

## **Shrewsbury Montessori School COVID- 19 Policy Update 8/18/2022**

Shrewsbury Montessori School is following guidance from the Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), and CDC's most recent guidelines [HERE](#) . The COVID- 19 protocols are as follows.

The state will no longer supply materials for on campus testing and these will therefore no longer be available at SMS. All testing for students is required to occur at home prior to arrival on campus either via rapid antigen at home test or PCR test. While supplies last, a test kit will be offered to the family of a student who requires dismissal due to symptoms; testing will occur at home and results will be reported to the school nurse.

**Daily Screening:** All personnel, students, and staff must conduct self-screening of COVID-19 symptoms before arriving on campus every morning. If any one of the first five symptoms on the list below are present OR if two or more of any of the ten symptoms on the list below are present, the individual is required to have a negative COVID- 19 test result prior to arrival on campus. Further guidelines are described below.

### **COVID-19 symptom list:**

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
  
- Sore throat, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

Individuals with fever, vomiting, or diarrhea should not come to campus until they have a resolution of symptoms for 24 hours without taking medication. This is regardless of COVID-19 test results.

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### **Masks:**

- Masks will remain optional on campus for all individuals.
- Students in the school health office are required to wear a mask.
- Individuals who test positive or are exposed to COVID- 19 may be required to wear a mask in school following the guidelines below:

## **Isolation and Exposure Guidelines**

### **Protocol for Individuals Who Test Positive:**

- **Duration:** Self-isolation for COVID-19 positive cases is a minimum of 5 days after symptom onset, or after positive PCR or antigen test (whichever is earlier).
  - Day 0 is symptom onset or positive test date, isolate days 0-5.
- **Return to school:** After 5 days, the individual may return to school on day 6 once they have:
  - Been without fever for 24 hours (without taking fever-reducing medications) *and*
  - Experienced significant improvement in symptoms.
- Individuals must wear a mask at all times indoors while in school days 6-10 with the following exceptions:
  - If the individual has a negative antigen test on Day 6 or later, they no longer need to mask on the day of the negative antigen test or thereafter.
  - If the individual is *unable to mask* (ages 2 years or younger) then they may return to school once they have a negative antigen test on day 6 or later.

### **Protocol for Individuals Exposed to COVID- 19:**

- Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 are not required to quarantine as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- Individuals should mask through day 10 following exposure, and are recommended to test on day 6 of exposure.
- If symptoms develop at any time, please see the guidelines below.

### **Protocol for Symptomatic Individuals:**

- Symptomatic individuals may remain in school as long as they have mild symptoms and have a negative COVID test result prior to arrival at school.
- If symptoms persist, another negative COVID test is required 48 hours following the initial test.
- Individuals are encouraged to wear a mask until symptoms resolve.

Note: At this time, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved or authorized any at-home rapid antigen test for use in children under 2 years of age. However, at-home rapid antigen tests may be used off-label in children under 2 years of age for purposes of post-exposure, isolation, and symptomatic testing. It is recommended that parents or guardians deciding to test children under 2 years of age administer the at-home rapid antigen test themselves.

### **Notification of School Nurse**

If an individual tests positive, develops symptoms, or has been exposed to COVID- 19, you are required to notify the school nurse at 508-842-2116 ext. 223 or [nurse@shrewsburymontessori.org](mailto:nurse@shrewsburymontessori.org).

SMS will continue to review the state's guidelines throughout the school year and may make changes to these protocols as necessary.