



# The Sammamish Montessori School

## COVID-19 Operating Plan & Health Policy

*The following guidance is designed to help The Sammamish Montessori School maintain health and safety standards while operating during the Covid-19 pandemic using King County Public Health, CDC, and Department of Children, Youth & Families guidance. Provisions outlined in this plan may be updated periodically.*

### **General Guidance**

Children, staff, parents and guardians will be excluded if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19, or have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

### **People at Increased Risk for Serious Complications of COVID-19**

Parents and guardians who are older, pregnant, or have underlying health conditions, including those with compromised immune systems or respiratory conditions like severe asthma, are at higher risk to develop complications from this virus. These individuals should not visit The Sammamish Montessori School.

### **Health Screening at Entry/Monitoring during the day**

Temperature and symptoms check (fever 100.4°F or higher, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, chills, new loss of taste or smell, nausea/vomiting or diarrhea, congestion/runny nose not related to seasonal allergies, unusual fatigue) for staff and children will be conducted upon entry each day. Anyone experiencing any symptoms of illness must stay home (including but not limited to Covid-19 symptoms described here). If a child becomes ill while at school, the child will be kept separate from other children and the parents will be contacted to pick up the child immediately.

### **Social Distancing**

The Sammamish Montessori School will incorporate social distancing within groups to the degree possible, aiming for at least three to six feet between children and minimizing the amount of time children are in close contact with each other. The Sammamish Montessori School will incorporate the following:

- Assign individual workspaces to each child including a table, work mat and apron.
- Increase the distance between the workspace of each individual child.
- Plan activities that do not require close physical contact between multiple children.
- Limit item sharing, and if items are being shared, remind children not to touch their faces and wash their hands after using these items. Shared items will be cleaned and disinfected after use.

### **Consistent Groups of Students/Staff**

- Siblings attend the same classroom.
- Our STEAM/Montessori program has been modified to operate as a single separate class.
- Teachers load/unload only their own students.
- We have temporarily suspended our Early Birds, After School Club, and Clubroom non-school daycare days program at this time. We plan to reinstate these services once it is feasible to safely do so.
- Teaching staff are assigned to the same classrooms.
- We reserve the right to reassign students to different classes/teachers (under the same schedule) in the event of significant changes to enrollment. Any such changes will be timed to minimize mixing of groups and will be communicated to parents in advance.

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## **Outside play**

- Outdoor play will be scheduled in staggered shifts or by keeping groups in separate areas.
- Children and staff members always wash hands before and immediately after outdoor play time.

## **Meals and Snack time**

- Children will be seated separately with physical distancing during meals and snacks.
- Children bring their own water bottle; do not use drinking fountains.

## **Drop off and Pick up**

- Adults must wear masks when dropping off or picking up students.
- Parents will use an iPad for Sign in and Sign out. iPads are sanitized by a staff member between use.
- Please be on-time for drop off and pick up:
  - Morning drop off: 8:45AM
  - Morning pick-up: 11:30AM
  - Afternoon drop-off: 12:30PM
  - Afternoon pick-up: 3:15PM
- Drop off will occur in the car drop off lanes.
- Each child will have his/her temperature taken and be assessed for illness before entering the building. In addition, parents must confirm that their child is symptom free and has had no known Covid-19 exposure (part of iPad sign in).
- Teachers load/unload their own students and should avoid entering into vehicles to buckle/unbuckle and can ask parents to do so as needed. Another staff member can supervise students in courtyards while drop-off/pick-up is in progress while maintaining appropriate social distancing as needed.
- Parents are asked to help us to reduce interactions between individuals outside of child's classroom by being on time and using the curbside drop-off/pick-up system; parents do not drop off at the front office unless it is unavoidable to be early or late.

## **Hygiene Practices**

- Children and staff shall wash their hands immediately upon arrival at school.
- Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is required upon arrival, when entering the classroom, before meals or snacks, after outside time, after going to the bathroom, and prior to leaving for home. Teaching staff will help to ensure children are washing their hands effectively.
- Children, families, and staff should avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a covered waste container and clean hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer (if soap and water are not readily available).
- The school provides adequate supplies for good hygiene, including clean and functional handwashing sinks, soap, paper towels, toilet paper and alcohol-based hand sanitizer (on the playground, only if needed).

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### **Cleaning and disinfecting procedures**

- Classroom surfaces such as tables, doorknobs, sinks, and other shared items are cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected throughout the day per licensing guidelines.
- A professional janitorial service thoroughly cleans and sanitizes all classrooms and common areas nightly.
- Shared items are limited to those that are easily cleaned, sanitized and disinfected after each use.

### **Masks – Per Current Public Health & CDC Guidance**

Per current Public Health mandates, facial coverings must be worn by children age 5 and older, and by every adult, when indoors as well as when outside in proximity to others (including during pick up and drop off). Children ages 3 to 5 are strongly encouraged but not required by public health to use facial coverings. Children and youth may use face shields as an alternative (must extend below the chin, to the ears, and have no gap at the forehead). Children may remove face coverings to eat and drink and when they go outdoors for recess or other outside activities. Mask Exemptions:

- Children younger than 2 years. (If children over 2 years cannot wear a face covering properly or if it causes more face touching, public health guidance recommends focusing on the three primary ways to prevent infection spread: Hand washing, distancing, home isolation if sick.)
- Those with a disability that prevents them from comfortably wearing or removing a face covering.
- If advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral professional that wearing a mask may pose a risk to that person.
- Those who are deaf, hard of hearing, and/or use facial and mouth movements as part of communication.