

COVID-19

OPERATIONAL PLANS 2022-23



Last Updated, July 6, 2022
Subject to change

Our Mission



We are a peaceful community dedicated to authentic Montessori education, founded on the passionate belief that every individual should be treated with respect. The child's joy and curiosity is supported through inviting, thoughtfully arranged learning environments and guides who provide a sense of harmony and order. We are a nurturing school that inspires independence, creative thinking, and success in life.

We believe in the importance and value of being together, on campus, to best support the developmental and emotional needs of our community.

We prioritize the health and safety of our families and staff by listening carefully to our community, and keeping up to date with information coming from Austin Public Health, the CDC, and from Texas Health and Human Services Licensing, as well as our mentors, and international Montessori community.

In the spirit of togetherness, we look forward to safely welcoming you back to our campus for the 2022 - 2023 school year



Mariposa's COVID-19 Operational Plans and Policies 2022 - 2023

Mariposa Montessori School is currently open and operating at all levels; NIDO through Elementary. We have modified and adjusted our Covid-19 policies for the start of the new school year. All policies and procedures are subject to change as we remain flexible and adaptable during the demands for health and safety during a pandemic.

As the global Corona virus pandemic continues, we ask that parents monitor the health of their children and refrain from sending them to school if they are displaying any symptom of COVID-19 or illness.

Hygiene

All staff will wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, upon entering the classroom each morning as well as after a break, blowing noses, and coughing, or sneezing. We are committed to leading by example and supporting the children in developing this habit.



Wash Hand

All the children and team members will engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

- Arrival to the facility and after breaks
- Before and after preparing food or drinks
- Before and after eating or handling food or helping a student with food.
- Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
- Before and after diapering
- Before and after touching one's face
- After handling one's cloth face covering
- After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- After handling animals or cleaning up animal waste
- After playing outdoors or in sand
- Before and after meals



Your Safety is our top concern

- We will assist children with hand washing, including infants who cannot wash hands alone.
- After assisting children with hand washing, team members will also wash their hands.
- We will avoid touching our eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Posters will be placed near sinks describing hand washing steps.
- Children who become ill during the day will be separated from the group and cared for until a parent can pick them up.
- Our whole school will be informed when a member of our community tests positive for Covid-19.





Signs & Symptoms

Any employee or child will be required to take a covid test who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Congestion and/or runny nose
- Chills
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who is lab- confirmed to have COVID-19
- Fatigue



Employees or children with signs or symptoms of illness may not return to school until:

- **24 hours fever free without medication**
- **Symptoms have resolved**

Close Contact/Exposure

If staff members believe they have had close contact to someone with COVID-19 (fifteen minutes or more, closer than 6 ft apart) but are not currently sick, they are asked to notify their administrator, take a COVID-19 test, and monitor their health for the above symptoms and continue to test for COVID for 5 days after the last day they were in close contact with the individual with COVID-19.

If a parent believes that he/she or their child has had close contact to someone with COVID-19 but is not currently sick, they should take a COVID-19 test and notify the office and monitor their health for the above symptoms and continue to test for COVID for 5 days after the last day they were in close contact with the individual with COVID-19.

*If a child or faculty/staff member tests positive for COVID-19; we will notify the classroom community; **staff and students who have had close contact will be required to take a COVID-19 test. If negative, they may stay at Mariposa. We will also communicate positive cases of COVID-19 with the Mariposa community.***

Positive Cases of Covid

Please notify the school if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Children or Staff with a Positive Case of COVID-19 can return to school/work when the following criteria are met:

- 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or since the child/staff member tested positive **and**
- Any symptoms have resolved **and**
- The child/staff member has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication
- **OR**
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or since the child tested positive **and**
- Any symptoms have resolved **and**
- The child has been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medication.

COVID-19 Screening

Staff and children are asked not to come to Mariposa Montessori if and when they are feeling ill or displaying symptoms of COVID-19. If a child has a temperature at or above 100.4 or if they have symptoms that affect performance, parents will be called to pick up the child and who should remain home for a minimum of 24 hours after the fever or symptoms cease **without medication**.



Communication

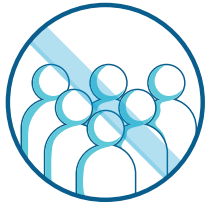
If there is a case of COVID-19 at Mariposa Montessori School, the School will communicate in the following manner:

- Parents and staff of the classroom where a student tests positive for COVID-19 will be notified immediately. If possible families will be notified if their child has been in close contact with the COVID-19 positive individual.
- The entire school community will be notified on the same day of a positive case of COVID-19 at Mariposa.



Notifications will include:

- The date of the positive test.
- Date symptoms developed.
- The last day at MMS for the child who tested positive
- Date(s) of possible exposure
- Symptoms
- Dates where a negative test is required
- 5-day and 10-day quarantine dates
- Date of return to Mariposa



Avoid Crowd

Social Distancing Strategies

Classes will include the same group each day, and the same childcare providers will remain with the same group each day (Guide, Support Guide and a floating Support Guide for two classrooms).

- NIDO will stay consistent with up to 8 infants and 3 guides
- YCC will have up to 15 children, and up to 3 adults
- Children's House will operate with up to 25 children and up to 3 adults
- Elementary classrooms will operate with up to 22 children

Employees will maintain at least 3 feet of separation from one another. If distancing is not possible, other measures such as hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, masks, and sanitation will be rigorously practiced.

Children's nap time mats/ cots will be spaced out, and they will be placed head to toe at nap time in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.

High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, will be cleaned routinely throughout the day, and deep cleaned each weekend.



Use Disinfection

Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sanitizing:

Materials that a child places in his/her mouth will be set aside to be cleaned and sanitized; guides will wear gloves when cleaning these materials. Other hard surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, counter tops, tables, chairs, playground structures and floors will be routinely cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected throughout the day and **thoroughly sanitized by our cleaning crew each evening.**

Diaper changing stations and toilet seats will be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected after each use. We spray all shelves in each community with a disinfectant spray cleaner once a week as an additional sanitizing measure.

Additionally, we have installed Merv-13 hospital quality air filters in each community space throughout campus. They will be rotated every six weeks.



4-Step Cleaning Process

To clean we will use the 4-step cleaning process:

1. Soapy Water
2. Rinse with Clean
3. Water Disinfect Sanitize
4. Air Dry

- We will follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfecting.
- All bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the day.
- All cleaning materials will be kept secure and out of the reach of children.
- Materials that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be used.
- Machine washable cloth materials will be used by one child at a time or will not be used at all.
- These materials will be laundered before being used by another child.
- Materials that need to be cleaned will be set aside and placed in a container with soapy water that is placed out of reach of children, to be sanitized later.
- Communal materials will be cleaned regularly throughout the day with a sanitizing cleaner.

Nap and Bedding

For those who nap in YCC and CH, bring a standard size crib sheet and a small blanket that is labeled with your child's name. Each child's bedding will be kept separate and stored in individually labeled bins, cubbies, or bags. Cots and mats will be labeled for each child. **Nap items Will be sent home on Fridays to be Washed.**

Caring for Our Children, National Health and Safety Performance Standards:
<https://nrckids.org/files/appendix/AppendixK.pdf>.



Clothing

Children must have multiple changes of clothing available, if a child's clothes or bib are dirty or have bodily fluids on them their clothes must be changed.

- Dirty clothes or bibs will be placed in a sealed plastic bag to be sent home.
- The child's hands and the caregiver's hands must be washed after changing clothes; and
- Please check in with your lead guide often about the contents of your child's cubby.

Diapering

When diapering a child, staff members will wash their hands and wash the child's hands before beginning, and the staff member will put on gloves. Procedures will be posted in all diaper changing areas to ensure that we follow safe diaper changing procedures. Steps include:

- Prepare (includes putting on gloves and mask)
- Clean the child
- Remove trash (soiled diaper and wipes)
- Replace diaper
- Wash child's hands
- Clean up diapering station
- Wash hands

After diapering, wash hands (even though you were wearing gloves) and disinfect the diapering area. If other products are used for sanitizing or disinfecting, they should also be fragrance-free and EPA-registered. If the surface is dirty, it should be cleaned with detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection. *If reusable cloth diapers are used, they will not be rinsed or cleaned on campus. The soiled cloth diaper and its contents (without emptying or rinsing) will be placed in a bag.





Washing, Feeding or Holding a Child

- Childcare providers will wash their hands before and after holding, washing, or feeding a child.
- Childcare providers should wash their hands before and after handling infant bottles prepared at home or prepared in the facility.
- Parents should bring one bottle for every feeding.
- Bottles will be sent home daily to be washed and sanitized.
- Bottles, bottle caps and nipples used for bottle-feeding should be thoroughly cleaned after each use by washing in a dishwasher or by washing with a bottle brush, soap, and water.
- No sharing pacifiers, bottles/nipples, cups, water bottles.
- Water bottles will be sent home daily to be washed and sanitized

Food Prep and Meal Service

- We may have community meals such as snacks, Popsicles, etc. from time to time. Please communicate with your lead guide if you have questions or your classroom has an individual eating plan.
- Children's lunch boxes will be kept in the same spot each day.
- Sinks used for food preparation will not be used for any other purposes.
- Children will wash hands prior to and immediately after eating.
- Guides will wash their hands before and after assisting a student with any food items.



If There Is a Class or School Closure

We hope to avoid program and school closures due to COVID-19. In the event of a classroom closure, we ask that all families honor their annual contractual agreement with the school and continue to pay their tuition fees on time. We will institute a Distance Learning Program when a class closes or the school closes.

Distance Learning

NIDO and YCC

8:30am Zoom Meeting for all families (recorded and made available for family access)

Afternoon resource sent to all families

Weekly Parent/Guide check In

Children's House:

Three morning Zoom lessons (3- 4 year olds, 4- 5 years olds and 5- 6 year olds) recorded and made available for access.

Afternoon resource sent to all families

Weekly Parent/Guide check in

Weekly schedules sent on Friday for the following week with lesson times, details, materials needs, etc.

Elementary:

Morning meeting at 8:30am

Lessons throughout the morning by ability level and interest Schedules sent on Friday to detail above

Weekly Parent/Guide check in

Read aloud and/or literature circle in the afternoons

***Parent teacher conferences and progress reports completed as scheduled and modified to reflect distance learning modifications.**