

Washington University Nursery School
COVID Safety Plan
2022-23



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Throughout the process of developing the Nursery School's *COVID Safety Plan*, the health and safety of our students and staff have remained at the center of our work. Below you will find the Nursery School's responsive steps for adhering to the health and safety considerations outlined in the Centers for Disease Control Guidance for School and Early Care Program to Support Safe In-Person learning, as well Washington University in St. Louis. The success of the Nursery School plan will rely on the staff and families following these protocols. The safety is our top priority. If the COVID-19 community level indicates an increase, particularly if the level is high, we will adjust our safety plan if necessary.

Student Health Screenings

- Parents will be asked to screen their child for various symptoms related to coronavirus daily.
- After screening, if your child exhibits any of the symptoms below, ***do not send your child to school***,
 - Fever 100.4 F or higher
 - Runny nose/congestion
 - Unusual fussiness, fatigue or tiredness
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - The recent loss of any sense of smell or taste
 - Muscle or body aches or pains
 - Sore throat that cannot be attributed to seasonal allergies
 - Chills or repeated shaking with chills
 - Headache

Staff Health Screenings

- If a staff member is exhibiting any symptoms they will not report to work. The staff member will consult with WU Occupational Health for further guidance.

COVID-19 Infection, Exposure and Vaccination

- ***Keep your child at home*** and contact the school, 314-935-6689, if any of the following scenarios apply to your child:
 - Your child tests positive for COVID-19
 - Your child is awaiting test results for COVID-19

- Students and staff that are infected with COVID-19 are excluded from school for seven days and can return to school wearing a mask for three days only if their symptoms have resolved and they are fever-free for 24 hours.
- Students and staff that are exposed to COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status) can attend school if they are symptom free. They must wear a mask at school for 10 days from their date of exposure. It is recommended that the individual test on day five after their exposure.
 - If during those 10 days they experience symptoms, they should stay home and get a test.

COVID-19 vaccination is encouraged in consultation with pediatric/healthcare professional but not required/mandated for students. All WUNS staff are required to be fully vaccinated.

Face Masks and Distancing

- Face masks are optional for staff and students. The face mask policy may change in accordance with University guidance and COVID-19 community levels.
- The classrooms will limit the amount of furniture in the room to allow children to sit farther apart for group time.
- Full-day students will be separated as much as possible during rest time, in a head-to-foot pattern.
- All classrooms will eat snack and lunch in their classrooms. Students will have assigned seating in the classrooms while eating at tables.

Hand Hygiene for all students and staff

- All students and staff will wash or sanitize hands upon arrival. Hand sanitizer will be provided to students with teacher supervision.
- When students enter the classroom, they will wash their hands with soap and water.
- In addition, children and staff will wash their hands:
 - Before and after eating, or handling food or drinks
 - After using the bathroom or helping a child use the bathroom
 - When their hands are visibly dirty
 - Before and after changing a diaper
 - After coming in contact with bodily fluids
 - After handling garbage
 - At a minimum students/staff should be washing hands at least every hour

Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Process

- The Nursery School continues to follow the state standards and protocols for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting in an early childhood setting. This state-required method of cleaning and sanitizing will be done before and after children eat at the classroom tables as well as when children use the tables for centers.
- Toys that are mouthed or soiled during the day will be removed from the play area to be cleaned and sanitized at the end of the day.
- The classrooms and community areas will be cleaned nightly using the University's cleaning standards.
- Children will bring a water bottle from home daily to use at school.
- Cot sheets will be laundered frequently.

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

- The parent will assist the student out of the car (unbuckle and remove the child from the car seat) and meet the teacher.
- At dismissal, classroom groups will assemble at the covered outside patio near each classroom. The teacher will walk the student to the parent waiting outside of their car.
- Parents should safely and quickly load and **buckle their child into the car seat**. Please refrain from offering a snack or other item that will hold up the car line. Cars will exit the car line carefully.

Thank you for entrusting your children with us. Please email or call if you have questions or want to discuss our plan further.

**Best,
Nikki Scheele
Nursery School Director
314-935-6689**