



Coastal Montessori Charter School Reopening Plan - Spring 2021

Last summer, the State Department of Education required all school districts in South Carolina to submit a written plan detailing how reopening would take place. The following requirements were mandatory:

1. A virtual option for all students
2. An in-person option for all students
Hybrid learning models will be considered an in-person option for students.
3. A timeframe for when districts intend to review operational plans so that implementation of a full face-to-face instruction model can be worked towards as health and safety conditions improve.

In December, 2020, parents were given the choice between in-person instruction and virtual instruction for their children.

- **Five-day Virtual Model - The Coastal Montessori Charter School will continue this method of instruction for students whose parents chose this option. This pertains to all grade levels.**
- **Hybrid Model for CMCS Middle School Grades - (Grades 7 and 8) -** This hybrid model will consist of two cohorts, Group A who will report to school in person on Mondays and Tuesdays, and Group B who will report to school in person on Thursdays and Fridays. On days when either of these cohorts is not at school, their classroom teacher will provide live virtual instruction.
- **Live Virtual Model for CMCS Middle School Grades - (Grades 7 and 8) -** Students will receive live virtual instruction from their teachers on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Wednesdays will remain asynchronous learning days.
- **Hybrid Plus Model for Students in Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary Levels -** Lower and upper elementary students in this model will attend school four days a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The parental choice for each program will be for the semester, unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

GCSD, including the Coastal Montessori Charter School, will follow DHEC guidance that is based on what is currently known about COVID-19.

Physical Distancing

To maintain physical distance, our school will have a different appearance. Physical distancing will help limit the spread of the virus. Below is a list of strategies to maintain smaller groups of students in shared spaces:

- Visitors, to include parents, cannot go past the front atrium area.
- There will be no volunteers until further notice.
- Parent-teacher conferences will be conducted via Zoom or telephone.
- Students will be in smaller groups.
- Lunch will take place in small group settings.
- Students will remain with their classmates throughout their day each day.
- Recesses and other transition times will be staggered.
- COVID is spread mainly through the air; therefore, a distance of six feet will be maintained by

all, three feet where plastic dividers are utilized; masks are required to be worn at all times.

Touching items or surfaces, or sharing materials is low risk for contracting the virus. Still,

students will be asked to use hand sanitizer prior to handling materials in their classrooms.

Cloth Face Coverings (Masks)

1. When on school property, staff members and students are required to wear **cloth** face coverings. The school is equipped with extra cloth masks for students and staff who need them. The exceptions are:

- Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious
- Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance
- Those with special health care or special educational needs as determined by an I.E.P., 504 Plan, student healthcare plan, or as determined by a doctor

Students will be required to wear masks on school buses.

Employees are to follow GCSD Health and Safety Protocols. For employees who cannot wear a cloth face covering, a face shield is acceptable, with a doctor's recommendation.

Facilities

- Exterior and interior signage guidelines will be posted throughout the building that clearly display DHEC and CDC specific protocols.

- Increased signage will be posted regarding hygiene and social distancing.
- Floor markings with directional traffic flow arrows and spacing will be clearly displayed.
- Student work areas may require plastic / plexiglass dividers to maintain appropriate social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms.
- The school's Clorox 360 Machine (Electrostatic Sprayer) will be utilized to disinfect classrooms, restrooms, and other high traffic areas daily.
- Water fountains are disabled.
- Wednesdays will be designated for deep cleaning of the school.

STUDENTS OR STAFF WITH SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

Students and staff should be excluded from school if they have:

- Any one (1) of the following:
 - Temperature greater than 100. – or-
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing -or -
 - Loss of taste or smell -or –
- Any two (2) of the following:
 - Sore throat – and/or -
 - Muscle aches – and/or –
 - Chills – and/or –
 - New or worsening cough

Note: If these symptoms are explainable by an underlying condition (such as shortness of breath or cough for an individual with asthma), exclusion may not be necessary.

A designated room across from the nurse's office has been identified to isolate students or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 identified during the school day.

- Students and staff will be moved safely and respectfully, as well as in accordance with any applicable privacy laws or regulations, to the isolation room for evaluation. Students will be supervised by a staff member who maintains at least six feet of distance and uses appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Our school nurse will maintain the use of Standard and Transmission- Based Precautions.

1. RETURN TO SCHOOL

2. Sick staff members and children must not return until they have met criteria for return.
3. Students or staff excluded for these symptoms must not return until they have either tested negative for COVID-19 or a medical evaluation determines their symptoms were more likely due to another cause (e.g. sore throat due to strep throat). In this later case, the individual may return when he or she meets criteria for that condition.
4. Students or staff who require testing for COVID-19 will require a negative COVID test or must complete the current isolation criteria for COVID-19 to return to school.

Current isolation criteria for COVID-19: Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19, and persons with symptoms of COVID- 19 (see list above) who do not get tested, will isolate until:

- Ten (10) days have passed since symptoms started - and –
- 24 hours have passed since last fever without taking medicine to reduce fever - and –

- Overall improvement in symptoms.
- Those who test positive but do not have symptoms will be required to stay out of school until ten (10) days after the specimen was collected.
- The criteria above will be used to determine eligibility to return to school.

5. **CASES IN A CLASSROOM**

6. Students or staff members who test positive could have been contagious with the virus up to 48 hours before their symptoms began. Staff members will ensure maximum distancing between students and other staff while in the classroom and throughout the day to limit the possibility of transmission. The use of masks is essential among students and staff able to use them. Routinely using these precautions will help avoid needing to quarantine all classroom contacts of persons with COVID-19.

- Anyone exhibiting symptoms will be sent home. The remaining students and staff members in that particular classroom will be relocated to another classroom space for the day.
- The classroom will be closed for cleaning and disinfection before being reoccupied the following day.
- Classroom contacts with a known COVID-19 case should remain together in the same cohort to the extent possible. They will receive screening for fever and symptoms (see above) each morning until 14 days after last contact with the case. Parents of all students in that class will be notified.

7. **QUARANTINE**

8. Some students or staff may have been told they were a close contact to a case of COVID-19 and directed to complete a quarantine period. They will be required to stay home so they do not risk exposing others to COVID-19. DHEC staff will inform them of the length of their quarantine period. For students, a parent's note that they have been cleared from quarantine may be used to allow them to return to school.

- Close Contact: Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer. If a plexiglass barrier is in use, social distancing of three feet is acceptable, as long as face masks are worn appropriately.
- If a person is told that he is a close contact of someone who recently tested positive for COVID-19, he must quarantine at home for at least 14 days and monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Household contact: If a student or staff member lives in the same household as the case and has daily close contact, he must quarantine for an additional fourteen (14) days after the day the household member has been cleared from the isolation period.
- Other household members in quarantine: If a student or staff member lives in the same household as someone in quarantine, he will not necessarily need to quarantine himself unless the household member in quarantine is then determined to be a COVID-19 case. DHEC will notify those who are required to complete quarantine.

GUIDELINES FOR FAMILIES, TEACHERS, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

Screening at Home

- Families are recommended to take temperatures daily before going to school. Anyone with a fever of 100 F or higher must not go to a school site.

- Students and adults should also screen themselves for respiratory symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath prior to coming to school each day. Students and adults experiencing those symptoms must not attend school.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS - LEAD TEACHERS

Lead teachers will contact each of their students' parents prior to second semester to inform them of their children's teacher assignment and any other information that is pertinent to their classes.

SPECIAL AREA CLASSES

Students in the Hybrid Plus plan will be enrolled in physical education and Spanish classes.

Students enrolled in the Virtual plan will receive instruction in art and music.

Hybrid Plus students who would like to participate in art may do so by accessing our art teacher's google classroom site to view and select assignments they would like to work on. Ms. Nan Gadek will be available through office hours on her planning day each Wednesday for any students who would like to contact her as they work on any assignments.

The same can be done for physical education for Virtual students who would like to participate in P.E. activities. Mr. Justin Annunziato will post activities on his Google classroom site for those students to access activities.

TRANSPORTATION

- **School Bus Procedures**
 - Buses may be filled to 50% capacity for each route.
 - Drivers will be given a diagram of the seating chart as recommended by the CDC guidelines.
 - Social distancing guidelines will be followed for loading and unloading procedures.
 - Students will not be allowed to sit in the first row on each side for driver safety.
 - Seating family members together will be acceptable.
 - Buses will be cleaned and disinfected daily between routes.
 - Masks must be worn at all times while on school buses.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL TIMES / DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP AREAS

- **Classes will begin at 7:40 A.M.**
- **Dismissal will begin at 2:10 P.M.**
- **Students who are assigned to Ms. Antoinette Ursits and Ms. Shaye Heiskell will enter and exit the building through those classroom exterior doors on the front of the building.**
- **Students who are assigned to Dr. Trisha Gaskill (Dr. T.) and Ms. Katie Wilson will enter and exit the building through the front doors to the Atrium (building's main entrance).**
- **Middle school students will enter and exit the building through the front exterior doors on the middle school wing.**

- **Students may be dropped off no earlier than 7:25 A.M. School doors will not be unlocked prior to this time. As students must maintain social distancing, they will not be able to gather in the atrium prior to the beginning of the school day. Once they arrive, they will report directly to their classrooms, where teachers will be in place to receive them.**

FOOD SERVICE

Students will have the option of purchasing hot lunches, as in past years.

RECESS

Recess time will be provided on a daily basis, weather permitting. Students will remain with their classmates and supervising staff members during recess time, and they will observe social distancing requirements.

OUTDOOR INSTRUCTION

Outdoor instruction will take place as teachers see fit and appropriate.

The Hybrid Plus Plan and the Middle School Hybrid Plan will be implemented on February 1 and will continue until further notice.