

COVID-19 PANDEMIC POLICY

Policy Statement – Quiet Waters Montessori Academy is committed to provide a safe and healthy environment for its students, staff, and families. QWMA will take all reasonable precautions to prevent the risk of Covid and Covid transmission for these individuals.

Parents are to use the drop-off circle as usual, however for the duration of the pandemic we ask that you unbuckle your child, remove them from the car and wait at the passenger door of your vehicle until at teacher comes to get them. Parents are required to wear masks at drop-off and pick-up. This is to protect the health of the staff, who at these times is not able to maintain a safe distance.

All staff and students will have their temperature taken each day upon arrival. Students (adult transporting child to school) and staff are asked to take their temperature and self screen before coming to school. They are asked to use the online screening tool at, <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. Once they arrive at school, they will be asked to confirm they have gone over the screening questions prior to leaving for school by signing a confirmation of screening form, as well as the child(ren) will have a temperature check once inside the school. Temperatures are recorded and entered in the Covid Temperature Tracking Binder. Both the confirmation of screening logs as well as temperature logs will be kept for one year. Staff and visiting authorized personal will also have arrival time recorded. Students departure times are recorded in the daily attendance. All information will be recorded and kept if needed for the Public Health Unit. Any staff or students failing the current covid screen will be denied entry to the school. As symptoms are added and removed frequently everyone is asked to use the most current link on the <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening> site.

Staff are required to wear medical masks and eye protection while in the school, however it is recommended that they use an n95 mask. Eye protection could be a visor or goggles that cover the eye and are sealed around the edges. Masks will be provided weekly for the week, if staff requires more, they can have more. Visors are to be cleaned daily and if not working clearly, they can be replaced. Exemptions will be reviewed on case-by-case basis and will be noted in the employee's file.

Unvaccinated staff will have to sign an attestation form and will have to have rapid testing done 3 times weekly before their shift begins, on their own time.

Staff are required to wash their hands before putting on and after taking off their masks.

Only staff, students and ministry/health unit staff, caterer, resource worker and essential personal will be permitted to enter Quiet Waters Montessori, while there is still a Covid19 Pandemic.

Staff can be reassigned to different classrooms as well as children can be moved to different classrooms for staffing shortages. All movement of staff and students will be accurately documented to maintain an accurate tracking record.

Staff is encouraged to spend as much time outdoors as possible with their classes. If it is comfortable for students and staff, air conditioning will remain off and windows will remain open during school hours. Cohorts will be separated outside by areas by cones, spray paint or caution tape. There will be an area outside off limits to children, staff are permitted to remove PPE while in this area. They must however have their PPE with them and ready to assist outside the area should the need arise. Staff are to rotate through this area as needed.

Siblings, where possible, will be placed in a class together.

All equipment used in the school will be made of a material that can be cleaned and disinfected. Cleaning and disinfecting will take place throughout the day with a minimum of items being disinfected at least once a day. Indoor materials will be disinfected with PCS250, outside items will be disinfected with Bleach mixed to a concentration of 1000ppm.

Any materials that do not fall into this category will be placed in plastic bins and stored until such time the Covid19 pandemic is deemed to be over and it is safe to have these materials back into the classrooms.

All frequently touched surfaces will be sanitized frequently. An extra cleaning log is placed in each bathroom and filled out when cleaning occurs.

When children enter the classroom at anytime of the day, they will be sent directly to the washroom to wash their hands with soap and water.

Teachers will ensure that frequent hand washing routines are in place. Washroom will be sanitized after use by each classroom.

Children will be discouraged from sharing any materials that they are working with and will also be spaced out, throughout the room to encourage distance between them while working.

Food and dishes – Staff will serve and distribute dishes and cutlery to children, no children to touch anyone else's dishes, food, or drinks.

When in the kitchen, unless eating staff must remain masked. No more than 2 staff at the table at a time, keeping in mind to stay distanced. If there is a 3rd staff member on lunch they can eat at the folding table and chair near the window to remain distanced.

We want to return to normal as much as possible for the children. Birthday celebrations will continue to be a part of that. We will only accept food items for birthdays in sealed containers and as always, they will need to have the peanut free symbol on them if they are baked goods (small cupcakes or cookies). A healthy alternative is a fruit tray. Please send this sealed, we will cut the fruit up into smaller pieces at school for serving.

We will update our policy to reflect current guidance by both the Health Unit and the Ministry of Education.

We are all responsible for each other staying healthy this school year. It is the with the utmost importance that we all work together as a team to keep each other healthy. If your child is sick please

for everyone's sake keep them at home, also keep the school informed as to why they are off, we need to supply the Health Unit with this information.

Staff meetings will take place via Zoom once a month, attendance is mandatory.

Any parents requesting meetings, will be phone meetings or meetings where all parties are masked outside, socially distanced. Parent/teacher interviews will be facilitated over the phone this year.

Students traveling outside Ontario will have to quarantine for 14 days after returning to Ontario or produce a negative Covid test result. The Covid test must be taken upon returning to Ontario and before returning to school. Children traveling outside Canada will have to isolate for 14 days upon returning.

These new measures are effective immediately and are being put into place for the health and safety of all students, staff, and their families.

Policy to Exclude Students or Staff

Guidance from the Health Unit

A child or staff member that fails the screen are to be denied entry to the centre, a 5-day isolation period is required.

Please follow this screening procedure daily: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Further information is also available on the SMDHU Site:

https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/COVID-/Return-to-school/covid-19supplementalguidance_schools-final_aoda-web.pdf?sfvrsn=18

A child or staff member that fails the screen will be isolated and excluded as soon as possible. Parents will be called and will need to pick their child up as soon as possible.

Any student or staff who appears ill during the day (presenting with a fever or developing a new cough) will be removed from the presence of others. Staff will be sent home; students will have parents called to pick them up and the child will wait in the office for the parent to arrive. Staff supervising in the office will keep 6 ft away, when possible, from an ill child, wear a visor and mask and protective clothing cover.

They must remain isolated at home for 5 days. Any materials that were being used by the person or were in the area of the person will be sanitized. Any items, books etc. that can not be sanitized will be stored for 5 days in a plastic bag. All areas will be sanitized using disposable sanitizing wipes.

All screening records will be kept and made available to the SMDHU as requested.

Any children having a confirmed case of Covid19 will have this information communicated to the Ministry of Education by the school. This will be done by filing a Serious Occurrence through the CCLS.

These rules are strict but please remember they have been put in place by the SMDHU to keep your child and your family healthy and Covid-19 free.

SCREENING POLICY

Students and staff must screen using the most up to date screen available on the site:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

You will need to check this site daily as symptoms, and isolation periods can change rapidly.

Another question you are answering no to by signing the log is that you have not given your child any fever reducing medication before school. Even if it given for a reason not related to fever, e.g., pain, these medications can mask fevers.