



COVID-19 Policy

Frequently Asked Questions

The COVID Task Force is:

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- Hilary Moses, Board Representative
- Jennifer O'Brien, Early Childhood Faculty Representative
- Michelle Blazewicz, Grades Faculty Representative
- Heather Fine, Facilities Representative
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 - *With help from Dr. Adrienne Yarnish*



Illustrations by Marion McGivern, Grade 3 student



MASKS

1. Are masks required inside and outside?

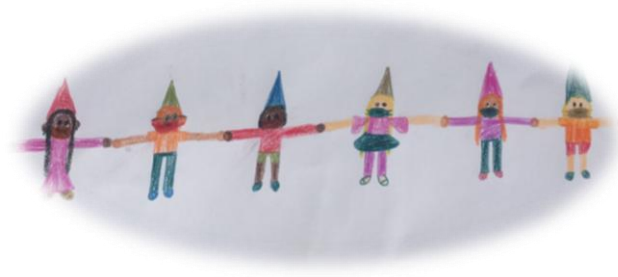
All adults are expected to wear masks on campus, unless they are alone in their workspace without a guest.

In the Early Childhood Program, children are not required to wear a mask. Early childhood teachers are wearing masks throughout the day.

In the Grades Program, masks are required throughout the day for children and teachers.

2. When are students allowed to take off their masks?

Mask breaks are permitted and coordinated by teachers who are directly working with the students at a given time. For example, there are frequent opportunities to drink water, and there are scheduled snacks and meal breaks. If a child requests an additional mask break, teachers will assess the environment and find a safe, outdoor location that is away from others.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

1. How will social distancing be maintained with students?

In the Early Childhood Program, children are not required to maintain a social distance while at play, which is developmentally appropriate. During snack, lunch, nap and other teacher-led activities, children will be distanced using spaced seating at tables and nap mats distanced by at least six feet.

In the Grades Program, we are instituting physical distancing when entering and exiting the classroom and while we are moving across campus. We are being thoughtful about games that we are playing that involve distance and waiting. The classrooms are set up so that workspaces are 6 ft. apart or further, which is the same in all of the work areas the children use.

2. How will distancing work when doing movement activities?

We are being thoughtful about games that we are playing that involve distance and waiting.



OUTDOOR vs INDOOR CLASSES

1. What classes or subjects will be outside and how many hours outside in the school day?

In the Early Childhood Program each cohort will use a separate area of the playground that will rotate weekly. Following the October break, most of the early childhood day will be spent outside with the exception of naptime (approximately 90 minutes, including transitions). In extreme weather situations, classrooms may be used, with ventilation and cleaning/disinfecting protocols in place.

In the Grades Program, each class has a designated outdoor space to use at any time. The lead teachers and the specialty subject teachers may choose to be outdoors for any of the day's rhythm or lessons. Currently, Grades 1, 2, 3, and 6 are outside for the entirety of the school day.

2. What if it's intemperate?

As always at TWS, we encourage children to come to school with layers that are appropriate for the day's temperatures, as well as providing the ability to move safely, freely and comfortably. See the Parent Handbook for details. Outdoor classrooms will provide proper shelter from sun and wind, and a backup location will be created for each outdoor classroom.



COHORTS

1. Will subject teachers move between classes?

Yes.

2. Will students only interact with their classes?

Each class (grade) will be its own cohort and we will be doing our best to minimize mixing of grades on campus. To that end, each grade is assigned a particular gate to use for pickup and drop off.

For Grades 3-8, the younger classes will eat first while the older classes play first. The playground will also be divided into zones for recess with each grade being assigned a zone for a particular recess. Zones will be rotated throughout the week to give children access to the various parts of the playground. This will allow each grade (class) to enjoy recess with their classmates, but not mix with other grades.

3. What happens with classes mixing in Essential Care/Extended Day?

Early Childhood cohorts are separate for the duration of the school day.

Within the **Grades Program**, students who are In-Person learning with their class in the mornings, but must transition to the Essential Grades program in the afternoon will join a second cohort for the afternoon to accomplish their remote learning. As with In-Person learning, the Grades Essential learning is conducted in a combination of indoor and outdoor classroom spaces, with physically distanced seating, and masks are required.



ILLNESS

1. What happens if someone in the class gets sick?

- a. If a child becomes symptomatic while at school, they will be immediately removed from the class, sent to a designated sick room (**Grades:** located behind the South Office and Communication Director's office with its own entrance/exit; **Early Childhood:** Located in the empty classroom next to the North Office with its own entrance/exit), and parents will be called to pick the child up within the hour. A folder containing further guidance on symptom monitoring and return to school protocols will be provided when a child is sent home. The material is also available electronically on the PS resource hub. If necessary (i.e., if symptoms potentially contaminated a classroom), the class will be removed while the room is sanitized.
- b. If a child shows symptoms while at home or is sent home with symptoms, parents must keep the child home for either: 1) Ten days from the beginning of symptoms; or 2) the child receives a negative COVID test; or 3) the child receives an alternate diagnosis from a health care provider. In all these cases, the child must also have had 24 hours symptom free without medication.
- c. In all cases, please notify the school (as per usual requirement) about the nature of any illness.

2. What happens if a teacher gets sick?

- a. Teacher stays home and initiates our substitution plan.
- b. If tested for any communicable disease (COVID, flu, pertussis, etc.), notify Administrative Director.

3. Are staff members required to get regular COVID-19 tests?

- a. Not at this time. Several staff members are voluntarily seeking regular testing, and we are encouraging frequent testing. The testing accuracy on asymptomatic persons does not justify a mandate at this time. The Task Force will continue to revisit this topic as testing becomes more available and more accurate.

4. What happens if there is a positive COVID-19 test?

- a. Per state and local guidelines, we will notify Pima County Health Department, which will begin the contact tracing process. Tucson Waldorf School will assist the health department staff identify individuals who may qualify as “close contacts”.

IT IS VITAL that parents answer their phones when/if Tucson Waldorf or the Pima County Health Department call!

If a cohort is identified to be at high risk for transmission, that cohort may need to be quarantined for fourteen days, per PCHD guidance. You cannot test out of quarantine. Parents of a child with a positive case will need to request written documentation from the contact tracer/case investigator before they can return to campus; it will not automatically be provided.

Our protocols for mask wearing and distancing on campus are in place to reduce the chance that a cohort will have that risk of exposure, and to limit the number of individuals identified as “close contacts” (defined as:

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact (hugged or kissed) someone who has COVID-19
- You shared eating or drinking utensils with someone who has COVID-19.
- Someone with COVID-19 sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you).

5. Why is the school not checking temperatures of students?

- a. The number one reason is that it is redundant. Parents are checking temperatures at home.
- b. Pima County Health Department has specifically issued and endorsed its advice against schools checking children’s temperatures. [The CDC also advises against universal screening of students in K-12 programs.](#)
- c. We will keep temperature checks as part of the at-home daily screening process, and ask parents to keep a close eye on this and any other possible symptoms. We also have thermometers readily available for faculty and staff to check a child’s temperature at any time during the day.

6. What if someone has symptoms but have not taken a test?

- a. See [the AZDHS Guidance for Schools and Child Care Regarding Individuals With Symptoms.](#)
- b. See [the AZDHS Release from isolation and Quarantine Guidance.](#)

7. How is TWS Disinfecting frequently touched surfaces?

The school is using hypochlorous acid. HOCl (hypochlorous acid) is a powerful germ killer yet it is not irritating to eyes and skin. Frequently touched surfaces are disinfected several times throughout the day. HOCl is on the EPA list of approved disinfectants for SARS-Coronavirus.



CLOSURE

1. What triggers a school closure?

- a. City, County, or State Health Department guidance to close; however, as a private entity we may also use our own expert guidance if necessary.
- b. Will distance learning be activated if there is a closure?
 - i. Yes, for the grades, though there will likely be a brief lag that allows the teachers to organize their lessons.
 - ii. Essential care will continue if there is a school closure
 - iii. If our community experiences **high** transmission, as defined by ADHS, the COVID Task force will recommend action for school operations within a 72 hour window.
 - iv. Reminder: the flex calendar is also available for the school to utilize in the event of a class or school shut-down (every break except Thanksgiving and Winter break are considered “flex days”). We will provide as much notice as possible (at least two weeks) if this becomes necessary.



ALTERNATIVE or DISTANCE OPTION

1. Is there an alternative for those with health risks who cannot return in person?

- At Home Option: Planning is underway to continue including those students who cannot return to campus when their class resumes in-person school.
 - *The Grades faculty are committed to retaining those who must remain at home when classes resume In-Person learning.*
 - The details for what may be offered to at-home learners (after a class return to campus) are being developed, and will come to you from your class teacher with your class reopening announcement, if not before.
 - The At Home Option is for children who are not able to attend school in person for health reasons. The school and class is still primarily an in-person enterprise once a class has returned in person.
 - At Home Option is not intended to be an either-or choice, equivalent to in-person schooling. It is offered with the intention of including those students who are unable to return to in-person learning, until such a time as they are able to return.
 - The At Home Option is not going to offer the same level of support as has been offered in the Bridge program. Teachers are currently working with a limited number of students in their classes who are unable to attend in-person classes.
 - The faculty as a whole are working on standardizing the At Home Option. The constraints to this option are determined by what support is possible within the school's budget, and the faculty's agreement regarding what is possible to provide when balanced with in person teaching.



CLASSROOM PROCEDURES/LOGISTICS

1. How are they set up to minimize transmission?

- Student seating is physically distanced from other students and the teacher.
- Teachers monitor the flow of students to minimize congestion at cubbies, facilitate physical distancing in lines, facilitate the hand washing protocols, and facilitate movement from one area of the campus to another.
- Upon entering the campus, students are given hand sanitizer while they wait in a physically distanced line to wash their hands before class begins. Students wash their hands again before and after eating, as well as before and after recess. Students wash their hands before and after movement education classes. Students wash their hands as part of the dismissal process before they leave campus.
- Air purifiers and the use of fans supplement ventilation systems for indoor classrooms. High touch surfaces are cleaned and disinfected while students are outside at recess and again at the end of the day.
- In addition to indoor classrooms, every grade has an outdoor classroom area that can be used throughout the day.
- Teachers and students wear masks indoors and outdoors for learning and play. As needed, teachers can facilitate safe mask breaks for students.

2. Will there be outside learning?

Yes. Teachers will integrate outdoor learning opportunities for students and ensure that it is developmentally and pedagogically appropriate.