

ALIEF MONTESSORI COMMUNITY SCHOOL AMCS SAFETY FIRST PLAN, SY 2021-2022

Our Commitment: Safe Return to In-Person Learning

AMCS is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all our students, teachers, and staff. As of July 9, 2021, CDC has updated guidance on COVID-19 prevention strategies most important to safe in-person learning for K-12 schools. AMCS plans to return to 100% in-person learning in August 2021. For better understanding of policies and procedures, parents are expected to read the AMCS Student Handbook and the AMCS Safety First Plan.

Following CDC recommendations, layered prevention strategies shall be implemented. AMCS health and safety protocols are subject to change as updated guidance is provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), CDC, governing authorities, federal, state, and county health officials.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,
Delia Presillas, Superintendent

Alief Montessori's prevention strategies for a safe return to in-person learning are based on the CDC recommendations dated July 9, 2021, as posted on CDC.gov.

1. Universal and correct wearing of mask

CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to the school, regardless of vaccination status due to the following reasons:

- a. AMCS has a significant student population that is not yet eligible for vaccination (students in grades PK-8).
- b. There is an Increasing or substantial or high COVID-19 transmission in the Houston, TX area.
- c. There is increasing community transmission of the Delta variant that is spread more easily among children and adolescents or is resulting in more severe illness from COVID-19 among children and adolescents.

Clean masks must be worn every day by students, teachers, and staff. Mask must meet CDC criteria.

Masks breaks will be included in the daily routine of the class.

2. Physical distancing and other classroom procedures

Combined with other prevention strategies, CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask-wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk.

When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as:

- a. indoor masking
- b. COVID-screening testing
- c. "cohorting"
- d. improved ventilation
- e. handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes)
- f. staying home when sick with symptoms of infectious illness including COVID-19
- g. regular cleaning to help reduce transmission risk.
- h. Mask use by people who are not vaccinated or not fully vaccinated is particularly important when physical distance cannot be maintained.

3. AMCS will use "cohorting" as a COVID prevention strategy. Cohorting means keeping people stay together throughout an entire day.

These classroom procedures will also be implemented:

- a. Children will bring their own snacks from home.
- b. All school meals will be held inside the classroom.
- c. Classes will have different schedules for recess and PE time to prevent overcrowding. Face masks will be worn at all times during PE and recess, after school, even when outdoors.

4. Handwashing, respiratory etiquette

People should practice handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19. Schools can monitor and reinforce these behaviors and provide adequate handwashing supplies.

- AMCS teaches and reinforces handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- We remind everyone to wash hands frequently and assist young children with handwashing.
- If handwashing is not possible, we will use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer). Hand sanitizers should be stored up, away, and out of sight of young children and should be used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age.

5. COVID symptoms monitoring

AMCS will continue to require the daily health screening protocol for all staff and students. A student or staff showing symptoms at arrival time from the school's daily screening will be sent home, will be required to be clinically evaluated and COVID-tested before coming back to school.

6. COVID Testing

Getting tested for COVID-19 when symptoms are compatible with COVID-19 will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent the possible spread at school. AMCS may use COVID-testing to shorten quarantine periods according to CDC procedures.

7. COVID infection Reporting

Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care, regardless of vaccination status.

It also is essential for people who are not fully vaccinated to quarantine after recent exposure to someone with COVID-19. See related procedures for fully vaccinated people below.

Required Actions if Individuals with Test-Confirmed Cases Have Been in a School

- a. If an individual who has been in a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must notify its local health department, per applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
 - b. Upon receipt of information that any teacher, staff member, student, or visitor at a school is test-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school must submit a report to the Texas Department of State Health Services via an online form. The report must be submitted each Monday for the prior seven days (Monday-Sunday).
 - c. Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a classroom or extracurricular or after-school program cohort if a test-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participated in those classrooms or cohorts.
8. If a student is test-confirmed to have COVID, the student will revert to temporary remote learning. The student will be received academic instruction and support via zoom and assignments will be posted on Google Classroom. All assignments are accessible using the

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student's google email. We ask our parents to monitor your child's schoolwork while at home to ensure that assignments are submitted every day.

The student may return to school when all conditions for re-entry are met such as a negative PCR test, no fever within 24 hours without medication, and no symptoms.

9. Cleaning, sanitation, and ventilation of facilities

Classroom cleaning and disinfecting procedures are done three times a day—before arrival time and mealtimes by the teacher assistants, and in the evenings by our custodians.

CDC recommends cleaning high-touch surfaces at least once a day or as often as determined is necessary. Examples of high-touch surfaces include pens, counters, carts, tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, stair rails, elevator buttons, desks, keyboards, phones, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

Classroom materials are also disinfected and/or sanitized after every use.

AMCS buildings are designed with a HAVC filtration system that circulates outdoor air into the building's air vents in 2-3 hour cycles. This keeps the indoor air clean at all times. Doors and windows will also be opened as needed during class time to help bring in fresh outdoor air.

10. Guidance for fully vaccinated people

a. **Fully vaccinated people with COVID-19 symptoms**

Although the risk that fully vaccinated people could become infected with COVID-19 is low, any fully vaccinated person who experiences symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated. The symptomatic fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

b. **Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms following exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19**

Fully vaccinated people should be tested 3-5 days following known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

They should isolate if they test positive.

Fully vaccinated people who live in a household with someone who is immunosuppressed, at increased risk of severe disease, or unvaccinated (including children <12 years of age) could also consider masking at home for 14 days following a known exposure or until they receive a negative test result.

Most fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to quarantine or be restricted from work following exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, if they follow the testing and masking recommendation above. Fully vaccinated people should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following exposure.

c. Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-19-like symptoms and no known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

It is recommended that fully vaccinated people with no COVID-19-like symptoms and no known exposure should be exempted from routine screening testing programs, if feasible.

11. Quarantine procedures

Quarantine if you have been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a total of 15 minutes or more) with someone who has COVID-19 unless you have been fully vaccinated. People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms.

What to do

- stay-at-home period can end for students experiencing no symptoms on Day 10 after close contact exposure, if no subsequent COVID-19 testing is performed. Alternately, students can end the stay-at-home period if they receive a negative result from a PCR acute infection test after the close contact exposure ends.
- Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- If possible, stay away from people you live with, especially those at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.

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After quarantine

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your local public health authority or healthcare provider.

You may be able to shorten your quarantine. Your local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last, based on local conditions and needs. Follow the recommendations of your local public health department if you need to quarantine.

Options they will consider may include stopping quarantine

- After day 10 without testing;
- After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later)