

Children of The Woodlands COVID-19 Protocol Policy-Sept. 2021

COTW Goal: To maintain a healthy and safe environment for our students and staff. We are following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Montgomery County Health Department (MCHD) and The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Prevention Strategies

- **Get vaccinated** if possible (12 years old and over)
- **Masks**-should be worn indoors by all individuals over 2 years, who are not fully vaccinated. CDC recommends universal indoor mask use in areas of substantial to high transmission, **regardless** of vaccination status.
- **Frequent handwashing**-with soap and water for 20 seconds
- **Practice safe distancing-(6 feet)** to the extent possible when indoors
- **Use hand sanitizer-(>60% alcohol)** when washing your hands is not possible
- **Practice Respiratory Etiquette**-cover coughs and sneezes and wash your hands as soon as possible after coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose
- **Stay in cohorts**-keep people together in small groups throughout an entire day
- **Stay home** or keep your children home when ill and when exhibiting any symptoms that could potentially be COVID-19
 - **Fever 100.4 or above**
 - **Sore Throat**
 - **Diarrhea, Vomiting or Stomachache**
 - **New onset of headache, especially with fever**
 - **New, uncontrollable cough, especially accompanied by difficulty breathing**
 - **New loss of sense of taste or smell**
 - **Body Aches**
 - **Fatigue**
 - **Congestion, Runny Nose or Sinus Pain**

1. All Staff/ Students Who Test Positive-With/Without Symptoms:

- **Notify School Nurse (preschoolnurse@twmc.org) immediately.** We are required by the MCHD to report positive cases.
- **Isolate/quarantine for 10 days from date of test.**
- **Return to school when the following criteria are met:**
 - At least 10 days have passed since the date of the COVID test **AND**
 - 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever reducing meds
 - 24 hours with no vomiting or diarrhea without the use of meds **AND**
 - Other symptoms are improving **AND**
 - The staff member or parent of student has contacted school nurse and been approved to return to school

2. All Staff/ Students Who Have Symptoms Consistent With COVID-19:

- **Notify School Nurse-**preschoolnurse@twmc.org
- Quarantine to prevent unintended transmission of the virus
- Recommend contacting your health care provider-note required to return to school
- Recommend COVID testing ***PCR test is the only one COTW will accept,** as the rapid tests are not always accurate
- Notify School Nurse of test results and follow ALL rules in section 1 above
- If you choose NOT to see a medical provider nor get tested, you or your child must be quarantined for 14 days from the start of symptoms AND follow all section 1 criteria

3. All Staff/Students Who Have Been Exposed/Had Close Contact with An Individual Who Has Tested Positive For COVID-19:

• **FULLY VACCINATED:**

- **NO** quarantining required unless signs of symptoms develop. Monitor symptoms for 10 -14 days after last contact
- **Recommend** testing between days 4-5 after exposure to avoid transmitting the virus
- If tests are positive, follow section 1 criteria
- Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure

• **UNVACCINATED:**

- Isolate/quarantine at home for **14 days** after last exposure
- Notify the School Nurse immediately (preschoolnurse@twmc.org)
- **ALL** children in our school are in this category

Close contact is defined by the CDC as within 6 feet of an infected person for a CUMULATIVE total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

School Procedures

- 1.The School Nurse will immediately bring any staff member or student who exhibits signs or symptoms of COVID-19 to the clinic for evaluation.
- 2.A parent will be notified to pick up their child. Ill staff will be sent home.
- 3.All positive cases of COVID-19 will be reported to the MCHD.
- 4.All staff and families will be notified of a positive case of COVID-19 in the school while maintaining the privacy of the individuals.
5. All staff and students with exposure to a positive case at school will be required to self-quarantine at home for 10-14 days, depending on their vaccination status.
6. Above criteria will be used in all cases/exposures on an individual basis.
7. Travel to a foreign country may require a 10-day isolation before returning to school. Contact the School Nurse for information before travel.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping to keep our school as healthy and safe as possible. Please contact us with any questions or concerns. Any of the above criteria may change throughout the year as federal and state guidelines change. We will keep you updated.

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