

# Minnesota Waldorf School Covid-19 Guidelines Summary

March, 2022

*Below are changes to the Minnesota Waldorf School Covid-19 protocols. With the many positive changes in the presence of COVID in this region the school is ready to take steps to ease some of the protocols. We feel fortunate that there has been a remarkably low level of infection in school, with most cases coming from outside the school. We are grateful for the tremendous support from the whole community in adhering to the school's protocols, arduous as they can be! We feel fortunate that our layered mitigation approach has supported joyful and engaged school life for the students in these challenging years.*

*If there is another surge or significant change to the presence of the Covid-19 virus in the local community these protocols may be adjusted.*

*Work is in progress on protocols for class plays, gatherings and events. You will receive updates on these Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.*

## Starting Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

### CHANGES:

- Morning Health Checks are only required if a student will be absent that day.
- Morning Health checks for an absent student must be entered by the parent/guardian by 8:30am, via the link. There will no longer be on-site checks on arrival.
- Face masks are optional. Anyone who chooses to continue wearing a face mask in school will be fully supported in doing so.
- New illness guidelines – *see page 2*

### STAYS THE SAME:

- Continued high-level air filtration in the school
- Windows open with fans extracting during eating times, *OR*,
  - Snack and lunch will move outdoors once weather permits, windows will remain open with fans extracting when eating indoors
- Good handwashing protocols
- Desks will remain in distanced format in the classrooms
- Singing and recorder playing will resume for Choir and Recorder classes with face masks indoors or no masks outdoors.

## MWS COVID Symptoms and Illness: Information and Steps

**Covid-19 Symptoms:** fever greater than or equal to 100 F; severe headache; new-onset and/or worsening cough; difficulty breathing; new loss of taste or smell; sore throat; nausea; vomiting, diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; excessive fatigue; new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.

**Note:** Different people will have different symptoms or may be asymptomatic, having no symptoms at all.

If a person develops any symptoms from above list they must:

Stay home and get tested - two rapid, antigen tests within 36 hours *or* a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test.

The student may return **if test(s) are negative** (2 antigen or 1 PCR), *and they are symptom free for 24 hours.*

If the student tests positive, there are two options:

Stay home and quarantine for 5 days. They may return to school on day 6 **if they are symptom free for 24 hours**, *however they must wear a well-fitted KN95 or N95 face mask at school for the next 5 days. On day 11, from onset of symptoms or positive COVID test, a mask will be optional.*

**OR**, stay home from school in quarantine for 10 days, returning on the 11<sup>th</sup> day if symptom free for 24 hours, at which time a face mask will be optional.

If the family chooses not to get tested, the student must quarantine for 10 days, returning on day 11 from symptom onset and be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.

All members of the household/pod get tested. Anyone getting tested stays out of school until negative results are received (2 antigen or 1 PCR).

Notify MWS Administrative Director and Student Services of the illness and steps being taken. MWS will treat this information as confidential, per HIPAA requirements.

If a household member tests positive for COVID:

Notify MWS Administrative Director *and* Student Services immediately, informing who tested positive. *MWS will treat this information confidentially, per HIPAA.*

Isolate positive case for at least 5 days until all symptoms are gone without fever-reducing medication (which may be longer than 5 days).

Members of the household stay in quarantine for 10 days and monitor for possible infection. Day one is counted from the first day symptoms of the positive case, or the day of the positive test result if the person was *asymptomatic at the time of testing*. (This includes vaccinated members of the household.)

Asymptomatic students in the household need 2 negative antigen or one PCR test on day 10 in order to return to class in-person on day 11.

At school or out in the community

If someone is a close contact to a positive case outside of the home in the community, they can return to school after negative test results are had: 2 rapid tests within 36 hours, or a PCR, and watch for symptoms over the next 5 days.

- All household members are recommended to get tested if a member was a close contact.
- Notify MWS Admin Director *and* Student Services about close contact and steps being taken.