

ADDENDUM TO PARENT HANDBOOK

Covid-19 Policy

The DMS Covid-19 task force is comprised of members of the DMS Board of Directors, teachers, and staff, with a goal of developing a policy that prioritizes DMS student/staff safety in the context of a rich learning environment. The policy developed by the task force meets or exceeds all guidelines provided by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), and local childcare nurse consultant through Unity Point. Guidelines from DHS and IDPH are routinely updated; the task force will review all updates and recommend changes to the DMS Covid-19 policy, as indicated.

The following procedures will be implemented until further notice:

1. If a staff member or child reports a positive Covid-19 test, DMS is required to report this to DHS. DMS will also report this information to parents or guardians; identifying information will not be provided. DHS will work with the school to determine next steps regarding closures and reopenings. This will vary on a case-by-case basis, but expect DMS to close for at least 24-48 hours.
2. If DMS receives notification during the school day that a staff member or child has tested positive for Covid-19, DMS will immediately contact the caregiver on file with the option to pick up their child.
3. Daily temperature checks at the door for staff and children.
 - a. Any staff member or child that has a fever of 100.4 degrees or more, or appears ill, will not be able to enter the building. Children will be required to remain home until they have been symptom free (without use of fever reducer) for 72 hours
 - b. If a child becomes ill and/or develops a fever during the day, the child will be separated from others until the child can be picked up.
 - c. Any staff member that becomes ill during the day must leave immediately.
 - d. Children remaining for lunch will have a second temperature check at that time.
4. Due to recognition that droplets are a primary mode of transmission of Covid-19, staff members or children who have excessive coughing or mucus (continual runny nose) must stay home until symptoms resolve.
 - a. Children will be sent home if they are sent to school while ill.
 - b. Repeat offenses will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
5. DMS staff who are exhibiting symptoms of illness should stay home until symptoms resolve

6. Staff and children who have been exposed to a person with confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 should follow current CDC recommendations to stay home and monitor their health. (Per CDC guidance, exposure is considered to be within six feet of the diagnosed individual for 15 minutes or greater). **Staff and children with a pending Covid-19 test must remain home.**
7. Persons allowed to enter the DMS building will be limited to staff, children, interventional specialists, child care nurse consultant, DHS licensing consultant, and CCR&R consultant. **Accompanying adults will not be able to walk children into the building at this time.** Persons needing to speak with a DMS staff member should call or email to make arrangements to meet at an alternate time.
8. Hand hygiene will be prioritized in several ways:
 - a. Teachers will provide education about the spread of viruses and bacteria at the beginning of the school year. They will review proper hand washing technique (i.e., soap and water for at least 20 seconds) and basic hygiene practices such as covering coughs and sneezes. This will be revisited periodically throughout the school year.
 - b. To encourage proper hand washing, a flashing-light timer will be placed above the sink to ensure 20 seconds of washing. Teachers will place a washable stamp on a child's hand that the child will then need to wash off as part of proper hand washing training.
 - c. Hand washing will be conducted *at minimum* during the following times: upon entry to school, before/after snack/lunch, after using the restroom/diaper change.
 - d. Per DHS, hand sanitizer is not permitted in the classrooms.
9. The classrooms will be sanitized throughout the day.
10. Due to the young age group of our students, and DHS regulations regarding mask usage, we are not requiring or encouraging masks to be worn by students. There are associated difficulties regarding the child's ability to properly wear a mask and prevent it from becoming a contaminant to others. **Staff will be required to wear masks.**
11. Changes to snack and meal time include:
 - a. Meals and snacks will be prepared by only one person.
 - b. Children will no longer be served family-style and will instead be given individually plated meals and pre-packaged snacks.
 - c. There will be two separate lunch times and children will eat in classrooms rather than a communal lunchroom.
 - d. Children who have a medical need to bring a lunch/snack must get prior approval from the director.
12. In compliance with social distancing guidelines, the following changes have been made:

- a. To the extent possible, children will remain in their cohort during class time, lunch, and playground time.
 - b. Two separate napping rooms.
 - c. No other groups of children will enter the toddler room during class time.
13. In the event of a continued, prolonged school closure **due to Covid-19**, a 50% tuition reimbursement will be given in the month when the following conditions are met:
- a. If 5 day classes close 15 or more consecutive days
 - b. If 3 day classes close 9 or more consecutive days
 - c. If 2 day classes close 6 or more consecutive days
14. In addition to universal precautions training, a Covid-19 training will be provided to staff.