

Woodland Hill Montessori School COVID Policy  
Updated March 2022

Mask wearing is optional on campus under most circumstances. There may be times when certain individuals, a class, or the whole school will be required to temporarily resume mask-wearing. Examples include:

- Any individual leaving isolation (after positive diagnosis) must mask through day 10.
- In the event of exposure at school, all individuals identified as contacts will be able to remain in school by following our Test to Stay protocol, including rapid testing and masking. This applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. See attached WHMS policy.
- If the [CDC COVID community risk level](#) is “high” in Rensselaer, Albany, or Columbia counties.
- For special events and gatherings as determined by the school administration.

### Woodland Hill Montessori School Quarantine and Return to School Policy

#### COVID Positive (at-home or laboratory test)

- [Isolate](#) for 5 days (day 0 is the day of symptom onset or positive test, whichever came first)
- Individuals may return to school after the 5 days under the following conditions:
  - have not had a fever in the 48 hours without fever-reducing medication
  - no runny nose
  - no cough
  - are able to wear a well-fitting face mask; medical-grade, KN95, KF94, N95, or a double mask (medical under cloth) are acceptable
  - a negative rapid antigen test result from day 5 has been shared with the school at [results@woodlandhill.org](mailto:results@woodlandhill.org)
  - if an individual continues to test positive on an antigen test, they may return to school after 10 days

*After testing positive for COVID, individuals should wear a well-fitting mask around others for an additional 5 days after isolation ends.*

#### COVID Exposure at School (Vaccinated or Not Fully Vaccinated)

Individuals will be allowed to remain at school for in-person learning after a COVID exposure **at school** by following the **Test to Stay** (TTS) protocol. This protocol requires any asymptomatic individual that has not recovered from a confirmed COVID infection in the past 60 days, to produce negative COVID test results according to the schedule below.

Minimum Testing Cadences		
Day of First Test	Day of Second Test	Day of Third Test
0	2 or 3	5, 6, or 7
1	3	5, 6, or 7
2	4	5, 6, or 7
3	5, 6, or 7	NA
4	5, 6, or 7	NA
5	6 or 7	NA
6	NA	NA
7	NA	NA

- This TTS option only applies to exposure in a school setting.
- The exposed individual is to be tested a minimum of two or three times unless recognition of the exposure is delayed or weekends or school breaks intervene.
- The testing schedule is based on calendar days. The last date of exposure is considered day 0. The first test should be done as soon as possible after exposure is identified (i.e., the first day the student is in school after identified exposure.)
- If saliva testing is being conducted on day 5, 6, or 7, this will count as the final test in the test to stay series.
- An individual is released from the TTS protocol when the school receives confirmation of the final negative test.
- All exposed individuals must wear a well-fitting face **mask on campus for 10 days following exposure**. Medical grade, KN95, KF94, N95, or a double mask (medical under cloth) are acceptable.
- The exposed individual must remain asymptomatic. If symptoms present, [isolate](#) and get tested.
- Rapid antigen tests are available from Woodland Hill for participation in the TTS protocol.
- Tests sent home should be administered and results reported to the school at [results@woodlandhill.org](mailto:results@woodlandhill.org) before the start of the school day and according to the testing schedule provided by the school.
- Report any positive tests as soon as possible by calling or texting Michelle Edwards at 518-802-5400.

Please report any COVID exposure outside of the school environment to Michelle Edwards. The return to school plan for exposure outside of school will be determined in consultation with Katie Singh, our school nurse, and based on the individual circumstances of each case.

### Surveillance Testing

All individuals on campus must participate in weekly COVID-19 surveillance testing, regardless of vaccination status. The only exemptions are for those with a confirmed COVID infection within the past 60 days.

- Weekly saliva testing through the RNA Institute at SUNY Albany
- Results are available the same day
- For all positive samples detected, information on the viral load is shared with the school and then the affected individual.

### **Illness Policy**

Upon experiencing any symptoms that could be associated with a COVID-19 infection, students, faculty, and staff are to remain home until symptoms are resolved. Regardless of vaccination status, a negative PCR, molecular, or saliva test is required to return to school after symptoms present. Rapid antigen tests are not accepted for this purpose.

### **Vaccinations**

Woodland Hill instituted a vaccine mandate for all faculty and staff in August 2021. Booster shots were also mandated as of January 18, 2022.

### **Contact Tracing**

If a positive case is detected in a classroom, all students and teachers in that class are considered a contact for WHMS contact tracing purposes. If the positive individual is a faculty or staff member not assigned to a particular classroom, we conduct an extensive contact tracing process to identify possible exposures throughout the on-campus community.

### **Lunch & Snacks**

Efforts will be made to maximize physical distancing to the extent possible within the classroom while eating. All classes are encouraged to eat outside when weather permits. Snack tables are carefully placed in the classroom to be separate from the main classroom activity, preferably by an open window or air purifier.