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## 2022-2023 Health & Safety Policies and Procedures

Emerson is committed to promoting the safety and health of all staff, visitors, and students. In order to achieve this as safely as possible, we will be implementing the following policies for all children and adults at the School. This document provides the guidelines as they relate to our on-campus activities for the school year.

*Emerson reserves the right to implement different or additional policies as it deems necessary, and modifications will be communicated to the Emerson community in a timely fashion. Our policies are aligned with best practices and recommendations as outlined by both the CDC and Washtenaw County Health Department (as of Aug. 2022).*

### General Health & Safety Procedures

#### Arrival to campus

As a general rule, we kindly ask that families conduct an assessment of their child's overall health before sending them to school. Students should stay home if:

- Any two of the following symptoms are present: runny nose, cough, upset stomach, extreme fatigue, headache, body aches, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea,
- Any fever (above 100.4 degrees F) is present within the past 24 hours,
- Any vomit in the past 24 hours,
- If and when symptoms are present, please conduct an at-home COVID test.

#### Illness response

A general acknowledgment of risk is assumed as no environment can be guaranteed COVID-free. Anyone who is or becomes symptomatic will be isolated and sent home immediately. Our Medical Assistant will provide an isolated space adjacent to her office for anyone who is symptomatic. It will be kept distant from other workspaces.

Symptoms of note include runny nose, fever, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, chills, muscle or body aches.

In the event of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis in our community, we will immediately contact the Washtenaw County Health Department, and we will coordinate with them, as well as our Risk Task Force to determine the School's response.

#### Communication Practices and Expectations

The School will actively communicate if and when it learns of a positive diagnosis for COVID-19 within a grade level if and when the individual was on campus or interacting with students during a school-sponsored event within the past 48 hours from a positive test result. Similar to other infectious diseases, the School will send out a notification to impacted groups providing them with a timeline of potential exposure, classrooms impacted and reminders regarding best practices around protection from the virus.

#### Vaccination Expectations

Our priority this year is to keep our community healthy, both physically and social-emotionally. In order to do so, we are asking that all community members remain up-to-date with all COVID and other vaccinations (including boosters - [find out if you are eligible](#)). All individuals will be asked to complete a Vaccination Status form. Through this form you

will be asked to either attest to your child's vaccination or request an exemption based on any medical, closely held religious or conscientious belief. Parents can contact Head of School, [Ed Hollinger](#) with any questions regarding these expectations.

## Isolation Guidelines

The need to isolate as the result of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis still exists as a recommended practice by the CDC and Washtenaw County Health Department. Based on this, we will follow the guidelines and protocols below for those scenarios:

### A positive diagnosis of COVID-19:

- Any individual (vaccinated or unvaccinated) who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 5 days before returning to school. In these cases, Day Zero is considered the day of the positive test.
- An individual (vaccinated or unvaccinated) may return to school on Day 6 under the following conditions:
  - All symptoms have resolved, including being fever-free for at least 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medication).
  - The individual can ensure that they remain masked indoors from day 6-10, and for the duration of their time at school, except when outside, during lunch and snack times.
- If the individual tests negative on two sequential tests 48 hours apart and after the 5 day quarantine, they may return to school without a mask before day 10.
  - Photo proof of the negative tests will need to be emailed to [Frankie DiCesare](#).

### A confirmed exposure to an individual with COVID-19:

Household, classroom, social contacts: If an individual has a known exposure to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, the School recommends that that individual wear a mask for 10 days after this exposure, and should symptoms emerge, they stay home and get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible.

### Additional guidance for outbreak/clusters:

- If 10% of a grade level (within past 7 days) tests positive, the School will require masking in that grade level for the following 10 days. Families are recommended to conduct three rapid antigen tests in consecutive days following last exposure.
- If 20% of a grade level (within past 7 days) tests positive, the School will require masking in that grade level for the following 10 days. The School will implement required (at school) rapid antigen testing for three days following the last exposure.
- If 30% of a grade level (within past 7 days) tests positive, the School will consider moving the group to a remote setting for 3-5 days following last exposure. Should students stay in school, the School will require masking in that grade level for the following 10 days. The School will implement required (at school) rapid antigen testing for three days following the last exposure. If students transition home, the School recommends rapid antigen testing for three consecutive days and before returning to school.

## Masks

Indoor and outdoor masking is not required; however, families may choose to ask their child to wear a mask indoors. In some situations, individuals will be required to wear a mask at all times indoors (see Isolation Guidelines). When individuals return from isolation (after day 5), they are required to wear a surgical grade mask, KN-95, or N-95 until day 10 after the onset of COVID symptoms.

The School will use the following [talking points](#) with our students to discuss how to respect each individual's unique decision around masking at school.

## Eating on campus

Students will eat inside and/or outside depending on the weather. When inside, plexiglass dividers will be made available should students choose to use them when eating.

In the event of an individual returning from a positive diagnosis (during days 6-10), faculty will make separate eating spaces available in or out of the classroom and away from the other students. In addition, these individuals (returning from a positive diagnosis) will be asked to use a plexiglass divider while eating indoors.

## **Hygiene**

Handwashing and/or hand sanitizing will be expected prior to arrival at school, before and after all visits to the playground, before and after eating times, and after lavatory visits. The school will provide hand sanitizer for outdoor activities. Families are welcome to send a bottle of sanitizer for personal use by their students if they wish.

## **Ventilation in the school**

As often as possible, exterior doors and windows will be open to allow rooms to stay well ventilated with outside air. In addition, all school HVAC systems are equipped with MERV-13 filters, the highest grade possible with our current units. Each indoor classroom is also equipped with a portable HEPA filter that will run throughout the day.