



Cedar Creek Montessori School

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Health and Illness Policy in the time of COVID-19 starting August 2020

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19, Cedar Creek Montessori School will follow the recommendations of the Berkeley Department of Health, Alameda County COVID-19 Task Force, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and Community Care Licensing Department (CCLD, “licensing”) for pandemic outbreak. Our exclusion policy for ill children, staff members, family members, visitors, and volunteers will be guided by their recommendations during this time. If there is a conflict of guidelines therein, we will follow the most stringent of recommendations.

In hope of preventing infection, we will:

1. Clean and disinfect everyday. We will have a deep disinfecting service cover the whole school before opening and in between any extended time off. Our weekly janitorial service will include an additional layer of cleaning and disinfecting of all surfaces, inside and out, including play structures, outside tables, outside benches etc. Inside materials will receive added cleaning and disinfecting. The teachers will continue to clean the classroom, the activities and the environment as before, twice daily: between shifts and at the end of the day.
2. All adults on site will be required to wear protective face coverings—mask, scarf etc. Children will be also be asked to wear masks but will be allowed to go without one, if he/she becomes distressed by wearing one.
3. Staff and children will be reminded and encouraged to wash their hands thoroughly throughout the day. Each class will have a handwashing station inside and there will be handwashing stations outside as well. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school for adults and children. Hand sanitizers will be methanol-free and will be at least 60% alcohol.
4. We will check temperatures of staff, children and adults upon entry. Parents will be encouraged to check their own and their child’s temperatures before coming to school. **Any person with a temperature of 100-degree F and up will not be admitted.**
5. Majority of the day will be spent outdoors when possible.
6. We will aim to keep informed of new information about the virus as well as any new recommendation or requirement put forth in dealing with the virus. Cedar Creek will inform parents via email if any change in policy should occur.

In response to illness:

1. If a child develops a fever while at school, he/she will be separated from her bubble and will be placed in the office. Parents will be called and must immediately come to pick up the child or make arrangements to have the child picked up asap.
2. A child may return to school after being home with a fever, if he/she has had 3 straight days of being fever-free, without the aid of fever-reducing medications or other treatments. If child had other flu-like symptoms, including, coughs, running nose etc. (severe cold symptoms), the same rule applies: he/she may return after

completion of 3 days being symptom free without the aid of medication. A parent can administer symptom reducing medication at the onset but the child may return only after having 3 days of being completely well, without medication. Testing for COVID-19 is up to each family. We will not require any family to be tested.

3. If you chose to test, you must remain at home until results come in. If the COVID-19 test comes back positive, please inform the school immediately and follow your doctor's recommendations. Cedar Creek will inform the Berkeley Dept. of Health and they will tell us what we must do next. We will maintain confidentiality and respect people's privacy, not disclosing names without prior notice to the family involved. We will also strive to remove any stigma connected to the virus.
4. Protocol in place right now for a child that tests positive for COVID-19 states that if the child/family is told to quarantine at home (not to go to the ER or hospital), a quarantine period of 10 – 14 days must be completed and a child may return to school after being fever and symptom free for 3 consecutive days after the quarantine period and with a physician's clearance.
5. If a child has a fever and other accompanying symptoms (symptoms akin to the flu coupled with shortness of breath or other respiratory issues) but does not test for COVID-19, he/she must quarantine for 10 days from the onset of the symptoms and can return after 3 consecutive days of being fever-free and symptom free without medication. If a child is not tested and his/her symptoms are steadily improving, and has 3 consecutive days being fever and symptom free without medication, he/she may come back before the 10 days, with a clearance note issued by his/her pediatrician.
6. If you know or suspect that you may have been exposed to the virus, please stay home and notify the school with time and place if possible. The local public health department will be consulted if there are confirmed cases. Notify your physician as well and we will keep in touch with steps to follow.

STAFF MEMBERS will be required to follow the same guidelines. They will remain home until the Public Health/CDC/Primary Care Provider determines it is safe for them to return. We are working on having regular substitute teachers and floaters to have ample coverage should a teacher be out.

If there is a confirmed COVID-19 case, families will be informed immediately with supporting facts of time, dates, presence of child/staff member that tested positive etc. If the case is not confirmed but suspected, the subject must quarantine until confirmation is received. We inform Alameda County and the Berkeley Department of Health and then follow guidelines given at the time of reporting.

Is it possible that the school would close again?

1. If the governor institutes another shelter-in-place order, returning to childcare for essential workers only, we will strive to remain open. However, if it will entail taking in new families of essential workers, we will most likely close as we did last March.

2. If we are ordered to close by the Berkeley Dept. of Health and/or the County of Alameda and/or the CDC and/or the State of CA/CCLD, we will close. If this should happen, I will strive to give families as much notice as possible through email or by phone.

In order to respond well to the situation, we hope to continually communicate with staff and families about extent of any illness in our program and any changes that may need to be made to our usual routine.

ADDENDUM 2.2021

--Children may return to school after being fever free for 24 hours with a negative COVID test or a note from physician stating that the child's illness was not COVID related.

--after an exposure, 14 days is the gold standard of quarantining but 10 days is acceptable with a negative COVID test administered no less than 5 days after exposure.

--please speak to the director regarding travel outside the area

We will strive to be transparent and let our families know of anything going on related to our community and COVID. Please let the school know if you plan to travel outside the area or plan to gather with a bigger crowd than advised. We will work out a plan to make it safe for everyone.