-wide shutdown

- Compliance and resumption of *Montessori at Home* Zoom programming.

Final Thoughts

We've dedicated ourselves to providing an environment in which development and learning can take place safely.

Development and safety are not contradictory. Indeed, they're both part of learning.

Learning about the world, learning about how the world changes. Grasping ideas and concepts.

We need your involvement on a 24/7, all-in basis.

Please remember, in complying with these policies, you're protecting not just your own child and family but all those in your Mansio community.

Communication is essential. If you have questions, concerns or information call Ms. Janet
at 630-272-7341

Welcome back! We will do this safely!