



MONTESSORI EXPLORER

Unlocking Learning For A Lifetime

271 East "J" Street Chula Vista, CA 91910
dinusha@Montessori-Explorerer.com
www.Montessori-Explorerer.org

619-425-3300 (T) |
619-425-3301(F)

June 7, 2021

Dear Parents,

REVISED FROM LETTER SENT ON MAY 29, 2020

Updates

As the state of California is getting near to the end of the emergency order all education facilities like Montessori Explorer are still waiting for clear guidance of the mask mandate. As per communique dated June 7th, 2021, states; "It appears the primary update to the guidance is that students were required to wear masks at school "at all times." That phrase has been eliminated from the framework, which now reads:

- *Students in grades K-12 are required to wear face coverings in accordance with the CDPH [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#) while at school, unless exempted.*
- *A cloth face covering or face shield should be removed for meals, snacks, naptime, or when it needs to be replaced. When a cloth face covering is temporarily removed, it should be placed in a clean, safe area, clearly marked with the student's name and date, until it needs to be put on again.*

In referring to the guidance on face covers, the following would now be true for students:

- *A **fully vaccinated** student would not be required (by the state) to wear a face covering outdoors except when attending crowded outdoor events. The school could still require this as a school rule.*
- ***Unvaccinated** students are required to wear face coverings outdoors any time physical distancing cannot be maintained.*
- *The examples provided of crowded settings and when physical distancing cannot be maintained include live performances, parades, fairs, festivals, sports events, or other similar settings.*

School leaders will need to decide if they will treat fully vaccinated students differently than unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students for what is left of this school year. They would need to determine if their passing, recess, lunch, and entry and dismissal periods are crowded settings."

At Montessori Explorer we will continue to abide by the health and safety protocols from the State level, County level, or as order by the Department of Health. Our school serves many children and adults (Parents and siblings of enrolled students) with health conditions that can create adverse effects if they contract Covid-19, and we are committed to providing a safe environment for our enrolled children. By keeping all our enrolled children safe, we can do much more to help our entire families. As we end our 2020/2021 school year and being an only school in the South Bay that has not had an exposure. We would like to start our new school 2021/2022 on that same note.

We are excited to see new families join our Montessori School.

Arrival & Departure Procedures – Continued into 2021/2022 school year.

Arrival Health Check

All children and staff must be assessed on arrival for symptoms of illness, including taking temperatures, verbal questioning and visual inspection. Any person found to have signs of illness will be asked to go home and keep in contact with the school.

Procedures for Children Sent Home After Getting Sick at School

Any child sent home due to symptoms of Covid-19 must have a doctor's note clearing them to attend school again. The school at a certain point if warranted will request the parents to get a Covid-19 test for the child. When results are received, either positive or negative **such results must be email to the school immediately (dinusha@Montessori-Explorer.com)**. If results are negative and if the child **does not** present any illness (refer to the sick policy) stated in the parent handbook/Annual packet can return to the school.

COVID-19 symptoms” means fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, 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, or diarrhea, unless a licensed health care professional determines the person’s symptoms were caused by a known condition other than COVID-19. (Gothold, P. (2021, June 7). STANDARDS PRESENTATION TO CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD. COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Instruction Framework & Public Health Guidance. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/documents/Jun032021-COVID-19-Prevention-Emergency-txtcourtesy-Readoption.pdf>.)

Arrival and Departure Procedures

Arrival: Please help us maintain social distancing by lining up with at least a minimum of six feet from one another. The line must be formed outside the front gate.

Please be patient while the staff member takes your temperature and complete their health check. The teacher will have few questions for you while the temperature is being taken.

Once the health check is complete and your child is ready to go inside, a teacher will accompany them to the classroom. The staff member taking the temperature will record your arrival time to record it into the ProCare system.

Departure: Only one family (parent) is allowed to come in to clock out and gather their child from the front office. Parents please do not go past the desk. Once you clock out your child will be brought to you by the teacher, please stay past the front gate. Maintain social distancing if there are other families. *Until all restrictions are lifted all arrival and departure protocols are children are dismissed from the side gate for primary and front gate for the elementary by teacher. No adult or siblings not enrolled at the school are allowed to enter the school buildings.

We may change these procedures if the arrival and departure get too crowded. The next solution given to us is to have staggered arrival and departure times for each family.

Mitigation of Spreading Germs

All children and staff will continue to be required to thoroughly **wash hands upon arrival**. We have continued to get each child's hands washed before and after they use any material. Staff cleans each material that can be disinfected before the material goes back to the shelf. Our goal is by getting hands washed before and after each work, we are limiting the chances of getting any materials contaminated with any organic matter.

Children and staff wear masks inside and outside of the classrooms. This keeps any droplets from falling on to any surface or spreading to others. Please send a clean face mask each day. Face masks can be handwashed daily and dried if you have a limited supply. All children must have at least two emergency masks (name labeled on the mask) put inside a clean zip lock bag (bag must be labeled with child's name). Any soiled masks will be sent home for laundering.

We ask the parents to continue strict hygiene practices at home and when outside. Clip your child's fingernails and teach them to clean under their fingernails.

Play dates: We are not cleared to allow children to have play dates as we cannot control who their friends meet. The school is doing its best following procedures to maintain a safe environment. We need your help, keep your child or children at home, do not have play dates.

Travel: **If you travel outside of San Diego, you must voluntarily quarantine yourself and your child.** Please do not bring them to school if you have traveled outside of San Diego, outside of California, taken a flight, etc. Please stay home for 10 days before you come back and must return with a negative Covid-19 test. Email test results to the email provided under **Procedures for Children Sent Home After Getting Sick at School**. If you present any symptoms of Covid-19, please contact your medical care provider. Do not send your child to school if you or any other family in your household or where you visited shows Covid-19 symptoms.

Signs of Illness

As always, **we will notify parents if a child becomes ill during the day**. We must enforce a strict 1-hour pick up of a sick child. While we are aware that anyone is contagious before symptoms appear, we will still separate the sick child from the rest of the children until the parent arrives. Staff will also be required to leave the property as soon as they show any signs of illness. As an extra precaution, if your child is sent home with symptoms, they may not return to school for 48 hours to ensure no other symptoms appear.

Families will receive a notice if at any point anyone is sent home with signs of illness so that you will be able to make your decisions daily about whether to send your child to school the following day.

If anyone in your family has a fever or other signs of illness, we ask that you keep your child home for 48 hours to determine whether those symptoms will develop into something serious. After 48 hours, if there are no other symptoms in the family member, your child may return to school.

These procedures are vital not only to the well-being of the children but also the viability of the school. According to the CDC, if anyone who has been "in" the property or building is diagnosed with the virus, we will have to shut the school. This does not carry over to family members who have not been in the school. By staying outside the fence, you are helping us limit the number of possible individuals

in contact.

Acknowledgement of Risk & Follow Set Procedures

Parents sending children to Montessori Explorer and employees working acknowledge that despite all our best efforts, there is still a risk of infection. Attendance implies acceptance of the risk. We encourage you to continue to assess the best course of action for you and your family. We are going above the required health guidelines set up by CDC and the County and if a parent, child, or staff member is exposed to Covid-19 we will close the school for 14-days to follow protocol. We will notify all families considering the HIPPA guidelines.

- Please note that the school is open from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- If your child is a half day student, meaning the day ends at 12:30pm for your child, your child's pickup time is from 12:00pm to 12:30pm.
- If your child is a full day student, meaning the day ends at 3:30pm for your child, your child's pickup time is from 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm.
- If your child is an extended day student, meaning the day ends at 6:00pm for your child, your child's pickup time is from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. No late pickup at all, meaning please do not pick up your child after 6:00pm.
- If think you cannot pick your child up at the correct time, please pick them up earlier. We are unable to stay with your child past the times allotted to them. We cannot keep them in a classroom or send them to nap. We must follow guidelines and it also disrupts the scheduled daily learning, activities for the children and the schedule disinfectant and sanitation routines of the staff.
- We are not care past your child's pick-up time as the staff need additional time to prepare the environment to receive children by sanitizing the classrooms for the next day after 6:00 pm.

All emails must be directed to dinusha@Montessori-Explorerer.com to receive a prompt or any response.

Thank you,

Dinusha Perera

Director