

UPDATED COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOL

MASK USAGE POLICY

WE NOW KNOW WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT MASKS WORK! And we are aware that mask-wearing can be challenging for younger children, in particular, and at times, the challenges faced by younger children outweigh the protection a mask offers. Thus, the mask policy is as follows:

ALL ADULTS ON CAMPUS WILL WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES, unless alone in a classroom or an office space, or outside where physical distancing is easily maintained.

EC children will NOT be required to wear a mask. Small class sizes, increased outside time, and physical distancing when possible (especially during nap time) will be the primary mitigation strategies.

GRADES children will wear a mask at ALL times when inside, and outside when physical distancing is not possible, including during transition times, when close proximity to another is possible. **Under controlled outdoor circumstances** (eg., during a movement class when distancing is able to be maintained), students may be allowed to remove their masks.

Grades children are required to have two personal masks at the school at all times (yes, we'll have some extras if they forget or get lost!), and one of those **MUST** be worn around their neck at all times (yes, we bought a bunch of lanyards for children to use!).

Masks must cover both nose and mouth, from the bridge of the nose to below the chin. As always at TWS, we will do our best to keep enforcement positive and meaningful, but we need the help of families to help children understand the reason for masks*. and their proper fit and usage.

*We are aware that cloth masks do not filter out the virus. However, cloth masks **DO** keep germs from spreading to others, so that even a- or pre-symptomatic carriers are much less likely to spread their germs to others, which is one of our most important mitigation tools.

SCREENING AND SYMPTOMS PROTOCOL

Screening: We have added a screening tool to our Parent Square app. All families and staff **must** complete the screening before coming on campus **each day**. It is short (two questions) and can be completed for all members of the household on one form. If you forget or did not have the time to fill it out, we will have hard copies available at drop off.

We are aware that a “symptoms check” is something our families do on a daily basis for themselves and their children, but it allows each of us to be a little more intentional and transparent in doing so.

- **TEMPERATURE CHECKS:** We have begun checking the temperatures of employees on a daily basis since returning to campus, and will continue to do so. The county has indicated that daily temperature checks for children are not effective, but this is something we are still considering, since our own medical experts disagree. We will keep you posted if this changes.

Symptoms: As we said in July, one of the most important things we can do during this time is to **stay home when you (or your child/ren) are sick**. We have always had an illness policy in our handbook, and this year we will be enforcing that policy much more stringently. The following is from our own best medical advice, and is consistent with Pima County Health Department protocol:

- If any of the COVID symptoms is present, DO NOT come to school, unless:
 - The symptom can be attributed to a known cause (allergies, etc.)
- Current protocol for return to campus after showing symptoms is:
 - Ten days after onset of symptoms, and 24 hours fever free (without the use of medication)
 - A written release from your medical practitioner
 - A negative COVID test
- Any child or staff member who begins to show symptoms during the school day will be isolated and **MUST** be picked up (or go home) as quickly as possible. **Yellow emergency cards MUST be filled out completely and updated as needed!**

We realize that these protocols may place a huge burden on families, but it is necessary for the overall health of our community at this time. We continue to look for ways to decrease the burden on families, including looking at the option of a part-time nurse or health practitioner to support families in enforcing these policies and determining the safety of returning to school.

TRACKING/REPORTING ILLNESS

Legal Requirements: Arizona Department of Health Services has declared COVID-19 to be a reportable disease, similar to pertussis or measles. This means that the school is *legally obligated* to report an “outbreak”, defined as two or more cases (generally within the same class) which are not otherwise epidemiologically linked (ie., not from the same household). These reports follow all privacy and confidentiality guidelines, and will be closely held by the Administration and/or health care support personnel. Part of the County protocol will also be to inform the community of any outbreak, in written form; the County then determines if a class or classes will then need to be quarantined for a period of time.

Other Recommendations: Pima County Health Department also requests that a school report any single positive COVID case of which we become aware. This is to support the County in their contact tracing efforts, so those who have come in close contact with the virus can be informed and isolate, if necessary. Part of the reporting includes a list of known close contacts.

- All those fitting the definition of “close contact” are required to quarantine for two weeks. The definition of close contact involves both time and proximity (15 minutes and within six feet, direct physical contact, etc.) and changes as new information is gathered (see the CDC website). In order to minimize the number of children and staff who are required to quarantine in this situation (as well as to mitigate the risk of exposure, of course), we ask that families reinforce the concept of physical distancing.
- Per DHS regulations regarding transmissible disease, the occurrence of a case will be posted on campus.

RETURN TO SCHOOL WAIVER

Parents will need to sign the acknowledgment and waiver located on ParentSquare (a hard copy can also be provided) prior to returning to campus. The text of the acknowledgment and waiver are detailed here.

COVID-19 Parental Acknowledgement and Waiver

PART ONE

A parent or legal guardian must read the entire document and accept the terms by typing your name in the form at the end of this document before your child can attend Tucson Waldorf School.

1. I have been made aware of the School's COVID-19 protocols and policies, I have reviewed it, and I agree that I and other members of my household will abide by all policies and practices described in that document.

2. I understand that I am required to wear a mask any time that I am on campus and I am required to wash or sanitize my hands upon entering the gate. While at the school, I will remain 6 feet from all other people, except for my child.

3. I understand that in order to attend school, my child must be free from COVID-19 symptoms and that if any of the following symptoms appear during the day, my child will be separated from the rest of the class and I will be required to pick my child up within one hour of being contacted. I agree to screen my child daily for symptoms and to keep my child home if my child has any symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms include:

- Fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Any other symptom associated with COVID-19

4. If my child is over 5 years old, I understand that my child must wear a face covering throughout the day in accordance with the protocols established by the school.

5. I will immediately notify the TWS Administration if I become aware that my child has had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19.

6. I understand that my child may be exposed to COVID-19 at school and no protocols or practices can remove the risk of exposure. I understand that the members of my family play a crucial role in keeping the community safe and reducing the risk of exposure by following the practices adopted by the school.

7. I understand that the school's protocols may change as new information about COVID-19 is discovered and I agree to follow the school's protocols as they are developed.

8. I understand that my child's physical attendance at school inherently increases the risk that my child and my household members will contract COVID-19, notwithstanding any precautions taken by the school.

PART TWO

On behalf of myself, my household members, and my minor child(ren), I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and specifically assume all risks and hazards associated with my child's school attendance during the COVID-19 pandemic. I acknowledge that my child will be associating with staff and other children and may acquire COVID-19 notwithstanding any precautions taken by the school. I acknowledge that the school cannot absolutely control the conduct of its students, guarantee that they or their parents will follow safety protocols and procedures, or prevent infected students from attending and potentially spreading COVID19 to my child, directly or indirectly.

By permitting my child to attend school during the COVID-19 pandemic, I voluntarily assume the risk that my child may acquire COVID19, and that COVID-19 may subsequently be transmitted from my child to me and members of my household.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, I hereby agree to waive, release, and discharge any and all claims, causes of action, damages, and rights of any kind against the school, its board of directors, employees, agents, representatives, and volunteers (the "Released Parties") arising from or relating in any way to any damage, injury, trauma, illness, loss, or death that may occur to my child, me, or my household members as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I further agree not to sue the Released Parties, and to defend and indemnify the Released Parties for all claims, damages, losses, or expenses, including attorneys' fees, if a suit is filed concerning an injury, illness, or death to me, my child, or my household members as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.