



Safety Harbor
Montessori Academy

June 5, 2020

Summer Opening

Phase 1

727-724-1767 | www.shma.us



Introduction

Once again, we appreciate the trust our families have put in us during the past twenty-five years. We are taking that trust especially seriously in a world that now includes COVID-19. We will continue to offer high-quality education and care for our students.

We move forward with a measured approach, collaborating with schools locally and around the world. Our plan includes information about temperature checks, screenings, and smaller group sizes. We are using guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Florida Department of Health, and Pinellas County Child Care Licensing to create our plan for reopening.

As of now, our full-time, year-round staff members have returned to campus. We are analyzing each aspect of our students' schedules to develop the best health and safety practices for our community. Our goal is to have students return in-person this fall with many added health and safety precautions. Follow this link to our 2020-2021 Calendar: <https://click.shma.us/calendar-dates> To begin the first phase of reopening our buildings to students, we invite children who are in kindergarten through eighth grade to join us for summer camp and younger students in preprimary and primary classes to return for summer make-up days starting on June 15th.

"We are using guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Florida Department of Health, and Pinellas County Child Care Licensing to create our plan for reopening."

STOP THE SPREAD

You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- ◆ Fever or chills
- ◆ Cough
- ◆ Shortness of breath
- ◆ Difficulty breathing
- ◆ Fatigue
- ◆ Muscle or body aches
- ◆ Headache
- ◆ New loss of taste or smell
- ◆ Confusion
- ◆ Bluish lips or face
- ◆ Sore throat
- ◆ Congestion or runny nose
- ◆ Nausea or vomiting
- ◆ Diarrhea

Seek medical advice if you develop symptoms. Call ahead before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room. Tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.

- From CDC.gov

Drop-off and Pick-up

Limiting Exposure

Children ages 8 and under will stay within the same group of ten people or less. Children ages 9 and up will stay within the same group of 12 people or less. Once we see how many students are joining us for camp or for the summer make-up days, we will be able to give you more information about which staff members your child will be with and what your specific drop-off and pick-up times will be. We hope to keep the times close to the regular pick-up and drop-off times while staggering them as much as possible so that the groups do not mix. Please follow the links to the right to let us know if your child will be joining us for camp or make-up days. Please let us know by Tuesday, June 9th.

Summer Camp Registration

<https://www.shma.us/summer-camp>

Use the password churro2669

(For SHMA families only.)

Sign up For Preprimary Make-up Days

<https://click.shma.us/makeup1>

Sign up For Primary Pre-K Make-up Days

<https://click.shma.us/makeup2>



Frequent Handwashing

“Washing your hands is easy, and it’s one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Clean hands can stop germs from spreading from one person to another and throughout an entire community—from your home and workplace to childcare facilities and hospitals.” - From CDC.gov

Upon drop off, we will take each child's temperature. Each child must have a temperature of 100.0 degrees or less in order to join us. Staff members working in the carline will use hand sanitizer after each car. Additionally, you must be able to answer no to all of the following questions for your child to be able to join us.

1. Does your child have a fever, respiratory infection, cough, or shortness of breath?
2. In the last 14 days, has your child had any contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19?
3. In the last 14 days, has your child or anyone in your household traveled to countries or states with wide sustained community transmission of COVID-19?

Here are some resources to help you track the virus by state or country:

- For United States Data: CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/>
- For International Data: Johns Hopkins University <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

After arrival, each child will be taken to wash hands.

We ask that parents do not enter the buildings during drop-off and pick-up times. If you need to visit the office, please email or call to make an appointment outside of our carline times.

Front Office Staff:

Lori Mikulaschek, Admissions
lmikulaschek@shma.us

Lydia Buening, Office Manager
lbuening@shma.us

Germaine DiJohn, Associate Head of School
gdijohn@shma.us

Are the symptoms of COVID-19 different in children than in adults?

No. The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar in children and adults. However, children with confirmed COVID-19 have generally presented with mild symptoms. Reported symptoms in children include cold-like symptoms, such as fever, runny nose, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported. It's not known yet whether some children may be at higher risk for severe illness, for example, children with underlying medical conditions and special healthcare needs. There is much more to be learned about how the disease impacts children.

- From CDC.gov

<h2>Ratios</h2> <p>Children ages 8 and under will stay within the same group of ten people. Children ages 9 and up will stay within the same group of 12 people. We will not mix or combine groups. Children will use the same classroom each day when possible, and we will minimize staff changes. In order to meet these guidelines, we will not have before and aftercare during the summer.</p>	<h2>Masks</h2> <p>While inside, staff members will wear masks when around others. Children ages three and above may wear masks, but this is not a requirement. The Florida Department of Health guidelines state that masks should not be placed on children who are two years old or younger. Also, children will not wear masks during rest time.</p>	<h2>Social Distancing</h2> <p>We understand social distancing will be difficult for children, but we will do our best to set up the environment to more naturally encourage this behavior. We will offer multiple activities spaced out around the rooms.</p>
<h2>Handwashing</h2> <p>Staff members and children will wash hands regularly at CDC recommended times. Please see the resources below if you would like to know which guidelines we are following or if you would like to talk to your children about handwashing.</p> <p>Videos: https://click.shma.us/hwvideos</p> <p>Poster: https://click.shma.us/hwposter</p>	<h2>Sanitizing Materials</h2> <p>We will use materials and toys that can be sanitized. Once a material has been used, it will be unavailable until it has been cleaned. When feasible, we will put together individual sets of materials for children. We have created a cleaning schedule to sanitize high-touch and high-traffic areas throughout the day. The playground will be sanitized after each group uses it.</p>	<h2>Food Safety and Personal Items</h2> <p>Children will eat in their own classrooms or areas. We will have children spread out. For the time being, we ask for parents to send lunches and snacks in disposable bags. We are temporarily asking parents to provide at least two snacks for the day. We will have individually packaged snacks on hand for children who need something. Please limit the number of personal items your child brings to only items that are needed. Disposable paper products are recommended over cloth bags.</p>

What is the risk of my child becoming sick with COVID-19?

Based on available evidence, children do not appear to be at higher risk for COVID-19 than adults. While some children and infants have been sick with COVID-19, adults make up most of the known cases to date.

- From CDC.gov

Illness Policy

Please keep your child home if he/she shows signs of illness. It is essential that everyone cooperate in this manner to keep the spread of illness to a minimum. An ill child not only unnecessarily exposes his/her classmates to illness but also is more susceptible to additional illness. We realize that parents sometimes have very pressing schedules that make it difficult to keep children home from school, but alternate arrangements should be planned for since unexpected illnesses are an inevitable part of growing up. The school is not permitted to keep sick children in our care. If your child becomes ill during a school day, you will be contacted so that you can pick him/her up as soon as possible. We have an isolation area set up in case a child needs a place to wait for parents to pick up.

Your child needs to stay home from school if he/she:

- Has a fever of 100.0 degrees or higher.
- Has a contagious disease. (Please inform the school immediately.)
- Displays any of the following symptoms: severe coughing, diarrhea, vomiting, sore throat, a rash of unknown origin, heavy or discolored mucus discharge from the nose, or unexplained eye redness and/or drainage.
- Children should be symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to school.

These suggestions should aid you in the determination of whether your child should or should not be sent to school. We rely on your good judgment. **When in doubt, keep your child home.**

If a child or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19 we will call Epidemiology at 727-834-6932 for further instruction. We will also notify our families. In this case, we would follow the health departments' guidelines for closing and reopening.

Future Updates

As we plan to open for the school year in the fall, we will continually monitor guidelines set by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Florida Department of Health, and Pinellas County Child Care Licensing. We will update our best practice procedures for health and safety as needed. If you have additional questions or suggestions please contact Germaine DiJohn, our Associate Head of School at gdijohn@shma.us.

COVID-19 Resources

Florida Department of Health – Pinellas County
<http://pinellas.floridahealth.gov>

United States Center for Disease Control
<http://www.cdc.gov>