

New Discoveries Montessori Academy 2022-2023 Safe Learning Plan

- Effective August 15, 2022

New Discoveries Montessori Academy takes the health and safety of its students and staff seriously. Barring any changes in guidance from state and federal health agencies, the following outlines how NDMA is navigating the 2022-23 school year with regard to COVID-19. Layered protection strategies, including regular cleaning, reinforced hand washing and other hygiene practices, will continue to be used in our building to reduce the risk of transmission.

NDMA will continue to monitor classrooms and the building closely throughout the year. Should COVID-19 cases increase, additional measures may be needed to protect the health and safety of our school and broader communities.

About Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness. It is caused by a new virus. We are learning new things about this virus every day because it is new. We are working with partners to slow the spread of COVID-19, but everyone in the state has a part to play to make this happen.

Anyone of any age can get the disease. Some people may get sicker than others. People who are sick with COVID-19 can give it to others, even sometimes when they do not feel sick. Viruses don't discriminate so avoid assumptions about who you think may be sick.

Symptoms

Some people who have COVID-19 infection have felt only a little sick. Others got very sick. COVID-19 symptoms are currently separated out into two groups by MDH.

- Symptoms that are more common to COVID:
 - Fever of 100.4 or greater
 - New onset and/or worsening cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - New loss of taste or smell
- Symptoms that are less common to COVID:
 - Sore throat

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Excessive fatigue
- New onset of severe headache
- New onset of nasal congestion or runny nose

Get tested if you have symptoms. Call your doctor or other health care provider about getting tested. Call them if you have questions or are worried about your symptoms.

Health Information

- Any individual who is not feeling well should remain home. Stay home if you are sick!
- Positive cases should be reported to the school nurse.
- Individuals who are 24-hours fever free and have improved symptoms and feel well enough to return may resume normal activities.
- Masks are not required but highly encouraged when returning to school following a positive case.

NDMA continues to monitor the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and MN Department of Health (MDH) guidance and recommendations. Current CDC recommendations include:

- staying up to date with vaccinations
- testing when symptomatic
- isolating for five days for those who test positive
- wearing a well-fitted mask at high COVID-19 community level

Communication and Reporting

- School data will continue to be analyzed for trends by the COVID Incident Command team.
- The district will report the number of student and staff as required to MDH.
- There will be no contact tracing, close contact notification, or quarantining of close contacts. The exception would be in the case of elementary classrooms where there is an outbreak of three or more cases, or building numbers rise above a 5% infection rate.

Hygiene Practices

NDMA will ensure appropriate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors are both available and readily accessible.

- Build routines of hand hygiene into your daily schedule for all students and staff, including handwashing and sanitation breaks during or between classroom activities. Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer.
- Supervise the use of hand sanitizer by students.
- Ensure that children and staff with sensitivity or skin reactions to hand sanitizer can use soap and water.
- Reinforce handwashing during key times including but not limited to: arrival and dismissal; before, during and after preparing or eating food; after recess; after using the bathroom; after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing; after touching objects with bare hands that have been handled by other people.

CLEANING & MATERIALS

- Establish a schedule for routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces and shared equipment throughout the school day. Increase the frequency of disinfection during high-activity periods.
- Use school-provided EPA-approved disinfectant.
- Do not use cleaning products or disinfectant near children. Staff should ensure adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling toxic fumes. Securely store products away from children.
- Always read, understand, and follow all product label directions and precautions appearing on or included with) the containers.
- Ensure cleaning of electronic devices, books, toys, and other learning aids between uses.
- Handle non-disposable food service items minimally and wash them with hot water and soap or in a dishwasher.
- Discourage use of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.

 **BE SAFE.**  **BE SMART.**  **BE KIND.**