



Six Rivers Montessori
Return to Site-Based School Covid-19 Plan
Update February 10th, 2021

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to facilitate Six Rivers Montessori families and staff to return to site-based school for Fall 2020-21 while minimizing risks of students, staff and parents being infected by the novel coronavirus and the subsequent potential spread of COVID-19.

These guidelines will be adopted as school policy once discussed, edited, and voted on by the Board of Directors and SRM families that are interested in returning to site-based learning.

The evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic requires that these guidelines could change as the situation evolves. The State of California may issue an order that would close all schools in which case SRM would be closed as well. SRM plans to offer distance learning as possible if such an order is issued or we otherwise need to close in-person learning.

While SRM staff believe that it is best for children to be in school, we also are fully committed to slowing and stopping the spread of transmission of COVID-19. Opening the school will take our entire community's effort. Every family must do their part to keep our community safe by staying as safe as possible, minimizing your own risks, and agreeing that our community is in a sense a "pod".

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Social-emotional health is a priority in our Return to School plan and essential to Montessori education. We will be engaging in mindfulness practices through meditation and stress relief techniques. A focus in Upper El will be self-reflection. We will start the school year by discussing the values that each child plans to bring to school and discussing what those values mean. Starting the school year the way it has always been started will provide comfort and a sense of peace to the children who have been isolated for nearly 6 months. The students will be grounded in a community art project. The students will be creating their community as always by sharing their feelings and creating their classroom norms. There will be opportunity for introspection and goal setting and routines. We will be discussing the new protocols and normalizing the way the school needs to operate with this group of learners at this unique time.

While SRM staff will be firm about school protocols, the students will be told with kindness if they are not remembering a Covid-19 protocol. These are trying times for everyone and it is important that the students are supported and respected while at school.

GUIDELINES

1. All activities and protocols in SRM's plan to minimize risks are consistent with and will adjust to changing applicable state and local Public Health orders and may change due to other factors such as concerned community members or staff, or if new information becomes available. SRM will continue to be fully transparent with new information and any changes.
2. Staff, students, and parents will receive training reinforcing the importance of health and safety practices and adopted protocols including how to properly fit and wear a mask, wash hands, and use sanitizer. Staff will be trained in proper use, and care of no-touch thermometers and other Personal Protective Equipment.
3. Where practicable, physical distancing of six feet will be maintained between adults and students.
4. SRM will cooperate with Public Health to support testing strategies to mitigate transmission of COVID-19, including testing for staff at the beginning of the school year, followed by monthly testing.
5. The Office Administrator will be the single point of contact to direct questions or concerns around practices, protocols, or potential exposure. This person will also serve as a liaison to Public Health and other health professionals.
6. Non-essential visitors, including parent volunteers will be limited (A general NO VISITOR policy) and essential workers will be required to adhere to all health and safety guidelines. NOTE: In order for the school to open, SRM will rely on parent volunteers in the school yards and garden, and for some classroom support. Those volunteers will sign up ahead of time and be regular volunteers.
7. Staff, parent volunteers, and students who have a fever or any contagious illness such as a flu will stay home.
8. All families and staff will sign a liability waiver that acknowledges that you are aware of risks, and that the school while intending to open and remain open may need to close.

Protocols and Communication for COVID-19 Related Scenarios

Scenario	Protocol	Communication
<p>A student or staff member either exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, answers yes to a health screening question or has a temp of 100.4 or above.</p>	<p>Send staff or student home to be tested.</p> <p>Contact Healthcare provider/Public Health for testing</p> <p>The student or staff must wait for test results before returning to school.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>A family member or someone in close contact with a student or staff member test positive for COVID-19 or takes an Covid Test because they have cause to be concerned.</p>	<p>Student or staff reports information to Office Administrator, and is sent home to quarantine.</p> <p>Contact Healthcare provider/Public Health for testing</p>	<p>Email will be sent to all families and staff at SRM. There will be a temporary move to distance learning until contact tracing permits SRM to reopen for in person learning.</p> <p>Robocall/text will be sent to all SRM families.</p>
<p>A student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.</p>	<p>Report information to the Office Administrator. Families of students and staff: quarantine and contact Healthcare provider/Public Health for testing</p> <p>Cohort CLOSED for 14 days from last exposure</p>	<p>Email will be sent to all families and staff at SRM. Independent (limited) distance learning depending on severity of staff illness.</p> <p>Robocall/text will be sent to all SRM families.</p>
<p>A student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19 after any of the above scenarios</p>	<p>Student or staff may return to cohort 3 days after symptoms resolve, however must continue isolation if in contact with C19+ family member.</p> <p>Cohort is OPEN</p>	<p>Updated Covid email to the community on school status.</p>

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

- There will be a Health and Safety Update every Friday
- Town Hall Meetings will be called as needed (up to monthly)
- Robo-calls will be made and texts will be sent for all-school emergency information

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

There will be staggered arrival times for SRM during the 2020-21 school year to allow for a brief health screening (questions re symptoms and potential history of exposure) for families upon their arrival in the parking lot. The purpose behind screening questions and temperature checks is so that everyone in the community feels as secure as possible.

- Staggered arrival times are 8:00, 8:15, 8:30 and 8:45. If your family requires a specific drop off time due to work/other obligations please let the Office Administrator know. SRM will provide a form in the Summer Welcome Packet that will ask for your desired time and a second choice time in case everyone can not be accommodated with their first choice.
- SRM staff will come to each car, ask the parent screening questions* from six feet away (see questions below). If screening is passed, staff will take temperatures of the students while still in their cars with no-touch thermometers. Temperatures will be recorded.
- SRM staff temperatures will be checked and recorded daily at school by another staff member.

SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. Within the last 10 days has your child been diagnosed with COVID-19 or had a test confirming you have the virus?
2. Does your child live in the same household with, or has he/she/they had close contact with someone who in the past 14 days has been in isolation for COVID-19 or had a test confirming they have the virus?

If the answer to either question is “yes”, your child cannot attend school. Follow COVID-19 isolation and quarantine steps/protocols established by the Humboldt County Public Heath Department for this scenario.

3. Has your child had one or more of the following symptoms today or within the past 24 hours, which is new or not explained by another reason?

- Fever, Chills, or Repeated Shaking/Shivering
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Shortness of Breath, Difficulty Breathing
- Feeling Unusually Weak or Fatigued
- Loss of Taste or Smell

If the answer to Question 3 is “yes”, your child cannot come to school. Your child may have COVID-19 and must be tested for the virus before returning to school. Without a test, SRM must treat your child as being positive for COVID-19 and require you to stay out of school for at least 14 days.

NEW SCHOOL ENTRY ROUTES

Routes for entry and exit to the campus will be designated for each classroom cohort. We will now be using the back play yard as the entry to the school. The Upper El and Lower El each have their own entry doors through the back play yard.

Students will apply hand sanitizer from a hand sanitizing station at the front door of each classroom.

CLASSROOMS

New systems are in place to prevent the mixing of classroom cohorts (Upper El and Lower El) 100 percent (besides siblings).

Classrooms will have air purifiers and windows will be open.

The use of outdoor space for instructional purposes will be maximized. Each cohort will alternate space outside for playtime/recess and lessons. The garden and parking lot area will be used as classroom areas as well.

SRM staff will be regularly disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

- At each transition work areas will be wiped down
 - At the end of the day Teresa and Michele will wipe down both classrooms including door knobs with appropriate disinfecting solution
 - Parent volunteers will assist with cleaning and sanitizing the classrooms after school.
 - Bathroom will get regular checks and wipe downs (Denise)

There is a room set up for if a student gets sick during the day while at school. This provides a place for them to wait for a parent to pick them up that is not around the rest of the students.

Materials will be wiped down after every use. After a student uses a “work” they will place a red card on top of the work signifying that it needs to be sanitized before the next student can use the work.

Bathrooms will now be gender neutral. Upper El will use the bathroom in the front of the school (currently known as girl’s bathroom), and Lower El will use the bathroom currently known as the boy’s bathroom. One student will be allowed in the bathroom at time with a system in each classroom to sign in and out.

Tape will mark floors indoors and in outdoor areas to make social distancing easier. Tape may be used on the floor in classroom areas where staff wants traffic to flow in a certain direction to maintain social distancing.

MUSIC

The dances will not include touch and will be able to be performed socially distanced. Shared instruments will be minimized and sanitized.

BREAK, RECESS and LUNCH

There will be no shared food. The school will not be providing snacks, utensils, napkins, plates, and drinking cups. Everything should come self contained in each student's lunch box/bag. Students should bring their own water bottles to school.

Timing and location of these activities will be strategically coordinated to prevent mixing of classroom cohorts and also socially distancing within cohorts.

The play structure in the playground will be off limits. There will be games and sports that limit physical contact and shared equipment. The parking lot, field in the park, and back play yard will be used for recess and Upper El and Lower El will have an alternating and coordinated schedule to keep the two cohorts separate.

GATHERINGS

Gatherings will not be occurring for now. When this changes we will have a plan and community involvement for that plan.

HANDWASHING

Routines and schedules will be developed to enable students and staff to regularly wash their hands at staggered intervals. Hand washing will occur at the following times:

- Before school - hand sanitizer at door
- Bathroom visits
- Before snack
- Before lunch
- After recess

- Sneezing and coughing
 - After one work, and before they take out new work they will use hand sanitizer ●
- Before heading home - sanitize

MASKS

All staff as well as all students will be required to wear face coverings while in the classroom. There will be outdoor locations available for students to have “mask free” time throughout the day if needed. Masks will not be needed during the times students will be eating snacks and lunch. Recess and other outdoor time it will be dependent on the activity (if the possibility of being close to each other).

SRM will have back up masks available for adults who forget a mask as well as child sized masks for children that forget a mask.

SUPPLIES AND NORMALLY SHARED ITEMS

Sharing of supplies, manipulatives, toys, sports equipment, musical instruments, and other learning and recreational materials will be limited and each student will continue to have separate individually labeled boxes or cubbies. (Including pencils, erasers, etc)

Students are not allowed to bring any pencils, decorating material , or personal toys to put in their school cubbies.

Sharing of clothing, books and other games or learning aides will be avoided as much as practicable.

CLOTHING CODE

Students need to change their clothes when they get home from school. Students need to wear clean clothes to school.

Plain dressing is required - nothing flashy or squeaky that other students will want to touch.

Students need to wear shoes that work for PE and recess. There will be no changing of shoes. Students will wear shoes in the classroom this year.

SICK STAFF

If a teacher gets sick and is known to have COVID-19 the entire cohort (whether it be Upper El or Lower El) will stop coming to school for 14 days since everyone has had potential exposure to the virus. The teachers are each preparing an “emergency packet” of school work for each term that can be sent home with the students in an emergency situation.

If a teacher gets sick (not confirmed COVID-19) there will be no school. There will be emergency school work students can have access to either over google classroom or in work packets.

If the Office Administrator gets sick, the office will be closed.

SOCIAL CONTRACT

SRM staff and Board has a social contract that will be mailed with the summer mailer (enrollment packet) next week.

The goal of the contract is to help community members feel secure about bringing their children to school and so that the staff feels safe knowing that SRM families are following recommended Public Health guidelines with regards to minimizing COVID risks. Furthermore, we hope that SRM families will agree to have transparency about traveling, receiving visitors, etc. with the school community so that other community members can make informed decisions about bringing their children to the school.

We need to trust one another and also perform due diligence.

All families are required to fill out the Google Document with Lifestyle information related to Covid-19 safety. More information and a draft Social Contract to follow.