

## **QUIET WATERS MONTESSORI ACADEMY COVID-19 PANDEMIC POLICY 2021/2022**

Before coming to school all students, adults transporting child to school and staff are asked to take their temperature and must self-screen with the following online screening tool <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> on a daily basis. The person dropping the child/children at school will be asked to sign a confirmation of completed screening form. Please do this at home as you will have to pull over and wait until there is someone available to screen your child if not.

For the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic we ask that you always wear masks when on school property. Staff will have limited ability to communicate in person with any individual not wearing a mask. If needed a mask can be provided and/or an alternate arrangement such as a phone or zoom meeting can be made.

Please use the drop-off circle as usual, at drop-off, please unbuckle your child/children, remove them from the car and wait at the passenger door of your vehicle until a teacher comes to get them. At pick-up, please wait for staff to bring your child/children out to your car, you will need to place them in the car. We are asking again that parents only turn right out of the driveway in the morning and again at night. Our goal is to have everyone safely on their way as fast as possible with this request.

All staff, students, Ministry, SMDHU staff, caterer(s), resource worker(s) and/or essential personal are subject to the same online screening tool and will have their temperature taken each day upon arrival. Temperatures will be recorded and entered in the Covid-19 Temperature Tracking Binder. These will be kept for one year. Student's time of arrival will be recorded, staff and visiting authorized personal will also have arrival and departure times recorded. Students' departure times are recorded in the daily attendance. All information will be recorded and kept if needed for the SMDHU.

Any persons, staff and/or student(s) that **report and/or present with one or more symptoms will be denied entry to school.** The following link contains information on Covid-19 symptoms, please check regularly as the information is subject to change.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread#section-0>

All staff are required to wear medical masks and eye protection while in the school. Eye protection could be a visor and/or goggles that cover the eye and are sealed around the edges. A weekly allotment of masks will be provided once a week, additional masks are available as needed. Visors are to be sanitized daily and/or 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 be required to comply with all guidelines set out by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and/or SMDHU. Guidelines are subject to change and include but are not limited to education on vaccine safety and efficacy, signing an attestation form and are subject to routine rapid testing a minimum of one time per week. Frequency of testing is subject to change as directed by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and/or SMDHU. Testing is to be completed on their own time and at their own expense at the intervals required by the afore mentioned governing bodies.

All Staff are required to wash their hands before putting on and after taking off their masks and will be provided with education on the proper donning and doffing of PPE. Only staff, students Ministry, public health unit staff, lunch caterer, resource worker and essential personal will be permitted to enter Quiet Waters Montessori throughout the duration of the Covid-19 Pandemic. We are happy to provide outside tours and meetings, please contact administration to schedule.

Staff and students will be placed in classroom cohorts, there will be no mixing of staff and/or students between classroom cohorts. If needed to ensure ratios fully vaccinated staff, wearing proper PPE will be allowed to move within classrooms. 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. The school's ventilation system is undergoing an upgrade and will have an air filtration system installed September 2021.

Cohorts will remain separated in outside areas marked by cones, spray paint and/or caution tape. There will be an area outside off limits to children where staff will be permitted to remove PPE for short breaks. 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.

Children who attend part-time are not be permitted to attend any other program on off days. On the days they are not with us they must remain at home. This is to keep our cohorts limited in size and prevent any spread of infection. It also allows for quick, effective contact tracing

should an outbreak occur. For this reason, 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 items being disinfected a minimum of twice daily. 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 Covid-19 pandemic is deemed to be over and it is safe to have these materials back into the classrooms. All high touch surfaces will be sanitized frequently, and 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. Washrooms 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.

Staff will serve food and distribute dishes and cutlery to the children, children will not touch anyone else's dishes, food, or drinks. When in the kitchen (staff room), unless eating staff must remain masked. No more than two staff may at the table at a time and must stay 6 feet apart.

Birthday celebrations will continue however, 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.

Staff meetings are scheduled to occur via Zoom once a month, attendance is mandatory. Any parents requesting meetings will be accommodated with phone, zoom meetings and/or meetings where all parties are masked outside and socially distanced. Parent/teacher interviews will be facilitated over the phone this year.

Please advise the school in advance of any travel as guidelines regarding quarantine, type of testing and return to school are ever evolving. Currently, students traveling outside Ontario are required to quarantine for 14 days after returning to Ontario and/or produce a negative Covid-19 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 with or without a Covid-19 test.

### **Policy to Exclude Students and/or Staff, Guidance from the Health Unit**

Any person (i.e., child and/or staff member) that fails the daily Ontario Covid-19 online screening procedure will be denied entry to the school and testing is recommended. 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](https://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/COVID-/Return-to-school/covid-19supplementalguidance_schools-final_aoda-web.pdf?sfvrsn=18)

Screening Questions Parents Must Complete at Home Before Leaving for School

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

Has anyone in the home had a high-risk exposure to anyone in the past 14 days? An individual currently sick with an unexplained cough, fever or difficulty breathing?

Have you given your child any medication that can reduce a fever today? For example, have you administered Tylenol to a child for a sore arm? Your child will need to remain at home as fever reducing medications such as Children's Tylenol or Advil can mask fevers.

The teacher meeting you at the passenger door to take your child into the school will ask if you have screened your child. If everyone pre-screens at home this should be a fast process, and we should have you on your way in no time. Once your child has been brought into the school, they will have their temperature taken again, by infrared thermometer. If their temperature is above 37.8 C, we will take the temperature again with an ear thermometer, if it still registers above 37.8 C you will be called to come and take your child home, and this will be reported to SMDHU for follow up.

If during the day a child and/or staff member develops one or more Covid-19 symptoms or becomes ill in any manner, they will be isolated and excluded as soon as possible in the school office. Parents will be notified and required to pick their child up as soon as possible and staff will be sent home. A staff member will remain with the child until they are picked up, the staff supervising in the office will keep 6 ft away, when possible, from an ill child. They will wear full PPE including but not limited to a visor/approved goggles, a medical mask, and a protective

clothing cover. The medical mask and protective clothing cover will be properly disposed of and visor/google will be sanitized before rejoining their classroom cohort.

They ill/symptomatic child and/or staff will be required to have either a negative Covid-19 test, documented alternative diagnosis by a physician and/or remain isolated at home for 14 days before returning to program. Any materials that were being used by the person and/or were in the vicinity of the person will be sanitized. Any items, books etc. that can not be sanitized will be stored for seven days in a plastic bag. All areas will be sanitized using disposable sanitizing wipes.

If referred for testing when demonstrating symptoms of Covid-19 those who test negative must remain at home until symptoms are gone or are getting better in the case of mild symptoms. Those testing positive for Covid-19 must remain at home for 14 days after onset of symptoms or until cleared by SMDHU to return.

Covid-19 screening records will be kept and made available to the SMDHU as requested. If you choose not to provide us with a copy of a negative screen, we will ask that you provide a completed copy of the Covid-19 negative screen attestation form.

Any test that comes back positive will be notified to the program advisor immediately as well as a serious occurrence being filed. Direction from SMDHU will be followed as how and what information will be given to parents. Full cooperation as to contact tracing as well as any correspondence the SMDHU requests to be sent to parents will be sent.

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.

We are all responsible for each other staying healthy throughout the school year. Please be mindful of interactions outside the school, follow the Ministry of Health and SMDHU recommended Covid-19 safety precautions. If your child/children are unwell they must remain home, inform the school, and await further direction.

As we move through another year of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ever-evolving guidelines and restrictions we will update our policy to reflect current guidance by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and/or SMDHU. These measures are effective immediately and are being put into place for the health and safety of all students, staff, and their families.