

# Montessori Learning Community of Asheville



WEST  
1 School Road  
Asheville, NC 28806

EAST  
15 Overbrook Place  
Asheville, NC 28805

Updated 1/21/2022

## Interim Safety Protocols

In response to recent developments of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have updated the following protocols in conjunction with the current NC Health and Human Services guidelines and the local Health Department to keep our community safe while still providing our usual care and educational services to families. Please find the current ChildCareStrongNC Public Health Toolkit, which we base our protocols upon, in the following link.

<https://covid19.ncdohhs.gov/media/220/download?attachment>

### Before Entering Into The School...

**Symptoms:** Children and staff who have symptoms of [COVID-19](#) should stay home and contact their healthcare provider or other available testing sites for diagnostic testing and care. Staying home when sick is essential to keep infections out of child care settings and preventing spread to others.

The presence of any of these symptoms suggests the person may need to be tested for COVID-19:

- Fever (temperature 100.4 °F or higher) or chills
- New cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



Individuals with the virus that causes COVID-19 may experience any, all, or none of these symptoms.

## Wellness Screening and Exclusion

### SCREENING FOR SYMPTOMS

Children and adults should be checked for symptoms at home, upon arrival at child care, and throughout the day. The presence of any of the symptoms above generally suggests a person has an infectious illness and should not attend child care, regardless of whether the illness is COVID-19. Ask staff and parents/caregivers to be alert and stay home if they or anyone else in the household is showing any signs of illness or if they have been exposed to COVID-19.

- Upon arrival, a designated staff member(s) will greet and screen students one at a time. Staff and anyone else entering the school will also undergo daily screening before entering the building.
- Parents will stay outside the building during daily screening and drop off/pick up. If possible, please have a designated, non-high-risk adult to attend drop off and pick-ups to limit direct contact.
- Each person entering the building will have his or her temperature taken with a touchless thermometer.
  - Fever is determined by a thermometer reading 100.4 or higher or by subjective signs such as flushed cheeks, fatigue, extreme fussiness, chills, shivering, sweating, achiness, headache, not eating, or drinking.
- Once cleared for entry, each child or staff member will immediately wash hands or use hand sanitizer before entering his or her designated classroom.

## Exclusion for people with COVID-19

People with COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19 without a test must be excluded from child care for 5 days after the first day of symptoms or day of specimen collection, if no symptoms. People may return to child care after 5 days if they have no symptoms or symptoms are improving and have been fever free for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medications, but must continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others. People who are unable to wear a mask, including children under the age of 2, must be excluded for 10 days after first day of symptom or date of specimen collection if no symptoms.

## Exclusion for people with exposure to someone with COVID-19

People who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer in a 24 hour time period) must be excluded from child care for 5 days following the last known exposure, unless an exemption applies. They may return after 5 days if they have no symptoms, but must continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others. People who are unable to wear a mask, including children under the age of 2, must be excluded for 10 days after the last day of exposure.

Household contacts of a person with COVID-19 should be excluded from child care for at least 5 days after their last exposure to the person with COVID-19 and should continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 days. For determining the exclusion period, household members are not considered exposed after the household member with COVID-19 has completed their isolation period – i.e. 5 days, if no symptoms or symptoms are improving even if they are still within the 10 days since their positive test or symptom onset.

NOTE: The Buncombe Contact Tracers and Health Consultants do not consider preschool-aged children to be able to effectively and consistently wear masks, therefore...

**MLC's Current Exclusion Policy: If exposed ie. day 0, children are to be in quarantine for 10 days.**

**However, if on day 6 a child has remained symptom-free and presents a negative test result administered on day 6, that child can return to school prior to day 10.** There is further situational exposure guidance in the Toolkit linked on page 1 but we also encourage everyone to speak to physicians in exposure scenarios.

## Testing

### Testing for individuals who have symptoms

Children and staff who have symptoms of [COVID-19](#) should stay home and contact their healthcare provider or other available testing sites for diagnostic testing for COVID-19 and care.

### Testing for individuals who have been exposed

Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 should **get tested 5 days after the last exposure** unless they had tested positive for COVID-19 with a viral test within the previous 90 days and subsequently recovered. Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 who do not meet an exemption for exclusion from childcare should stay home and follow the guidance for [quarantine](#).

## Safe Arrivals and Departures Routine

### Masks - Required for all adults and children indoors

- Masks will be required during drop off screenings and pick up for all parents, staff, and children.
- Masks will be required for all adults and students 2 years and older at all times indoors unless exception applies, or actively eating, drinking, sleeping. We also encourage you to practice mask etiquette with your children to improve familiarity and effectiveness.
- MLC will have some disposable masks on-site but ask that each child is sent to school with at least 3 masks per school day as we will likely need to refresh them frequently. MLC will provide two pouches per child, one for clean masks and one for dirty masks, to be transported to and from school and home.
- Masks are not recommended for children during outdoor time/play and therefore, will not be required while on the playground. Strategies will be in place to encourage children to keep moving and distanced as possible.

## Drop Off and Pick Up Times School-wide Drop Off Window: 8:30am - 8:45am

- As you arrive:
  - *West Campus:* please park and escort children to the screening area under the awning of the Main Entrance (Mimosa Dr)
  - *East Campus:* please escort your child(ren) to their classroom's outdoor entrance (through the playground).
- Once screened and cleared for entry, each child will be escorted into their classroom
- **We currently have very limited staff on-site at both campuses, therefore, we need all parents to be punctual and arrive during the appropriate window for proper screening and entry daily**
- If your screening answers are the same as reported the previous day, this step can be omitted.
  - We will continue to use the Pick Up Line method in the afternoons and extend this practice until school closes. We do ask that parents load up children into the vehicle rather than the staff member.
  - **Pick Up Line Directions:**
    - *West Campus:* Enter parking lot via the Mimosa Drive / Main Entrance and line up along the playground side of the lot to exit onto School Road (keep cones on your right)
    - *East Campus:* Enter directly into the lower parking lot and line up alongside the playground to exit up and around the church building.

**Half Day Pick Up Window 12:15pm - 12:30pm - Full Day Pick Up Window: 2:45pm - 3:30pm**

## What To Bring To School: *Personal Belongings and Food Items*

- **MLC East is nut-free! Please do not send any products containing tree or ground nuts!**
- Please send your child with a standard, full-size backpack that all items for the day/week can fit into (aside from the weekly rest time-bag). Please send a full set of appropriate spare clothing to keep in their cubby.
- **In this bag: All food & drink items, including subsequent containers need to be labeled daily with name & date:**
  - Lunchbox, AM and PM Snacks (PM for Full Day only)
  - Water Bottle
  - 3 clean masks per day, in school provided zipping bags
  - Nap items (if needed) and in a separate tote as nap items stay at the school and are sent home to be laundered on student's last day of the week

## Daily Routines and Schedule

### Classroom Cohorts

In effort to keep contact low, each program (Toddler and Primary) will be self-contained throughout the indoor school day, including drop off/pick up, transitions, and restroom breaks. The west campus only has one

playground area therefore, weather/season depending, programs will have unmasked, outdoor times together. The east campus has separate outdoor play areas and are able to keep isolated throughout the day.

## Enhanced Disinfectant Schedules

In addition to our normal stringent cleaning schedule, heightened periodic and use-based cleaning will also occur. The playground equipment, restrooms, and other high traffic areas and items will be sanitized between classroom use. We will also have reduced the use of sensory bins, water and sand tables, or any shared use materials. We also prioritize windows to be open seasonally and have air purifiers in all classrooms.

## Screening, Testing, and Exposure Protocol

All staff, like children, will be screened before entering the building. Should an exposure impact the school populations, we will rely on our Healthcare consultants and Contact Tracers to provide situationally specific guidance on any subsequent closures and quarantine periods. We expect enrolled families to make safe choices outside of school in effort to keep our school community 'bubble' safe.

## RESOURCES: Stay Informed

- NC DHHS: Coping and Resilience
  - For early educators and staff – [Hope4Healers](#) or 919-226-2002
  - For families – [Hope4NC](#) or 1-855-587-3463
- NC Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center: [Child Care Health Consultant Network](#)
- Local Health Departments: [Contact Information by County](#)
- NCDHHS: [COVID-19: Individuals and Families](#)
- CDC: [People at Increased Risk](#)
- CDC: [On-going COVID-19 exposure FAQ](#)
- CDC: [How to Protect Yourself and Others](#)
- CDC: [Coping with Stress](#)
- FDA: [Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- North Carolina DHHS: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)
- North Carolina Governor's Office: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)
- Centers for Disease Control: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)
- Vaccination Information:
  - [CDC: COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
  - [NC DHHS: Vaccine Info and Site Locator](#)

## Input

- Please reach out to us at [office.mlcasheville@gmail.com](mailto:office.mlcasheville@gmail.com) with any ideas, suggestions, and resources so that we can better serve you, your family, and our community.