

Montessori Pathways School

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Dear Montessori Pathways Families,

Since the situation with COVID-19 is shifting every day, we have added some changes to our Reopening Protocol, revised and updated on July 15, 2020.

THE UPDATES ARE:

Face Covering

- a. If a student will choose and would like to participate in a close contact partner work or teamwork, he/she will be required to wear a mask.
- b. All students must have at least 2 masks in a labeled zip-lock bag at school in case of displaying any symptoms of illness. In this case, the child will be isolated from the group and will be required to wear a mask until picked up from school.

Many parents are very concerned about kids wearing masks at school. There is no judgment. Everything that is new and unknown and especially if it is related to our kids, makes us very suspicious and concerned. We all see that things are not getting better. It is time to actively step up and do something. It is always easier to say "no". But what if our openness will help us to make situation better? No pressure. Just let's think about it and start with more studies.

["Five Myths about Face Masks and Kids: What Experts Say Parents Need to Know"](#)

["Face Masks: How to Help Kids Adjust"](#)

Emergency Travel Order

On Thursday, July 2, Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Allison Arwady, M.D., issued an Emergency Travel Order directing travelers entering or returning to Chicago from states experiencing a surge in new COVID-19 cases to quarantine for a 14-day period from the time of last contact within the identified state. This includes both Chicago residents returning from travel to a designated state, and travelers arriving in Chicago from a designated state.

As part of our continuous effort to ensure the health and safety of our Montessori Pathways community, our school is strictly following the recommended guidelines: **If your family has recently traveled to any of the states currently experiencing a rise in COVID-19 cases, your child will need to quarantine for 14 days upon your return.**

States Currently Covered by the Order

Travelers from the following states should quarantine upon arrival in Chicago:

[Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nevada, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah.](#)

Starting July 17, the Order will also apply to [Iowa and Oklahoma.](#)

The list will be updated every Tuesday and go into effect the following Friday at 12:01 a.m. You can check this list here: <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/emergency-travel-order.html>

Friends and Family Gatherings / Going Out:

According to the CDC:

- The *more people* an individual interacts with at a gathering and the longer that interaction lasts, the higher the potential risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 and COVID-19 spreading.
- The higher the level of community transmission in the area that the gathering is being held, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spreading during a gathering.

At Montessori Pathways, we do our best to keep the school's environment clean and safe and avoid the students' and staff's exposure to people from outside as much as possible.

We understand that each family has their own lifestyle and beliefs. However, **we expect our families to remember the increased possibility of spreading COVID-19 at our school before planning any vacation, party, family or friends gathering, or going out.**

Any thoughtless and careless action may lead to someone's illness and, as a result, to school closure.

REMINDERS:

1. Parents are **required** to practice social distancing and **wear a mask** for drop off / pick up. Please help our teachers feel safe and respected.
2. On 1st and 15th of each month or upon returning after each break in school attendance every family is required to fill out the **“Montessori Pathways Families’ Self-Declaration” form** (see attached) electronically and email this form back to the school on the required day. Students will not be allowed in the school without this form.

Please fill out the attached form and return it to school no later than Monday, July 20 if your child is currently attending Summer Camp or on the first day of your child’s attendance.

*We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.
Montessori Pathways Team*

