

ADDENDUM TO PARENT HANDBOOK

COVID-19 Policy

The DMS COVID-19 task force is composed 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.
2. 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. 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.
 - b. Any staff member that becomes ill and is displaying symptoms during the day must leave immediately.
 - c. Children will be sent home if they are sent to school while ill.
 - d. Repeat offenses will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
3. Staff and children who have been exposed to a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 and have symptoms will stay home and monitor their health. Staff and children may return once they have received a negative COVID-19 test or are symptom free for 24 hours. (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.**
4. 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.

5. 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.
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.
 - c. Per DHS, hand sanitizer is not permitted in the classrooms.
6. The classrooms will be sanitized throughout the day.
7. 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 provide support as needed for families that choose to have their children wear masks. Vaccinated staff shall wear masks indoors when they are unable to maintain social distance. Unvaccinated staff are required to wear masks.
8. Changes to snack and meal time include:
 - a. Children will no longer be served family-style and will instead be given individually plated meals and snacks.
 - b. Children who have a medical need to bring a lunch/snack must get prior approval from the director.
9. 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.
10. 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
11. In addition to universal precautions training, a COVID-19 training will be provided to staff on August 20, 2021.