

WSP Covid-19 Handbook for 2021-22

The Waldorf School of Princeton's COVID-19 policies and procedures in this document are developed with the health of the entire school community in mind. This is a living document and may be adapted and modified as needed per recommendations and guidelines from local and state health departments and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In developing our prevention strategies, we have considered the views expressed by community members at a virtual meeting held on July 28th, 2021, as well as the sources listed below.

This document is intended to help our whole community understand our approach, and do their part to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. Specific instructions to staff for implementation of these policies are provided separately.

Sources of information and guidance

- We abide by the guidelines provided by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), including guidance on mask-wearing and vaccinations.
- Where we need assistance in interpreting specifics for our area, or in complicated situations, we receive support in interpreting the guidelines from the Montgomery Health Department.
- For detailed guidance on practical matters, we refer to the advice provided by the National Business Officers Association on **Operating Guidance for Independent School Pandemic Management**. Their guide is written by a group of environmental health, public health, and engineering experts.
- We rely on the NJ Covid-19 Data Dashboard to understand the vaccination rates and community transmission levels in our area. This source publishes a weekly summary, and we focus on the Central West region. The weekly reports can be found [here](#).

What to Expect:

We expect some measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to be necessary for much, if not all of the 2021-22 school year. We expect that the measures will change during the year. We would like to prepare families for changes and give everyone an idea of how we will decide what measures to impose as conditions change.

Summary of Planned Approach and Prevention Strategies:

- *Staying home when sick.* WSP enforces daily health checks and policies for quarantine, contact tracing, and testing, should COVID-19 symptoms be present.
- *Encouraging vaccinations.* The school encourages all those eligible to be vaccinated for the COVID-19 virus. NJDOH reports the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective. Unvaccinated staff will be asked to test weekly during Amber and Red protocols.

- *Physical distancing.* Whenever practical, WSP will maintain physical distancing.
- *Consistent and correct mask use.* All students (age two and older), parents, staff, and visitors must wear a mask or cloth face-covering when required to do so.
- *Cleaning and disinfecting.* WSP sufficiently maintains a healthy and safe environment by using EPA registered disinfectant on all frequently touched surfaces, daily.
- *Ventilation.* In efforts to keep air flow moving and not stagnant, WSP ventilates areas, opens windows, keeps hallway doors open, uses child-safe fans and air purifiers when possible.
- *Handwashing.* Handwashing is an excellent preventative for reducing the spread of germs, especially if done properly. Handwashing is important in decreasing the spread of COVID-19.

To help everyone understand when and under what conditions we will strengthen or relax protocols, we will be using a 'traffic light' approach, per the table below:

The School will open on August 30 under Amber protocol.

Protocol Level	Conditions	Masks	Cleaning & Checking	Class Cohorts	Programming and Campus Access
Green	Transmission in Central West NJ is less than 10 new daily cases per 100,000 people	In school buildings, subject to DOH recommendation	Normal preventative sanitization + Daily health check	No cohorts	Aftercare open After school sports and enrichment open Early Childhood and Aftercare Snacks served School store open Adult visitors to buildings screened. Community food permissible.
Amber	Transmission in Central West NJ is 10-25 new daily cases per 100,000 people	In school buildings	Normal preventative sanitization + Daily health check	No cohorts	Aftercare open After school sports and enrichment open Early Childhood and Aftercare Snacks served School store open Adult visitors to buildings screened. Community food permissible.
Red	Transmission in Central West NJ is >25 new daily cases per 100,000 people	At all times	Frequent sanitization + daily health check	Cohorts of 14 or less	Program limitations will be introduced. Food sharing restrictions.

The following applies for all protocol levels:

- WSP plans for students to be outside as much as possible for our 2021-2022 school year, utilizing our 20+ acres of campus and outdoor learning spaces designed for classroom instruction.
- Teachers will instruct students when they may remove masks, and when they must put them on. Students must comply with teachers' instructions, but may keep masks on if they prefer.
- Each class will have an assigned outdoor classroom location at least through Thanksgiving. Teachers will use their judgment in balancing time spent outdoors and indoors, according to the needs of their students.
- Individual bins will continue to be assigned for student belongings.
- When classes need to be indoors, strong effort will be made to maintain appropriate physical distancing and healthy air quality.
 - Additional equipment has been installed in classrooms for improvement of air flow and air purification.
 - A custodian will continue to provide regular daily support for sanitization of common surfaces.
- The Health Office will maintain specific COVID-19 assessment and quarantine areas.
- The online daily health check will be required, and a greeter will check each child for compliance
- Children will enter school wearing a mask and will remove masks only under their teachers' instruction.

Guidance for Families

Guidance on Face-Coverings:

- Students should arrive at school wearing a face covering, and carrying a clean spare.
- All face coverings must provide adequate barrier protection and must fit to properly cover the nose, mouth, and chin to prevent the spread of illness.
- Face-coverings and masks must follow our dress code as described in the Community Handbook (i.e., avoiding media images and characters, messages, commercial and/or athletic team logos, as well as distracting designs or patterns).
- Those with disabilities and other medical concerns should contact their healthcare providers and our nursing staff to recommend alternative face-covering options.
- Parents/caregivers should provide extra face coverings for their children in case of excessive moisture build-up, discomfort, soiling, loss or mishap, both in their daily bags as well as with their children's emergency change of clothes.
 - If a child is without a face-covering and a disposable mask must be distributed more than twice, parents will be notified about the possibility of invoicing for replacement costs.
- Refusal to wear a face-covering may result in dismissal from campus and could lead to further disciplinary action.
- Class teachers, with the approval of the nurse, may allow children to remove their masks, at any time when the risk to their health and well-being from wearing it is greater than that posed to the community by removing it.

Guidance on Health Screenings:

- Parents will complete a [daily health assessment](#) for their enrolled child/children before arriving on campus. Knowingly falsifying information on this form may result in immediate dismissal from the school.
- The nursing staff will contact parents/caregivers about all student absences related to illness.
- The nursing staff will alert families to any possible contact with Covid-19, and advise on appropriate steps.
- The information gathered from these assessments will be handled with confidentiality, as with all school health forms and information.

Guidance on Symptoms:

Stay Home When Sick

If anyone in the family has COVID-19 symptoms, parents must call or email the school. The nurse will contact parents about unexplained absences, the need for testing, quarantine and isolation, etc.

If a child **does not** meet the above criteria (e.g., just has a fever), then the usual school exclusion applies. (e.g., The student can return to school if fever-free for 24 hours without a

fever-reducing medicine).

Health Office: 609-466-1970x116 or Email: nurse@princetonwaldorf.org

- Members of the school community (faculty, staff, students, and families) should not come to school if they OR any members of their household:
 - Exhibits **ONE** of the following symptoms of Covid-19: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, OR
 - Exhibits **TWO** of the following symptoms of Covid-19: fever, chills, shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose, behavior that shows child is not feeling well/extreme fussiness, OR
 - Have been in contact with a known or suspected case of COVID-19
- Any student or staff member showing symptoms of COVID-19 as described in the bullet point above will be sent home from school along with anyone from his/her/their household in the school (even if the other members of the household do not show any COVID-19 symptoms).
- *Phone numbers need to be kept current and voice mails operational.* There should always be a designated parent or emergency contact for the day. If the student becomes sick at school, this parent or designee must be available to pick up the student **within 45 min of a call from the school, ideally within 30 minutes**. Once sent home for COVID-19-related symptoms, the symptomatic child must test negative via PCR or rapid antigen test for COVID-19 in order for the child and siblings to return to school.
- In the event of a suspected COVID-19 infection among staff or students, contact tracing protocols required by the Montgomery Health Department will be followed.

For handling all COVID-19-related illness and protocol, the school will follow procedures as outlined below from the State Health Department. Guidance issued in June 2021 is available [here](#). An update, provided on August 6, 2021, is available [here](#). We will continue to review updates from this source and incorporate revisions into our practices.

Guidance on Travel and Quarantining

The school will follow the most current NJDOH COVID-19 travel recommendations. All parents and staff are responsible for checking [NJ Travel Advisories](#) for the most recent recommendations before making travel plans and consulting with the school nurse to determine quarantine timelines and needed testing before returning to school.

Please review the charts below for international and domestic travel. Updated CDC guidance may be found [here](#).

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

International Travel		
RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS	Not Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated
Get tested 1-3 days before traveling out of the US	✓	
Mandatory test required before flying to US	✓	✓
Get tested 3-5 days after travel	✓	✓
Self-quarantine after travel for 7 days with a negative test or 10 days without test	✓	
Self-monitor for symptoms	✓	✓
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	✓	✓



cdc.gov/coronavirus

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Travelers who clinically recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months: no quarantine needed for pre or post-travels. Airlines require a certificate of recovery, from COVID-19, within the past 3 months.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Domestic Travel		
RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS	Not Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated
Get tested 1-3 days before travel	✓	
Get tested 3-5 days after travel and self-quarantine for 7 days. Self-quarantine for 10 days if you don't get tested.	✓	
Self-monitor for symptoms	✓	✓
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	✓	✓



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Guidance for Field Trips and Car-Pooling

Field trips will be reinstated this year, subject to NJDOH guidance. Field trips will follow the same precautions as if students were on campus. Masks must be worn at all times during transportation.

All occupants in a vehicle, headed to or returning from a school, must wear masks, and all windows should be cracked open.