



New Morning Nursery School COVID-19 Policies

New Morning Nursery School (NMNS) is committed to safeguarding our students, staff, and families. The information below provides guidance on enhanced policies and practices to promote the health and safety of the NMNS community. These policies are in addition to the standard NMNS policies, and are subject to change in keeping with federal, state and local guidance and requirements.

Daily Wellness Assessment

- Caregivers are responsible for self-screening students for symptoms, including temperature, prior to arrival. Caregivers must answer no to all of the screening questions in order for a child to attend school each day. Caregivers are defined as, parents, nannies, relatives, or anyone else authorized to drop off and pick up students. Please share this information and drop off information with all caregivers.

Assessment Questions:

- Does my child have a temperature of 100 degrees or higher today?
- Has my child had Covid-19 like symptoms, such as shortness of breath, cough, fever, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache or sore throat in the past 24 hours? See complete list below.
- Has my child taken any fever, cold, or cough reducing medications in the past 24 hours?
- Has anyone in the household (including caregivers) had Covid-19 like symptoms, such as shortness of breath, cough, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache or sore throat in the past 24 hours?
- Has anyone in the household (including caregivers) tested positive or been diagnosed with Covid-19?
- Has anyone in the household (including caregivers) been notified by Public Health Madison Dane County that they are a close contact with a positive Covid case?

Symptoms are considered consistent with COVID-19 when they are present above the baseline for the individual. Symptoms include:

Any 1 (one) of:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

Or Any combination of two or more of:

- Congestion or runny nose
- Fever of 100° F or above

- Chills
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - Headache
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Sore throat
- Report your child's wellness assessment to your teacher before dropping him/her off at the classroom or the playground to start the school day.
 - Caregivers are asked **not** to give medication to lower a child's temperature or reduce symptoms in an attempt to bypass the screening protocol. Likewise, staff is asked **not** to take medication to lower a temperature or reduce symptoms in an attempt to bypass the screening protocol.
 - Students may be subject to a temperature check prior to being admitted to school. If you are unsure whether your child is well enough to attend school, please contact the director.

Drop-Off/Pickup

- Parents will be allowed inside for drop-off and pick-up.
 - Anytime caregivers come to NMNS, they should park on Gilmore St and enter and exit the building through the Gilmore St door using a family access code.
 - Once inside the building you and your child must wear a mask, use hand sanitizer upon entry, and maintain distancing from other families.
 - Drop off or pick up your child from the classroom door or the playground according to your child's enrollment. Each classroom will have a designated drop-off and pickup location. Please refer to your schedule as communicated by the NMNS Director.
 - It is important that you are on time to drop off and pick up your child. When possible, only one caregiver at a time should drop-off and pick up each day. Any siblings that accompany the caregiver must follow social distancing guidelines and those 2 years old and above must wear a face covering while inside the building.
- NM Parents will not be allowed in any other spaces inside the building besides the Gilmore St stairwell, the New Morning hallway, and the inner stairwell to the toddler playground.

Preventative Measures at New Morning

- In accordance with the guidance from Public Health Madison Dane County, staff members and parents, and all children 2 yrs and older, will be required to wear a face covering at all times when inside the building, unless there is a medical or developmental reason a child or an adult cannot wear a mask. If there is a circumstance that precludes mask wearing, parents or adults should submit a letter to the director from a physician, on clinic letterhead, stating that the individual is unable to wear a mask and describing the reason why. This information is strictly confidential and will be kept in the child's file or the staff member's file in the school office. Due to the rise in Covid-19 cases in our area, students in the Oak and Birch classes will also be required to wear a mask outside. If Willow families would like their child to wear a mask outside, please let your teachers know. Parents will provide back-up masks for their child and teachers will encourage students to change a mask when it becomes wet or soiled. Teachers will also assist students with proper use and fit of face coverings.

- Children will be encouraged to maintain social distancing, especially when not wearing a mask.
- When in the classroom, the windows will be open, weather permitting, to increase airflow. The HVAC units in the classrooms are programmed to provide fresh air exchange daily; the amount of fresh air will be increased.
- Each classroom has installed new high volume HEPA air purifiers.
- Each classroom has installed running water for frequent hand washing and cleaning access.
- Each child will bring his/her own backpack to school labeled with the child's name each day.
- Each child will bring his/her own snack to school in a labeled container along with a labeled water bottle each day. These snacks will need to meet our allergy restrictions for tree nuts and peanuts.
- Classroom groups will not commingle in common areas, including the hallway, bathroom, or playground.
- All children, families, and staff will be advised/reminded to avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with their hands.

Cleaning Procedures

NMNS will be following the guidelines recommended by the CDC (linked in references) for cleaning and disinfecting our facility, both indoor and outdoor.

Cleaning Procedures

The NMNS director will ensure all employees understand and follow the facility cleaning and hygiene procedures. NMNS will:

- Explain to all employees the cleaning protocols and frequency of cleaning in **all** common areas.
- Explain to all employees the proper use of cleaning supplies and safety concerns of products used.
- Explain to all employees how to clean, sanitize, and disinfect after persons suspected/confirmed to have COVID-19 have been in the facility.
- Provide a cleaning schedule, procedures, and chemical safety concerns specific for this facility to all employees.
- Disinfect high-touch surfaces (door handles, railings, door knobs, light switches, tables, chairs, lockers, faucets, and toilets) multiple times a day.
- Disinfect classrooms and educational supplies touched by children between different groups of students.
- Disinfect bathrooms after each use.
- Remove toys from play that are put in mouths or coughed or sneezed on and disinfect them (this is part of our regular cleaning policy).
- Remove toys and educational materials from the classroom that are not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected

Cleaning Supplies

NMNS is responsible for explaining to all employees the proper use of cleaning supplies and safety concerns of products used.

- Only EPA approved disinfectants (linked in references) effective against COVID-19 will be used for cleaning.
- The director and staff will ensure sinks in restrooms and classrooms are always stocked with soap and single-use towels.
- Where appropriate, hand sanitizer will be available for use throughout the facility.
- Where possible, sanitizing wipes will be available to employees for wiping baskets, door handles, and other frequently touched areas.

COVID-19 Symptoms, Exposure, and Positive Tests

Children, staff, or households of children with COVID-19 or other illness symptoms

- If anyone in the household of a NM student or staff member has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the flu, or other infectious diseases, they should stay home and get a viral Covid test. If anyone in the household tests positive for COVID-19, the child or staff member should not attend school. The child or staff member can return to school once they and the household member meet the criteria as directed by the PHMDC Exclusion Table. See link below.
- If a child or staff member exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 or develops a fever of 100° F or more while at school, we will immediately separate the person from others until the individual displaying symptoms can leave the building. Children will have adult supervision when removed from the classroom. Caregivers will be notified and will be required to pick up their child immediately.
- If a member of a NM household tests positive, or is informed they are a close contact of a positive case, notify the public health authorities and the New Morning director immediately.
- If a student or staff member becomes ill outside of school and tests positive for COVID-19, we will notify the appropriate local public health authorities and parents as soon as possible.
- We will notify families of any potential positive exposure as directed by local public health authorities.

Return to school after confirmed COVID-19 test, close contact with someone with COVID-19, or exhibiting symptoms

- In accordance with Public Health Madison Dane County, students and staff can return to school in accordance with the guidance in the linked public health document.
 - https://www.publichealthmdc.com/documents/exclusion_table.pdf

Multiple positive cases of COVID-19 in children or staff

In addition to following instructions received from the local public health authorities, if there are multiple cases of COVID-19 among children or staff within a short time period, the school may consider either a short-term (less than one week) or long-term (two weeks or more) closure to allow for sufficient cleaning and disinfection of the school. There will be no tuition refund for school closures ten school days or less, per incident.

Vaccination

As recommended by local public health authorities, vaccination is the most important way to protect yourself and the people around you from COVID-19. New Morning requires all teachers, staff and any volunteers working with New Morning students to be fully vaccinated and to provide proof of vaccination. Learn more and [find vaccination options near you.](#)

Testing

- Regardless of your vaccination status, if you are sick, stay home and get tested.
- New Morning does not mandate a testing schedule for students and staff members, but we do follow the [Public Health Madison Dane County testing guidelines.](#)
- If a New Morning staff member tests positive and was present at school while contagious, all staff members will be required to get tested.

Travel Considerations

- The Wisconsin Department of Health recommends an unvaccinated person/student who travels by air, get a viral test 1-3 days before travel. Upon return, unvaccinated individuals should self quarantine for 7 days and have a viral test 3-5 days after returning. If no test is given, self quarantine for 10 days and monitor symptoms throughout.
- If students or staff members have completed a COVID vaccine series two or more weeks before air travel, they should still get a viral test 3-5 days after return, wear a mask at all times and monitor for symptoms.
- Whenever you travel, wear a properly fitted mask on all forms of public transportation and in enclosed buildings, avoid crowds, and maintain distance from those not in your travel party. If you have any unique situations or questions, please contact the director for guidance.

Helpful Resources

- Public Health Madison Dane County:
<https://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus>
- Public Health Madison Dane County Exclusion Table
https://www.publichealthmdc.com/documents/exclusion_table.pdf
- Public Health Madison Dane County Child Care Setting FAQ:
<https://publichealthmdc.com/documents/Child%20Care%20Center%20FAQ.pdf>
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services Travel Considerations:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/travel.htm>
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction:
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- Wisconsin Department of Children and Families:
<https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/childcare/covid/pdf/dcf-order-19-covid-19.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>
- CDC: Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fdisinfecting-building-facility.html
- EPA Approved Disinfectants for Coronavirus (COVID-19)
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19>

Last Updated: September 3, 2021