

We are going to make as minimal of changes as possible so that we can still accomplish our goals as an MMO program. True social distancing is not possible if we want to allow our children to grow and flourish socially, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. We plan to create isolation bubbles out of each classroom so that the children and teachers only interact with each other, do not use any shared indoor spaces, and thus limit the possible spread of germs.

In order to accomplish the goal of limiting your child's exposure to only the children and teachers in their classroom, we will be doing the following:

- Families that arrive early will wait in their cars rather than waiting in the hallways. A staff member will open the doors at 8:55 to begin checking temperatures.
- All children enrolled in MMO will have their temperature checked prior to entering the building each morning. Parents will be asked to leave siblings at home or in the car during drop-off if they can safely do so. All parents and siblings over the age of 5 will be asked to wear a mask while in the building. Your willingness to wear a mask will allow us to quickly check the children and get you on your way.
- Everyone will enter through the covered doors next to the playground and exit through the side doors at each end of the hallway.
- Children will be dropped off at the classroom door and parents will be asked to exit the building quickly. Although we very much encourage good communication between parents and teachers, for now that will have to be done via email or phone call to avoid lingering in the building. Parents and siblings will not be allowed to enter the classroom.
- Only one class at a time will be on the playground and we will have a 5 min. break between playground sessions to ensure that there is no crossover. Our fenced, grassy play area will be utilized to ensure that everyone gets outside time each day.
- 1s-3s children will remain in their classrooms for the duration of the morning with the only exception being playground time. Whenever possible, classes will walk to and from the playground using the doors that lead from their classroom directly outside. On rainy days children will have extra playtime in their classrooms rather than using shared indoor spaces as we have done in the past.
- For our 4 year old classes we will have an "up" staircase and a "down" staircase with hand sanitizer available for cleaning hands after touching the stair rails. We will adjust the bathroom schedule for the 4s so that they do not cross paths in the hallways and disinfectant spray will be provided for teachers to spray handles and other surfaces after each class uses the bathrooms.

- We will have thorough cleaning measures in place to disinfect toys and other surfaces in the room at the end of each day. In addition, teachers will be diligent to remove soiled items (such as a toy placed in a child's mouth) from the play area until it can be disinfected.
- Water fountains will be closed. Please send a **spill-proof** sippy cup or water bottle for your child to use each day. Teachers will have water pitchers for refilling bottles as needed and cups if your child forgets to bring their water bottle.
- Teachers will be asked to wear masks during close, face to face interaction such as diaper changing, while holding a child, or working with them one on one. Teachers will be allowed to remove their masks when they can safely distance themselves from the children such as during playtime in the room, while reading a story to the children on the carpet, or during playground time. Additional staff, such as myself and our assistants, will wear masks when entering a classroom since we will not be part of that isolation bubble.
- Children will not be required to wear masks. Children over 2 have the option of wearing a mask if that is your preference. PLEASE NOTE – if a child cannot or will not wear the mask correctly and avoid touching it, the mask will be removed and placed in their bag for the remainder of the day. A dirty mask that is constantly touched, chewed on, and/or played with causes more germ spread than if the child were to go without a mask.
- We will be using a modified car rider line for our 1s-3s classes and 4s will be picked up from the playground. The carline will take place in the horseshoe area as in the past but may take a bit longer since children will be coming from separate classrooms rather than one central pickup area. Your patience is appreciated. Pre-K children will be picked up from the playground or other designated area, your child's teacher will give you directions as to where you should go. The car rider line will begin at 11:45 and all 1s-3s children should be picked up no later than 12:05. 4s classes should be picked up from the playground no later than 12:15. If picking up both a younger and older child, please go through the car rider line first.
- Rainy day pickup will be done in the classrooms as we cannot have everyone gather in the lobby area to pick up under the covered driveway. You will need to park, come inside to pick up your child, and walk them to the car. We will give further directions regarding this procedure at Open House.

We will handle covid exposure using the same process as Ft. Mill Schools. Please visit this website and familiarize yourself with the sections related to identification of covid symptoms, procedures for exposure/closure, and procedures for return to school. For reference, 20% of a MMO class is 2-3 students or staff members depending on the class; 10% of our school population is 15 students or staff members. Monthly tuition will not be adjusted for days missed unless the entire program closes for an extended period of time with no possibility of making up the days.

https://www.fortmillschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_56700/File/Departments/Communications/Return%20to%20School%202020-2021/Updated%20Return%20to%20School%20Guide.pdf

Please note the following guidelines:

- If a child has a close contact exposure to a covid positive individual, you must keep the child home for 10 days. At the end of the 10 days they can return to school provided that have shown no symptoms. If a child shows symptoms you will need to have them tested and they can return once they have a negative test result.
- If your child is experiencing covid related symptoms that you feel are caused by something else, please take them to the doctor. You will not have to quarantine for the full 10 days if you can provide a doctor's note stating that the symptoms are due to a different illness. In that case, you may return per doctor's orders or once the child has been symptom free for a full 24 hour period.
- If a child has symptoms included on the covid list but you choose not to take the child to the doctor, you will need to keep them home for 3 days after all symptoms subside. I understand that many childhood illnesses include fever and doctor's visits are expensive. Having said that, If you have any reason to suspect possible exposure, please have your child tested before bringing them to school. We all have to work together to keep our program healthy!
- If your child has allergies, asthma, or other non-contagious conditions that might cause them to exhibit covid-related symptoms you will need to provide a doctor's note verifying this in order for your child to attend MMO while exhibiting symptoms.
- In addition to covid policies, our standard illness policy still applies. This information can be found in our parent handbook. A good rule of thumb is this: Would you want someone with your child's symptoms visiting your home? If not, you should probably keep your child home that day.