

ARCADIA MONTESSORI SCHOOL

GUIDE TO RE-OPENING 2020

DEAR ARCADIA MONTESSORI FAMILIES:

The following Guide to Re-Opening describes our plans to re-open The Arcadia Montessori School in accordance with state and local public health department requirements for preschool to kindergarten students and employee safety.

We should take comfort that the Guide reflects the current science-based understanding about COVID-19, and be mindful that priorities and practices will change as the science-based facts change. The following findings helped to guide our decision to re-open The Arcadia Montessori School:

- The continued isolation of young children has tremendously deleterious effects on their development
- Working parents with very young children must have care in order to work
- Current evidence indicates that young children are the least likely population to transmit COVID-19
- In-person learning and socialization is a critical need for young children's healthy development

There is little debate that in-person learning is better for students. There is also little debate regarding remote, screen-based learning for preschool-aged children: it is barely developmentally possible or appropriate for our youngest learners. They learn through tactile experience. Further, even with screens in hand, preschool-aged children still need continuous and watchful supervision from adults. Remote learning does not meet the needs of working families for the actual physical supervision of their youngest, preschool-aged children.

We hope the Guide provides clarity and confidence. Beginning with the expectation that every family will embrace our commitment to safety, each section of the Guide maintains our highest priority: the health of our students and employees. Because of the fluid circumstances typical to a pandemic, we will continue to review our plans and communicate the necessary adjustments to ensure it complies with state and local public health department guidelines and science-based recommendations to ensure student and employee safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Roberts". The signature is written in a dark blue or black ink on a white background.

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

AN INTRODUCTION

This document is for the sole purpose of providing guidance for consideration. No legal, medical, or professional advice or opinions are given herein or may be relied upon. Each family should consult with their own physician when considering the risks involved with a return to in-person instruction at The Arcadia Montessori School.



FACE MASKS



Properly worn face masks and physical distancing are widely accepted as effective barriers to germ spread. For reasons of safety and hygiene, all students are expected to provide their own clean face masks for daily use. We also ask that you provide an extra mask that we can keep in the classroom. We recognize the numerous challenges posed by face masks for our youngest students, and are exploring other options that do not compromise student or employee safety.

We encourage you to practice mask-wearing with your child, progressively increasing the length of time your child wears their mask.

HYGIENE & DISINFECTING



Personal hygiene expectations are that all students and employees will wash their hands and sanitize regularly, especially when entering the classroom in the mornings, before/after eating, after recess, after using the restroom, and after coughing into one's hands or blowing one's nose. We have added handwashing stations throughout campus to enable additional supervised hand washing for students every 90 minutes throughout the day. Employees will be expected to adhere to a similar schedule.

Throughout the day, all high-touch surfaces will be wiped down with disinfectant (examples: playground equipment, door knobs, tables, etc.). At the end of the day, all learning spaces will be disinfected in preparation for the following school day.

We will take full advantage of our beautiful outdoor spaces for instruction and downtime.

DAILY SCREENING

WELCOME TO SCHOOL!

Every child and employee will be screened daily for signs or symptoms of possible viral infection. Students will be walked to the door by their parents. They will be screened upon entry to the office. Parents/guardians will sign their child into school with their own pen.

The screening protocol will consist of:

- Visual observation for symptoms.
- Temperature check (no-touch thermometer). Temperature must be below 100°F.
- Student/parent/guardian response to a series of questions.

If a student does not meet the criteria for safe entry to campus, the parent/guardian will be expected to take the student to a physician for further evaluation.

Students who pass the screening will be escorted to their classroom by a staff member.



TRAVEL & VISITORS

TRAVEL



As part of our daily screening, all students and employees are asked whether they or family members have traveled outside the U.S to a country with active community transmission or to a domestic "hot spot", or outside one's normal living spaces.

If travel to an affected area has occurred during the previous two weeks, written verification of clearance from a physician will be required for the student or employee to enter campus. We encourage you to keep this policy in mind when traveling during school holiday periods.

NON-ESSENTIAL VISITORS



Non-essential visitors will not be allowed in the Arcadia Montessori School.

Parents will need to call ahead if they are picking up a child. Upon arrival parents will use the intercom to communicate with an office staff member and the office staff will bring the child to the parents.

STUDENT CLASSROOMS

YOUR CHILD'S DAY IN SMALL GROUPS

At Arcadia Montessori School, students will be divided into classrooms. Each class will consist of 12 or fewer students. Classes will be designed with the social-emotional and academic needs of students as the priorities. The purpose of the class is to keep students in small groups where they can more easily be monitored for distancing, minimize the number of exposures they have to other students and teachers, use only their supplies, and be assured that they are the only ones sitting at their workstation.

Students will spend the day in their classes for instruction, snack, recess, and lunch. No two classes will be on any playground at the same time.



EATING AND DRINKING

DRINKS



Only single-use water bottles will be permitted on campus. The bottle will be disposed of at the end of each day. Bottles will be stored in the child's cubby. Students will not be allowed to use drinking fountains. Children will be supplied water at snack and lunch, and as needed by teachers in disposable cups.

SNACKS/LUNCH



All students have a scheduled daily snack and lunch break. Parents will supply a snack and lunch for their child.

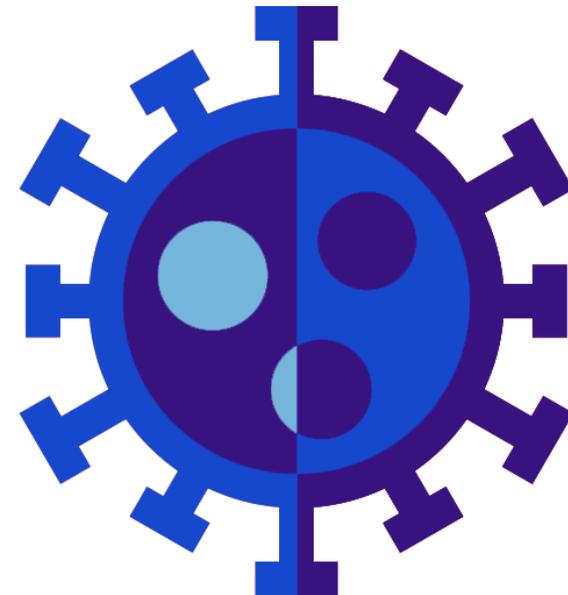
If we can safely accommodate distancing requirements, classes will be able to eat outside. If not, students will remain inside with their classes to eat, then go outside for play with distancing protocols in place.

**BEFORE CARE AND EXTENDED
DAYCARE WILL BE REINSTATED
AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.**

ABOUT THE COVID-19 VIRUS

Symptoms of Possible COVID-19 Infection:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- 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



SYMPTOMS RESPONSE

WHAT HAPPENS IF...

AT SCHOOL

If a student or employee displays signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19 infection, they will be moved to an isolation area. Children will be safely supervised until their parent/guardian can pick them up from school.

Students and employees should see a physician and be evaluated for COVID-19 in these circumstances. Before returning to school, students and employees will be required to meet the criteria listed to the right.

CRITERIA FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL

IF a negative test result for COVID-19 is obtained OR a non-contagious and non-respiratory source of infection is verified by a physician, **THEN a student or employee may return to school if all the following criteria are met:**

- Fever-free (Lower Than 100°F) For 72 hours
- No medication taken to reduce fever or pain
- Improving symptoms and written verification by a physician of non-contagious and non-respiratory source of infection

IF a positive test result for COVID-19 is obtained OR no test is obtained, **THEN student or employee may return to school if all the following criteria are met:**

- 10 days after symptom onset (not test date)
- Fever-free (lower than 100°f) for 72 hours
- No medication taken to reduce fever or pain
- Improving symptoms
- Written verification by a physician that the above criteria have been met.

SYMPTOMS RESPONSE

COMMUNICATION IS CRUCIAL

OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL



NOTIFICATION

In compliance with our community guidelines, parents or employees must **notify the school immediately** if exposure to COVID-19 outside of school has occurred.

If a student or employee is exposed to a known COVID-19 person when not wearing a mask or with significant time of exposure, that person will be expected to quarantine for 14 days.

If no symptoms appear by the end of 14 days, students or employees may return to school **with physician verification** of health.

If a student or an employee leaves school with possible signs or symptoms of COVID-19 infection, or if the school is notified that a child has been exposed outside of school, the class will be contacted of a potential viral illness exposure.

Parents/guardians **within the class** will be asked to monitor students and their siblings for signs or symptoms.

Students in class will continue attending school with diligent attention to mask wearing, distancing, and handwashing/sanitizing expectations.

If the student or teacher obtains a positive COVID-19 test, we will notify **all school** families and expect families to monitor their students for signs or symptoms.

SYMPTOMS RESPONSE

RETURNING TO SCHOOL

QUARANTINE & FAMILY MEMBERS

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REMINDERS

We take safety very seriously and are prepared to keep your child safe and engaged in their learning.
If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us!

BRING



- Clean Mask Daily
 - Extra mask to keep in the classroom
- Lunch
- Extra Set of Clothes
- Water Bottle

DON'T BRING



- Reusable Lunch Boxes
- Reusable Water Bottles
- Backpack

QUESTIONS



CALL OUR OFFICE AT:

(626) 447-3513

OR EMAIL:

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