



COVID-19 Safety Policies

Policy Date: January 3, 2022

Policy Update: February 10, 2022 (Exposure Response: Test-to-Stay or Exposure Quarantine)

Policy Update: April 15, 2022 (Mask Recommendations per CDC, JCPH)

OVERVIEW

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, Montessori School of Iowa City (MSIC) developed the following COVID-19 Safety Policies to provide a safe environment for our students, teachers, staff, and their families. The health and safety of our students, teachers, and staff and their families is our top priority.

This is a living document. The policies will be evaluated by our MSIC COVID-19 Sub-Committee on a regular basis and any changes or updates will be announced by the Head of School.

STATEMENT OF INTENTION

MSIC created these policies after careful consideration of credible information from scientific, scholarly, and government resources. We relied most on guidance from the CDC and the Johnson County Public Health Department. Our policy was reviewed by Dr. Jorge Salinas, infectious diseases specialist and hospital epidemiologist, when Dr. Salinas was employed by UI Hospitals & Clinics.

It is the intention of MSIC to create policies that best protect our community of students, teachers, staff, and their families as we navigate through this global pandemic. As a community, our task is to protect those who cannot be vaccinated and those whose age and health puts them at greater risk for negative outcomes from Covid.

It is important to MSIC that you keep this greater community in mind not only as you or your child navigate through the school, but also as you or your child navigate through the world. We have come to understand that the choices we make about travel, wearing masks, safety precautions and social distancing may not just impact ourselves, but our greater community. As key Montessori principle, we must keep our greater community in mind.

POLICY GUIDANCE

Our policy is guided by the United States' Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Johnson County (Iowa) Department of Public Health (JCPH). Specifically, this document takes guidance from the following CDC Guidance Documents:

- COVID-19 Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/child-care-guidance.html>
- Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

- Science Brief: Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fmore%2Fscientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html
- COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>
- COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html>
 - Test-to-Stay: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/what-you-should-know.html>

Johnson County Public Health does not provide as frequent updates to their policies, however, any guidance followed from JCPH will be put into an appendix for this document. The JCPH website is available at <https://johnsoncountyiowa.gov/department-of-public-health>.

POLICY REVIEW AND UPDATING SCHEDULE

Prior to each MSIC school board meeting, the Covid committee will review any updates to CDC or JCPH guidance and inform the board of such updates along with any recommended changes to the MSIC COVID-19 Safety Policies. If changes are recommended, they will be discussed by the MSIC school board and will be subject to a board vote.

DEFINITIONS

To provide detail to many terms used throughout, the following definitions provide a working understanding of the many details we must consider when providing a policy.

Fully Vaccinated: individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their final vaccine dose (initial series or booster)

Adults (Ages 18+)

- One J&J/Two MRNA doses within past six months, or,
- One J&J/Two MRNA doses more than six months prior and additional (booster) does of any type of vaccine

Children Ages 5-18

- Two doses of the Pfizer vaccine

Confirmed COVID-19 Exposure: where an individual with a confirmed COVID-19 Infection was unmasked within 6 feet or less for a total of 15 minutes within a 24-hour period, or in the same room for 2 hours or more with masking and social distancing measures in place. **The timeframe for having contact with an individual includes the period of time of 48 hours before the individual became symptomatic.**

Confirmed COVID-19 Infection: where an individual receives a positive test for COVID-19 or is diagnosed by a medical provider as having COVID-19.

Suspected COVID-19 Exposure: where: an individual has had a potential exposure, which means being a household contact or having close contact within 6 feet of an individual where that household member or individual: (i) has a confirmed COVID-19 infection or (ii) with an individual experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (as defined by the CDC) and is seeking a medical diagnosis. **The timeframe for having**

contact with an individual includes the period of time of 48 hours before the individual became symptomatic.

Suspected COVID-19 Infection: where: (a) an individual is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (as defined by the CDC) and is seeking a medical diagnosis.

Recent COVID-19 Infection: an individual is considered to have had a recent COVID-19 infection if, in the period of the previous 90 days, the individual received a positive COVID-19 test or was diagnosed by a medical provider with COVID-19, and the individual provided medical documentation of the infection to MSIC.

Illness Quarantine: the period of time an infected individual must isolate from others to avoid transmission of COVID-19. Isolation is used to separate people infected with the virus (those who are symptomatic and those with no symptoms) from people who are not infected.

Test-to-Stay: a practice comprised of contact tracing and testing that is sequentially repeated to allow individuals who had a potential exposure to COVID-19 to continue in-person learning during their quarantine period.

Masking

MSIC aligns to the community spread [recommendations as outlined by the CDC](#). While masks aren't required in low and medium zones, staff, students, and families may choose to wear them. If community transmission is "high" MSIC will require masks to be worn indoors as recommended by [JCPH](#).

- <https://coronavirus-johnsoncounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/childcare>
- <https://coronavirus-johnsoncounty.hub.arcgis.com/pages/guidance>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/child-care-guidance.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Illness Quarantine

- **Per CDC Guidance regarding Quarantine and Isolation**
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>):

An individual with Confirmed COVID-19 Infection (as defined by MSIC Covid Policy), can return to MSIC after:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared, and,
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and,
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving*

*Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.

Note that these recommendations do not apply to people with severe COVID-19 or with weakened immune systems (immunocompromised). Such individuals should provide documentation from their healthcare provider regarding when they can return to MSIC.

The 10-day isolation period will begin on the date of symptom onset or the date of the diagnosis (should no symptoms be present).

If the diagnosis occurs while the individual is following an Exposure Quarantine, the Exposure Quarantine period will end, and the individual will then be required to follow the 10-day Illness Quarantine. For instance, should an individual have a COVID-19 Exposure and test positive for COVID seven days into their Exposure Quarantine, that individual would be eligible to return to MSIC 10 days past the date of their COVID-19 diagnosis (the date they tested positive), provided they went 24 hours without fever without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms of COVID-19 were improving.

Exposure Quarantine: the period of time an individual must remain at home due to COVID-19 exposure. Quarantine is used to keep someone who has been exposed to COVID-19 away from others so that they do not spread the illness unknowingly as COVID-19 positive individuals may be contagious prior to symptom onset or if they have no symptoms.

- **Per CDC Guidance for Early Care and Education (ECE)/Child Care Programs, Point 8 (Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine;** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/child-care-guidance.html>)

Staff, families, and children who are determined to be a close contact of someone with COVID-19 (a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Exposure as defined by MSIC Covid Policy) must choose either **test-to-stay** or **quarantine** (see exposure quarantine), regardless of vaccination status.

Test-to-Stay

All staff, families, and children who are determined to be a close contact of someone with COVID-19 (a Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 Exposure as defined by MSIC Covid Policy) may choose *not* to quarantine if they follow the Test-to-Stay guidelines outlined in the MSIC Covid Policy. A classroom may still need to close if there are not enough staff available to care for the children.

Fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 (see confirmed COVID-19 exposure) may continue to attend school at MSIC if they do not have symptoms and if they administer a [COVID-19 self-test](#) each morning before attending school for 7 days following exposure. The test must not be expired and must be administered according to the manufacturer's instructions each morning before attending school.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/self-testing.html>

If the test result is negative, a Test-to-Stay documentation form will be completed, brought to school, and given to a staff member at the entrance to the school.

If the test result is positive, the individual will stay home following the guidelines for a COVID-19 confirmed infection outlined in the MSIC Covid Policy.

During the 7 days following the exposure:

- Parents will monitor their child(ren) for symptoms aligning to COVID-19 and will keep them at home if they become ill.
- Staff will monitor themselves for symptoms aligning to COVID-19 and will stay home if they become ill.

The following additional measures may be taken to protect other individuals in the school for 7 days following the exposure.

- Students in the exposed class may not attend after school.
- Music and Spanish class may be canceled for the exposed classroom.

- Exposed teachers will take care to keep their distance from staff and students who have not been exposed.
- Increased efforts will be made to encourage children to wear their masks properly whenever they are not eating, drinking, or sleeping.

Parents may choose to keep their child home to quarantine following a known exposure. To return on day 8 or 9, the individual must have received a negative COVID-19 test. After 10 days, a negative test is not required.

In the case that staff test positive for covid-19, a classroom may need to close if substitute teachers cannot be found.

In the case that staff choose to quarantine after a known exposure, a classroom may need to close if substitute teachers cannot be found.

Exposure Quarantine

Regardless of vaccination status, staff, families, and children should:

- Get tested immediately and quarantine (stay at home and away from other people) immediately for a period of time (see below) from the date of their last exposure.
- If they initially test negative, test again 5-7 days after the date of their last known exposure to determine if they have developed COVID-19 as early as possible. Isolate immediately if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive and notify the MSIC so that they can conduct any necessary contact tracing.
- If the person who is quarantining does not develop symptoms of COVID-19 and does not test positive or is not tested, that person can go back into public spaces, including MSIC, after quarantine.
- MSIC follows CDC options to shorten quarantine provide acceptable alternatives of a 10-day quarantine or a 7-day quarantine combined with testing and a negative test result.
 - Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.
 - Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 24 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontinuation (e.g., in anticipation of testing delays), but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.

Fully vaccinated individuals or individuals who have had a Recent COVID-19 Infection:

Fully vaccinated close contacts (a COVID-19 Exposure as defined by MSIC Covid Policy) or those with a Recent COVID-19 Infection (as defined by MSIC Covid Policy) should be referred for COVID-19 testing.

Should an individual who is fully vaccinated or has had a Recent COVID-19 Infection test positive for COVID-19, the individual will then be subject to the Illness Quarantine policy.

Should an individual who is fully vaccinated or has had a Recent COVID-19 Infection test positive for COVID-19, the individual will then be subject to the Exposure Quarantine policy or Test-To-Stay Policy.

Montessori School of Iowa City may request the parent / guardian for information regarding exposure / illness and refer to JCPH directly for guidance, or until clarity is brought to a situation that seems unclear.

I. Policy Regarding Confirmed COVID-19 Infection

A. Policy Regarding Confirmed COVID-19 Infection

This policy concerns steps that MSIC will take if a student, teacher, or staff has a confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Responsibilities of the Individual or Individual's Parent/Guardian

1. **Notification of MSIC:** The individual or their parent/guardian must call the Head of School immediately to inform the Head of School (Terrah Taggart) of the confirmed case. If the Head of School is not available, please inform the Office Manager (Judy Rouse).
2. If the individual is at School, the individual must return home as soon as possible.
3. If the individual is at home, the individual must stay home and not come to School per the below response plan.

Responsibilities of MSIC

1. Notify the School of the positive case without disclosing private/medical/confidential information.
2. MSIC will notify potentially exposed staff and children of the confirmed COVID-19 infection.
3. All teachers, staff and families will receive an initial notification of a confirmed case. All notifications will be sent via email.
4. Head of School may contact JCPH and review CDC policies for exposure.
5. Each classroom that had exposure to the individual within the previous 48 hours, will receive additional notifications, as necessary.
6. Confidential information will be maintained per legal requirements.
7. The school will be notified if an individual (staff or student) has tested positive.

Should enough MSIC staff need to follow the Exposure and/or Illness Quarantine Policy, classroom closure may be necessitated. In such an event, the Head of School will notify families of the start and expected duration of the closure. Affected students in the closed classroom will receive a discount towards tuition for that missed time.

Asynchronous Learning for Classroom Closures

Parents should contact their child's teacher for instructions for example materials for use during the closure duration.

B. Policy Regarding Suspected COVID-19 Infection

This policy concerns steps that MSIC will take if a student, teacher, or staff has a suspected COVID-19 infection.

Responsibilities of the Individual or Individual's Parent/Guardian

1. **Notification of MSIC:** The individual or their parent/guardian must call the Head of School immediately to inform the Head of School (Terrah Taggart) of the suspected case. If the Head of School is not available, please inform the Office Manager (Judy Rouse).
2. If the individual is at School, the individual must return home as soon as possible.
3. If the individual is at home, the individual must stay home and not come to School until a healthcare provider can provide assurance that they do not have COVID-19 Infection, and, they are no longer exhibiting symptoms.

C. Policy Regarding Suspected COVID-19 Exposure

This policy concerns steps that MSIC will take if a student, teacher, or staff has a suspected COVID-19 exposure.

Responsibilities of the Individual or Individual's Parent/Guardian

1. Notification of MSIC: The individual or their parent/guardian must call the Head of School immediately to inform the Head of School (Terrah Taggart) of the suspected exposure. If the Head of School is not available, please inform the Office Manager (Judy Rouse).
2. Exposure Quarantine: Staff, families, and children who are determined to be a close contact of an individual with Suspected COVID-19 (a Suspected COVID-19 Exposure as defined by MSIC Covid Policy) will be subject to the Exposure Quarantine policy listed in the definitions of the MSIC Covid Policy or Test-to-Stay listed in the definitions of the MSIC Covid Policy.
3. Test-to-Stay: Fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 (see confirmed COVID-19 exposure) may continue to attend school at MSIC if they do not have symptoms and if they administer a [COVID-19 self-test](#) each morning before attending school for 7 days following exposure. The test must not be expired and must be administered according to the manufacturer's instructions each morning before attending school.
4. Illness Quarantine: Staff, families, and children who develop COVID-19 will be subject to the Illness Quarantine policy listed in the definitions of the MSIC Covid Policy.