



## **MONTESSORI CHILDREN'S HOUSE OF VALLEY FORGE HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR**

\*Updated September 1, 2022\*

This Health and Safety Plan has been approved by the MCHVF Board of Directors and will be posted on the school's website and distributed to all staff and parents. Staff will be kept up to date on the Health and Safety Plan throughout the school year.

As a school community we take the health and safety of our children, staff and families seriously. While COVID-19 is still circulating, we are in a very different phase of the pandemic than we were when it began. Widespread vaccination and previous infection have led to high levels of immunity against severe disease. We continue to be in contact with the Chester County Health Department and their schools' team, in addition to following updated recommendations from public health experts such as the CDC and CHoP.

Based on the updated recommendations from public health experts, MCHVF will observe the practices listed below:

### **Masking**

Masking will remain *optional* for those who are asymptomatic and have had no known exposure to COVID-19. Masks are available in the office for your child should they need one. We respect every families' decision regarding masking.

### **Vaccination**

Vaccination remains *optional* but is strongly recommended.

### **Protocols for a Sick Child**

Please do not send your student to school when they are sick. Isolation when children have symptoms of any communicable disease remains the number one way to prevent spread. COVID-19 most often manifests like a cold or allergies, however symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- 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

If your child is sick, please contact your pediatrician directly to discuss. We strongly recommend the use of at-home rapid antigen or other FDA-approved tests to help identify COVID-19.

Per our Illness policy, a child can return to school only if they have been symptom-free for 24 hours without the use of medication. Please call the office at (610) 783-0110 should you have any doubts on whether to send your child to school.

### **Positive COVID-19 Test Result or Exposure**

Those who test positive for or have a confirmed exposed to someone with COVID-19 should follow CDC guidelines, links below:

[CDC Guidelines for Positive COVID-19 Diagnosis](#)

[CDC Guidelines for Exposure to COVID-19](#)

If your child tests positive or is exposed to COVID-19, please call the office at (610) 783-0110 to discuss next steps for your child.

### **Additional Mitigation Practices**

Practices such as frequent hand washing, ventilation, air purification and surface sanitizing are still in place in our classrooms and throughout the school. Should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our school, affected classrooms and areas will be thoroughly sanitized and disinfected by the next school day.

Special distancing measures, temperature checks and contact tracing are not recommended and will no longer be implemented.

### **Visitors**

Parents and other visitors to the MCHVF campus will be allowed, so long as they are symptom-free and/or have met CDC protocols.

### **Resources**

We will continue to keep up to date on the advice of public health experts as it relates to schools and will continue to adapt to new information and variants should they be a cause for concern. For more information, here are some recent resources that are helpful for those who are interested in the guidance from public health experts.

[CDC Guidance for K-12 Schools to Support Safe In-Person Learning](#) (CDC)

[Guidance for Updated COVID-19 School Mitigation Plans for Academic Year 2022-23](#) (ChoP)

### **Contact**

For questions on the Health and Safety Plan, please call Ana DaCosta or Mary Pat Elison at (610) 783-0110.