

# The Farmhouse School

## Pandemic Policies and Procedures

2021-2022

Please note that the current directives and new information in regards to Covid-19 and its transmission is quickly evolving. We have removed some of our restrictions for the 2021-2022 school year. We will continue to update our Pandemic Policies and Procedures Handbook as we move closer to the first day of school. These policies are subject to change and will be updated based on the emergency needs of the school and in accordance to County, State and Federal guidelines.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. COVID-19 is spread from person to person through contact that is close enough to share droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, speaking and breathing. COVID-19 can also be spread by touching objects where contaminated droplets have landed. Because of this easy manner of transmission, an infant, child or young person who is infected with COVID-19 can spread the infection to others they come in close contact with, such as members of their household, teachers, or other caregivers. Infected persons with mild or even no symptoms can spread COVID-19.

The Farmhouse School (hereafter “school”) values the safety and wellbeing of its staff, children and families. For this reason, the school has adopted a COVID-19 Health Policy.

### Vulnerable/high risk groups:

It is recommended that individuals at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 consult with their medical provider to assess their risk and to determine if they should stay home if there is an outbreak in their community. Information about COVID-19 in children is somewhat limited, but the information that is available suggests that many children have mild symptoms. However, a small percentage of children have been reported to have severe illness. Parents should consult with their health care provider on what is appropriate for their child.

### Preventative Health Measures:

For staff in the school or other public spaces, we are confident that if certain measures such as cloth face coverings for staff, frequent hand washing and environmental cleaning and sanitizing are widely observed, the school can operate in a safe and measured way. All staff will be required to follow the King County directives for wearing masks. We ask that our parents do the same. **Children will not be required to wear masks at school, but we strongly encourage the use of face masks by our students.** We require all children to make their best attempt at wearing a mask both indoors and out. While it is not required that your child be successful in wearing their mask properly at all times, it is required that they make their best attempt to do so. Cloth face coverings must be washed daily.

Proper hand hygiene will be practiced immediately after handling a mask or face covering.

We cannot expect a group of Pre-K children to not engage in interactive play or share toys. Parents or guardians should monitor the health of their child and not send them to school if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID. Parents or guardians should seek COVID testing promptly and report results to the program as soon as possible, given the implications for other children, families and staff. Parents or guardians should protect any vulnerable persons who are members of the same household or come into frequent, close contact with infants, children and youth who attend school.

### **Social Distancing Strategies:**

Social distancing focuses on remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance from others when possible. The following social distancing strategies will be in place:

- We will ask that all un-vaccinated adults maintain six (6) feet of distance between children, parents and staff.
- Classes will include the same group of children each day.
- When feasible, more outside activities will be incorporated.
- We ask that all families keep abreast of and practice current social distancing directives outside of school, in a good faith effort to keep everyone healthy and safe.

### **Parent Drop -off and Pick-up:**

Pick-up and drop-off will be completed outside of the school, unless there is a legitimate need for the parent to enter. Should the parent have a legitimate need to enter the school, the parent must be screened by the staff in accordance to the directives in this document.

- Parents/Guardians will drop-off at the front entrance to the school.
- Parents will pick up from the outside sign-out area.
- Children will wash hands upon entering the school.
- Parents/Guardians and Staff will wear masks.
- Parents/guardian will be asked to note that their child is symptom free upon drop-off.

Children and teachers will wash their hands upon entering and before leaving the school.

### **Screening:**

Individuals who have a fever of 100.4 F or above or other signs of illness unrelated to a preexisting condition (such as seasonal allergies) will not be admitted into the school. Parents are encouraged to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home if they are sick.

The following individuals must be screened daily before entering the school:

- Staff
- Persons with legal authority to enter.
- Professionals providing services to children.
- Children enrolled in the school.
- Parents/guardians who have children enrolled and present at the school. Parents should only enter the school when absolutely necessary.

**Prior to Entering the School, the Following Screening Methods will be Used:**

- Parents/Guardians will be asked to take their child's temperature at home.
- By signing your child in at the beginning of the day, you are confirming that your child is symptom free.
- A teacher will take your child's temperature with a no-contact thermometer prior to entering the school.

**Illness:**

Ill children and staff are required to stay home.

- The school will communicate to parents the importance of keeping children home when they are sick.

The school will communicate to staff the importance of being vigilant for symptoms and staying in touch with the school's owner if or when they start to feel sick.

Any staff or child will be sent home if they present with any of the following new or worsening signs of symptoms (unrelated to a preexisting condition) of possible COVID-19:

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

Potential exposure means being a household contact or having close contact within six feet of an individual with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 for at least 10 minutes. The period for having contact with an individual includes the period of time of 48 hours before the individual became symptomatic.

Children will also be sent home with any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) associated with COVID-19:

- Fever-prolonged or persistent
- Rash
- Conjunctivitis (redness of the white part of the eye)
- Stomachache, vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Tongue is redder than usual and looks like a strawberry
- Swollen hands and/or feet, lymph nodes

- Irritability and/or unusual sleepiness or weakness

Any child or staff with a temperature of more than 100.4 will not be permitted to return to the school until 72 hours after the fever has returned to normal without fever reducing medications. The school will not allow a physician's note before the 72 hours. Very commonly, a child might be present in the school with cough and/or runny nose (mild respiratory symptoms) and the child is behaving normally with no fever. Children will be permitted to attend the school if no other symptoms of illness are present, and they are capable of good hygiene practices.

Children or staff who become sick while at the school will be sent home as soon as possible.

- The sick child or staff will isolate from well children and staff until they can be sent home.
- A sick child must be supervised by staff at all times. The staff member must wear a mask and gloves.
- The parent of the sick child will be contacted immediately.
- The isolation area will be outdoors.

Staff of children with new or worsening signs of symptoms listed above will not return to school until:

- In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to the school when all three of the following criteria are met:
  - At least 3 days have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications,)
  - The individual has improvement of respiratory symptoms (e.g.. cough, shortness of breath,) and
  - At least 14 days has passed since symptoms first appeared.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the school until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above.
- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to the school before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

If staff members or parents/guardian believes that they have or the child have had close contact to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, they should monitor their health for the above symptoms during the 14 days after the last day they were in close contact with the individual with COVID-19. The staff of child is not permitted to return to the school until the end of the 14-day self-quarantine period from the last exposure date.

If COVID-19 is confirmed (tested positive) in a child, staff member or other adult who has been present in the school, the school will:

- Call the King County Corona-virus Call Center at (206) 477-3977,
- Close the school for at least 2-5 days,
- Open doors and windows to increase air circulation, Wait up to 24 hours, or as long as possible before cleaning or disinfecting to allow respiratory droplets to settle
- Follow CDC guidance on how to disinfect the school by cleaning and disinfecting all areas of the school,
- Continue routine cleaning and disinfection,
- Inform families and staff of the exposure.

If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.

### **Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfecting Measures:**

The following will be done in addition to (or in substitution of) existing cleaning protocols in place at the school:

- The school will follow their regular schedule for cleaning and disinfecting
- The school will use an EPA-registered cleaning product to clean and sanitize the school
- If surfaces are dirty, soap and water will be used to clean the surfaces prior to sanitation.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or are otherwise contaminated by body secretions will be set aside until they are cleaned and disinfected.

### **Healthy Hand Hygiene:**

All children, staff and anyone entering the school will engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

- Arrival to school
- Before and after preparing food,
- Before or after eating or handling food,
- 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,
- After handling garbage.

Hands will be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be used.

- Children will be supervised when using hand sanitizer to prevent ingestion.
- Children will be observed while they are hand-washing, and will be provided with help if they need it.
- After assisting children with hand-washing, staff will also wash their hands.
- Posters will be placed at all sinks describing hand-washing steps.

### **Mealtime:**

- The school will not serve family style meals. Each child will bring their own snack/lunch from home.
- Snack/lunch will be brought in an insulated lunch box to keep food fresh.
- Each child should come with a full water bottle each day. The water bottle needs to fit into the child's lunchbox, either inside of in an outside pocket.
- The children's food will be stored in their cubbies or lunchboxes.
- Staff will ensure children wash their hands before and after eating.
- The staff will sit with the children during meals.
- Children will be seated with social distancing in mind.

### **School Closure:**

Our intention is to keep school open as long as it is safe to do so. However:

- We will keep abreast new directives from the King County Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. If directives change on a County, State or National level, we will decide what that means for our school.
- If a student has been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, we will consider a brief 2-5 day closure of a longer 14-day closure, based on guidance from the King County Health Department.

We will announce school closures via email.

We will not make up closures due to the pandemic.

There will be no tuition reimbursement for days missed due to school closures as a result of the pandemic.

### **Supplemental Learning:**

Should the Farmhouse School be closed for a period longer than two weeks, we will provide supplemental learning materials and opportunities to interact and learn virtually. The teachers have a plan in place, should we need to implement Online learning. Our aim moving is to provide our families with virtual and distance learning opportunities that are enriching and hands-on, and allow for as much interaction between students and staff as possible.

### **Tuition Payments during a Pandemic:**

Parents/guardians will be responsible for tuition in full, regardless of missed days due to illness or school closure. This allows us to continue to pay our staff and our bills, as our school runs on very tight margins. Exceptions will be made if:

- Your family is struggling due to circumstances surround the pandemic. We will do our best to accommodate a payment plan or offer a reduced or excused tuition option.
- The school is able to secure loans or grants, or other financial supplementation to help us meet our financial obligations.

Great effort will be made to help ease the financial obligations surrounding tuition payments.

Great effort will be made to help ease the financial obligations surrounding tuition payments during a pandemic related closure.

**Moving Forward:**

The Farmhouse School and all educators here-within are confident that we are moving forward and closer to a more normal school year. We do not foresee any long-term closures or other drastic measures needing to take place due to the pandemic.

We will continue to update this information as the situation evolves and new information is made available to us.

The Farmhouse School reserves the right to adjust and amend our policies at any time.





