

Dear Montessori Academy of Chambersburg Community,

1/14/2021

The following COVID-19 Response Plan has been updated to supplement the Montessori Academy [Phased Reopening Health and Safety Plan](#).

- The original plan, approved by our Board of Directors and published at the onset of the 2020/2021 school year, utilized a framework provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and reflected the Governor’s color-coded, phased reopening model. As the school year progressed, we recognized that the Governor’s reopening phases were no longer in use and that we must establish other parameters in order to inform school decision making.
- In November 2020, Franklin County was identified as an area of substantial spread of COVID-19. Former guidance from the Department of Education recommended a transition into full remote learning for all students. In response, school leadership developed the Montessori Academy COVID Response Plan, which considered local COVID-19 incidence and positivity data in Academy decision making regarding in-person versus remote learning modalities for different groups of students.
- On January 7, 2021, the Department of Health and Department of Education released updated guidance for schools in areas of substantial COVID-19 spread. The updated guidance recommends that schools return elementary-aged students to “hybrid” on-campus/remote instruction, even in areas of substantial spread. Due to the small class sizes at Montessori Academy, we are able to return students to a full time on-campus learning environment without the need to rely on a “hybrid” model to ensure small group sizes.
- After careful consideration, the Montessori Academy of Chambersburg leadership team has updated our COVID Response Plan to reflect the updated recommendations of the Department of Health and Department of Education and bring our students back to on-campus learning modalities, with the understanding that some families may opt to continue with distance learning, based on individual circumstances. This plan will be enacted in a phased approach, first returning our Lower Elementary students to campus, followed by students in Upper Elementary and Middle School in the coming weeks.

In the page that follows, you will find a table that outlines Montessori Academy’s planned learning models for each group of students during periods of low, moderate, or substantial spread. Please note that the table has been significantly adjusted to reflect the updated guidance from the Department of Health and Department of Education.

Thank you for your consistent feedback and ongoing support as our school works to ensure the health and safety of our students, teachers, and families within the context of an increasing understanding of the pandemic.



Table 1: COVID-19 Response Plan, Updated January 2021

Franklin COVID-19 Transmission Levels	Toddler Community, PreK, Kindergarten, Lower Elementary	Upper Elementary and Middle
<b>Low/Moderate</b>	<p><b>On campus care and education for all students.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Response to COVID incidence in Montessori Academy community on a case-by-case basis, according to <a href="#">“Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19”</a></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Substantial</b></p> <p>PCR positivity 10-20% for at least 2 consecutive weeks</p>	<p><b>On campus care and education for all students.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Response to COVID incidence in Montessori Academy community on a case-by-case basis</li> <li>● Frequent tracking of local COVID-19 data with weekly community updates</li> <li>● Toddler/PreK Options: On campus or tuition credit</li> <li>● School Age Options: On campus (distance learning on a case-by-case basis)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Substantial</b></p> <p>PCR positivity &gt; 20%</p>	<p><b>On-campus care and education: Toddlers through Grade 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Response to COVID incidence in Montessori Academy community on a case-by-case basis</li> <li>● Frequent tracking of local COVID-19 data with weekly community updates</li> <li>● Increased vigilance of maintaining class cohorts and reducing staff movement through building, increased social distancing vigilance for Excel</li> <li>● Toddler/PreK Options: On campus or tuition credit</li> <li>● School Age Options: On campus (distance learning on a case-by-case basis)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Potential Distance Learning: Grades 4 through 8</b></p> <p>Due to the dynamic trends in local community spread and periodic updates in guidance from the Department of Health and Department of Education, future conditions may necessitate moving to and from distance learning for Grades 4-8. The school will evaluate these factors every week to determine if in-person instruction is feasible.</p>
<p><b>Emergency</b></p> <p>As determined by the Board of Directors</p>	<p><b>Distance Learning for Grades K-8, Regular Toddler and PreK Programs Closed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Potential on-campus care/supervision for Essential Workers only*</li> <li>● Tuition credit for toddler and preschool-age students</li> </ul>	

## Definitions:

Transmission: the spread of the virus in a community

- Low: PCR percent positivity < 5% and incident rate < 10
- Moderate: PCR percent positivity < 10% or incident rate < 100
- Substantial: PCR percent positivity  $\geq$  10% or incidence rate  $\geq$  100

PCR Percent Positivity: the percent of COVID-19 tests in a 7 day reporting period that were positive for COVID

Incidence Rate: the number of people per 100,000 residents that have been diagnosed COVID-19 in a 7 day reporting period

Reporting Period: a set period of time during which COVID-19 data is collected and then published. Each PA COVID-19 data reporting period runs Thursday through Friday, with data published the following Monday.

## Sources:

Pennsylvania Department of Education, updated weekly. [“Level of Community Transmission Table”](#)

Pennsylvania Department of Education, 8/10/2020. [“Determining Instructional Models”](#)

Pennsylvania Department of Education, 8/13/2020. [“Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case\(s\) of COVID-19”](#)

Pennsylvania Department of Health, updated weekly. [“COVID-19 Early Warning System Dashboard”](#)

Pennsylvania Department of Health, updated weekly. [“COVID-19 Data for Pennsylvania”](#)

\*On campus care/supervision potentially available at all levels, unless full campus closure is required by the Department of Health, Department of Education, or other authorized government agency.