

## UPDATES TO REOPENING PLAN AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS 9-25-2020

### 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 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. 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. But cloth masks **DO** keep germs from spreading to others, so that even a- or pre-symptomatic carriers are much less likely to spread anything.

### 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, but 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 seem to 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:** AzDHS 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:** PCHD 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.

A few comments on this point:

- Because it is not mandatory, Administration will ask your permission before sharing the information with the County.
- “Close contact” is defined as **being within 6 feet for more than 15 (consecutive) minutes-- with or without masks**. All those fitting this definition are advised to quarantine for two weeks, at this point. 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.