



August 19, 2021

## **The Acorn School of Charleston's Health & Safety Plan 2021-22**

This policy was developed in consideration of recommendations from the CDC and DHEC, and available data from MUSC. Further guidance has been provided by shared community resources from members within Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN), Association of Waldorf Schools North American (AWSNA), National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), and our School Board and community of Acorn School families. The policy is subject to change at any time in accordance with the changing conditions of COVID-19.

### Enrollment Waiver:

- Families and employees will sign a waiver acknowledging their understanding of the contagious nature of COVID-19 and potential consequences of infection.

### New Drop off and Pick up Procedures:

- Specific drop-off and pick-up areas will be designated for kindergarten children and grade school students. Grade school students will enter through the front door of the church. Kindergarten children will have two drop off areas, the entry gate to the outdoor classroom and the red entry door to the dining hall. Screening stations will be set up at each entrance. The kindergarten staff will inform parents of their drop off point.

### Process for Monitoring Students and Staff for Symptoms and History of Exposure:

- Employees and children will be temperature checked daily upon arrival. Employees or children with temperature readings above 100 degrees will not be able to attend school or enter the building. Parents are expected to keep the child(ren) home if they are sick.

The “classic presentation of Covid” among symptomatic children include fever, cough, fatigue, headache, and sore throat. If your child has any potential Covid [symptoms](#), including gastrointestinal problems, arrange for both yourself and your child to get a Covid test and then stay home until the results are negative.

Under no circumstances should a parent or child come to the school if they have tested positive for Covid-19. If an outbreak at the school can be traced to someone violating this agreement, the family will be asked to leave the school.



Waldorf education is a *social* education. The teachers strive to be worthy models of mannerly behavior and mutual respect. We aim to meet our community challenges through creative collaboration. We invite all parents to embrace these values as well.

Parents must tell the school of the child's absence by 9:00 a.m. and report the reason for the absence. If an employee is un-well, administration must be notified the night before or by 6:30 am the day of absence.

If a Staff Member or Child Becomes Ill at School:

- The child will stay in a room with a staff member until the parent arrives. It may be possible that more than one child will be in the room at the time and parents should be aware of this.
- Afterwards, there will be a complete cleaning and sanitization of the room.
- A parent or authorized adult must pick the child up within an hour of being notified of the illness. A parent or authorized adult upon arrival must call the staff member who is monitoring the child and wait in the parking lot. A staff member will escort the child to the waiting adult. This minimizes the number of people in the building.
- The Acorn School will notify local health officials, staff and all Acorn families of exposure or confirmed Covid-19 cases while maintaining confidentiality.

If a Staff Member or Student is Diagnosed with COVID-19:

- The Acorn School will follow best practices in cooperation with DHEC for contact tracing if anyone within the school community is diagnosed with COVID-19. School dismissal or closure decisions will therefore be on a case-by-case basis.
- Contact tracing efforts will determine if some students, specific staff members, or cohorts/pods (i.e. smaller groups of children) would be dismissed or the entire school could close for several to 14 days.
- We will follow CDC guidelines which recommends at least 48 hours to reenter any area where the infected person has been—24 hours no entry; then disinfect the second day. Based on this the area could reopen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.



#### Returning to School After a Positive or Presumptive Positive Case:

- Children and employees may return to school when (both points must be true):
  - a. 24 hours have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms  
AND
  - b. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- [CDC](#) and/or [DHEC](#) guidance on home isolation for quarantine and returning to work will be referenced and followed.

#### Exposure to a Person who Tests Positive for COVID-19:

- Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of an individual who tests positive for 15 minutes or more. It also means coming into direct contact with droplets from a COVID19 positive individual. Persons who test positive are considered infectious 48 hours before the onset of symptoms. Persons testing positive but do not have symptoms are considered infectious 2 days after exposure if known or starting 2 days before test if exposure is unknown. If a staff person, household member or a child is exposed to an individual who tests positive for Covid-19:
  - a. It is strongly recommended and highly encouraged that they self-quarantine for a period of 14 days. This may become required as information is updated.
  - b. It is strongly recommended that the person(s) exposed get tested if advised by a physician. This may be required in the future as information is updated.

#### Guidelines for Hygiene Practices, Social Distancing, and Face Coverings:

- The Acorn School will teach and reinforce good hygiene practices like washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes to employees and students.
- Immediately after arrival, students will be accompanied to a hand-washing station.
- Mandatory handwashing breaks will be scheduled for all students throughout the day.
- Parents who want their child(ren) to wear a face covering, will be accommodated.
- Teachers are not required to wear face coverings in the Outdoor Classroom. However, when in close contact with children outdoors, unvaccinated teachers are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings.
- Parents will provide day packs with full water bottles, extra clothing, hats, and any necessities to be stored separately in cubbies or containers and taken home each day.
- Student belongings will be kept in separate cubbies or in marked containers outside.



- Grade school specialty classes (i.e., foreign language, recorder, handwork, etc.) snack and lunch time will take place outdoors whenever possible.

#### Procedures for Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting and Ventilating:

- Frequently touched surfaces and objects will be cleaned at least daily including door handles and sink handles. Cleaning products will be available to employees so areas may be cleaned more frequently. Toys that have been played with will be cleaned daily.
- Windows and doors in restrooms, hallways, and classrooms will remain open to increase air circulation whenever possible.
- Drinking faucets will not be used and filtered water for water bottle refills will be available to all students and staff.
- Children who attend the full day program will have their own cot (supplied) and bedding (brought from home). Cots will be cleaned daily. Parents must take bedding home for cleaning weekly at the end of their child's week and return with laundered bedding for the following week.

#### Food Preparation:

- All students who attend the full day program are asked to bring their own lunch and a snack.
- Children in the kindergarten will be provided snacks daily.
- There will no sharing of food or utensils.

#### General Information:

1. The Acorn School's Health and Safety Plan will be posted on the school's website.
2. The Acorn School will provide regular updated information on the website and as necessary in announcements.
3. Caregivers and families will be encouraged to practice and reinforce good prevention habits at home and within their families.



Learning During Times When Children May be at Home Due to School Closure:

- The Acorn School is developing plans to provide “distance” learning activities for families during times when the children may be dismissed due to school closure. This will serve as an empowerment tool for parents and provide continuity for children.
- Examples for Kindergarten activities include prerecorded circles time and circle games, menus and recipes, and an outline of our daily and weekly rhythm. Materials may be prepared to serve as the monthly craft project that children and families can work on together at home.
- This way of teaching and learning is new to us and will evolve over time. Kindergarten teachers will continue to develop curriculum.
- Grade School main lesson and specialty teachers will provide project-based activities and remote learning opportunities up to 5 days per week.

### **A Three-Tiered Approach**

The distancing plan will be reviewed every 3 months and/or as needed with significant changes in COVID-19 rates in Charleston, SC. Decisions will be based on metrics from public health experts and data available from the CDC, DHEC, and MUSC to evaluate mitigating factors.

#### “Green-Minimal Distancing” Plan:

- All Universal Safety Procedures are observed.
- Daily sanitation measures in place and strictly adhered to.
- Enhanced ventilation plan suspended.
- No screening requirements

#### “Yellow-Moderate Distancing” Plan:

- All Universal Safety Procedures are observed.
- All parental requests for students to wear masks will be honored.
- Everyone who enters the school building, or the outdoor classroom will check their temperature prior to entering. Anyone with a fever of 100 degrees or higher will not be allowed to enter the school until there is a negative Covid test result.
- Daily sanitation protocols in place and strictly followed.



- Enhanced ventilation plan in effect. Hall fans will provide brisk circulation and fresh air in the hallway and bathroom. The bathroom window will be open to allow fresh air to flow through the area.
- Each classroom will have open windows and a wall mounted fan running to ensure that fresh air is flowing into and through the space.

“Red-Remote Distancing” Plan - Curriculum will be prepared in advance with content, activities, stories, and projects if COVID-19 conditions make it necessary to move to remote learning.

Living during a pandemic provides daily challenges for all of us. Our policies and actions in regard to Covid 19 will continue to evolve and we will keep the community updated if changes occur.