

Health and Wellness Policy:

Our primary goal this year is to be healthy and have in person instruction at school. This requires our collective commitment to practicing the highest levels of precaution. Our greatest defense against transmitting illness is to make sure that all faculty, staff, students and family members that are on campus are in good health. While we always encourage families to keep their children home when they aren't feeling well, during this pandemic time we will be increasing our prudence around this policy.

Teachers and children's temperatures must be taken at home, prior to arrival at school.

Temperature confirmation as well as symptoms, potential exposure, travel and visitor information will be checked and documented on the COVID-19 Screening Log and Attendance Sheet every morning. More information about Health Checks can be found in the [Drop Off and Pick Up Procedure Document](#).

Teachers will note on the COVID-19 Screening Log and Attendance Sheet that the child they are signing in has not been exposed to anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, nor has the child exhibited the symptoms most common to COVID-19 (cough, fever of 100.4 or higher, chills, sore throat, fatigue, muscle pain or body aches, headache, congestion or runny nose, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea) within the last 24 hours after confirming with the parent. Additionally, families will confirm that they have not travelled to or received visitors from out of state.

Children and teachers will be excluded from in-person school activities if they have:

- Symptoms of COVID-19:
 - cough,
 - shortness of breath,
 - difficulty breathing,
 - chills,
 - muscle pain or body ache,
 - headache,
 - sore throat,
 - new loss of taste or smell,
 - fever (temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or more),
 - congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- A significant rash, particularly when other symptoms are present.

- Large amounts of nasal discharge in the absence of an allergy diagnosis
- A fever (temperature higher than 100.4 degrees)
- Severe headache, especially with fever
- Or if they have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- If they have travelled to or received visitors from out of state

Family members who have been told to quarantine by contact tracers or those who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 may not come onto campus at any time, including to do drop off or pick up.

Healthy Children and Staff with the following symptoms/conditions **may attend programming:**

- Allergy symptoms (with no fever) that cause coughing and/or *clear runny nose* may stay if they have medically diagnosed allergies and follow a medical treatment plan
- Well controlled mild asthma

If a child, teacher or staff develops symptoms during the school day they will be separated from others and asked to go home in a timely manner. Spaces that this individual has been in contact with will be disinfected and rooms will be ventilated as possible. Individuals must be excluded from school until they are no longer considered contagious. Please be in contact with your Health Care Provider to determine the medical course to take.

If someone in the household has experienced a potential exposure, please do not return to school for 48 hours to allow contact tracing to occur. **If someone in your household has been referred for testing due to exposure or symptoms we ask that ALL members of the family refrain from coming to school.**

If a confirmed case has been identified the following steps will be taken:

- The person diagnosed with COVID-19 should isolate according to guidelines set forth by the Vermont Department of Health. **We request that all household members do not return to campus for 14 days or 7 followed by a negative test.**
- Admin Director will consult with the Department of Health and Agency of Ed for further contact tracing and to assess the need to close our programs.
- Staff or students that have been identified by contact tracing as a close contact should quarantine.
- Outside doors and windows will be opened and fans will be used to increase air circulation in the area.

- Areas used by the sick person will be closed off (e.g. offices, bathrooms, classrooms and common areas) and kept closed until disinfected according to the following protocol:
 - If possible, wait 24 hours since the person has been in the space before cleaning.
 - Focus on frequently touched surfaces and shared electronic equipment
- All teachers and parents will be notified of potential exposure (while maintaining strict confidentiality)

While the **physical health** of the students, teachers, staff and families requires us to be diligent about healthy hygiene and safe distancing practices, it is imperative to our **community health** that we are gracious, kind and caring if a member of our community contracts COVID-19. No matter the precautions, anyone could contract COVID-19. It is important that we remember that we are a community first and foremost and that if someone were to get ill we will send them well wishes, support and non-judgemental compassion.

Anyone exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19 should respond in accordance with the Department of Health Quarantine, Isolation and Self Observation Guidelines.

Please see page 14 of our Parent Handbook for illness prevention practices, exclusion times for other non COVID-19 illnesses, medication administration and vaccination policies.