

FAQ for Beginning School in the Fall 2020

Will I have the option to choose distance learning for my child?

Distance Learning will be available for those that have a medical condition or health concern. It will also be provided should someone need to self-isolate for a time. You do not have to commit to distance learning for a set period of time, and can choose to return to in-person learning as it fits your health related needs.

As the Archdiocese has made the decision to supersede the learning models proposed by the State of MN that are based on a 14-day case rate range per county, has there been guidance given on what data or events will cause the school to close and move to a hybrid or distance learning model?

No and at this time we are planning for in-person learning five days per week.

What happens when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a child or a staff member? Does the school close?

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school, parents will be notified and will come to pick up their child. The student will then need to self-isolate and receive distance learning. Additionally, we will work with Anoka County Health officials and the MN Department of Health to make sure all appropriate disinfecting and notification procedures are followed. Due to the fact that we are sanitizing the entire school at the end of each day, in-person learning will continue, and school does not need to close. We will take the appropriate measures case-by-case, following Anoka County Health and MDH.

What happens if someone in our family other than the student tests positive for COVID-19?

If an immediate family member other than the student tests positive, the student will stay home for 14 days. Students that need to stay home will continue to participate in their education through distance learning.

How long does my child have to stay away from school if they have signs of an illness, not necessarily COVID-19 caused?

Children should be symptom-free for 3 days before returning to school. This increase over the usual 24 hours of symptom -time is required by the state, and should the "illness" be determined to be something like allergies, strep throat, etc., the return to school will be determined on a case by case basis.

What happens if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

Families should notify the school immediately if their child tests positive for COVID-19. Once notified, we will work with Anoka County Health officials and the MN Department of Health to make sure all appropriate disinfecting and notification procedures are followed.

Will my child be wearing a face mask or a face shield? If yes, do I need to purchase masks or face shields?

Children's House: Face coverings are not required, but should a parent prefer their child wear a face covering, we will accommodate that request.

Elementary and Adolescents: At this time a face covering is required unless your child meets the exemption of a medical, mental health condition, or disability that would prevent them from wearing a covering. Frequent breaks will be given to all children to ensure they have time without their face covering. Gaiters will be purchased by the school for all children; however, if a different face covering is preferred by a child, we will work to accommodate what is best for that individual. At the end of the day, gaiters will be placed in a hamper and will be laundered in the evening. Cleaned gaiters will be returned to students each morning.

Will guides and staff be wearing a face mask or shield?

Due to the nature and development of the child in our Children's House classrooms, adults are not required to wear masks because wearing a covering or shield would interfere with the early childhood development process. Elementary/Adolescent guides will wear face coverings unless there is a student that needs to have direct instruction without a face covering.

Will visitors be allowed into the school? What are the protocols for their visit?

Visitors are allowed in the school building. At this time, we are asking that all visitors call the office to set up a time to visit. Visitors will be expected to wear a face covering, and monitor their symptoms.

Will there be plexiglass barriers used? Where?

At this time we do not have a need for plexiglass barriers.

Will children have a designated workspace?

Children will not be given an assigned spot to sit. The classrooms are strategically set up to meet the needs of social distancing.

Will my child be able to use the Montessori materials as they normally do?

Yes! Children will be given grace and courtesy lessons on how to sanitize the material when they have completed the use of it. Additionally, at the end of each day, each classroom will be sanitized with a fogging spray that meets all requirements for killing COVID-19.

How have cleaning protocols changed? Who will be doing the cleaning? Has janitorial staffing been increased?

The Safety and Health of our students, staff and families is of greatest importance. For the classrooms and Atrium, the cleaning will happen via the Guides and Assistants as it always has. At the end of the day, our janitorial staff member will take care of sanitization of all common spaces and classrooms. We have increased our cleaning/sanitizing procedures for this year.

We are going to use washcloths for cleaning/sanitizing. Each cloth will be used once and then placed in a “needs to be sanitized” hamper. These washcloths, in turn, will be washed and returned.

Are there protocols in place to increase the amount of times the children are washing or sanitizing their hands?

Students will be asked to wash their hands upon entering the school after putting on their indoor shoes. We will use grace and courtesy lessons to ensure children are continuously washing their hands and supporting each other in reminding when washing hands is necessary as well as proper handwashing techniques. All CH and Elementary classrooms have a sink, where immediate handwashing can happen if going into the bathroom is not an option at that moment. Adolescent students will be able wash their hands as well using the bathroom on the main level.

As this is an airborne disease, we hear a lot about increasing and improving airflow when indoors. What has been done to increase the air quality? Will air filters of some kind be used?

The classroom doors to the outdoor environments as well as classroom doors into the hallway will be kept open and the bathroom fans kept running. We will increase changing our filters more often to ensure we are monitoring our airflow.

We are working on the best scenario for this come MN winter time.

Will there still be collaborative/group work?

In situations where distance can be maintained while wearing a face covering, students may still engage in collaborative/group work.

What capacity are the classrooms at as a percentage?

Using state licensing calculations, capacity for classrooms are dependent on square footage. Using square footage to determine the number of students in a room, the table below is true, noting that all rooms are currently at less than 50% capacity.

Classroom	Capacity under licensing calculations	Most enrolled in a room
CH 1	26	15 students
CH 2	22	15 students
E1	27	22 students
E2	51	22 students
A1	29 in basement	12 students

What will drop off and pick up look like?

In order to minimize cross contamination, this year there will be limited drop off at the main school doors, and no waiting in the vestibule prior to the start of classes. Our specific drop off and pick up procedures are in the Back to School Plan document.

What will lunch look like?

We will continue to do what we have done in the past. All students bring their own cold lunches. They must bring items they can independently get ready on their plates.

Will snacks and/or food work be available?

Children's House Food Works: These will continue to be available to the children. We are prepared to have multiple food work set-ups. Once one food work has been used, the items will be placed aside for sanitation and another prepped tray will be placed on the shelf, making it available to the next child.

Elementary/Adolescents: Snacks will be provided and made available for students.

What will recess look like?

Recess will continue as we always have. The more time in nature the better! Classes will not be on the playground at the same time during the pandemic. E1/E2/A1 may use the park near the school on Tuesday through Thursday.

Will students be outdoors more? Do I need to purchase clothing such as rain jackets or rain boots to help facilitate this?

Children will be outside more, however, it would be hard for children to complete work or work with materials if it is raining. :)

Raincoat and boots for all ages are a great choice as we do go outside if it is lightly drizzling. "Playing" in the rain is a great opportunity to connect the Work of Water (science) and make the experiences real.

Will the children be attending Mass? What are the protocols in place to do so safely?

At this time, we are planning to celebrate Mass monthly as a community using our outdoor environment. We do not have plans to be off-site at this time, but will continue to keep you up-to-date when the pandemic ends. We will sit as a classroom cohort, keeping appropriate distance between students. Face coverings will be worn.

Since part of our mission is to educate children in the Catholic faith, it is our intention to look for opportunities to have weekly religious celebrations such as offering Benediction, Adoration, praying the rosary or celebrating the Liturgy of the Word when large group gatherings cannot be held. These opportunities to grow in our Catholic Faith will occur on Wednesday mornings. Students are expected to wear their Official School Uniform.

This could be a stressful time, and I'm worried about my child. What is the school doing to support the students emotionally?

We are working to identify appropriate supports and resources. We will be mindful of the words we use when around the students, and work to not overwhelm or scare them with all the changes. Through our use of grace and courtesy lessons we are able to have a healthy, positive atmosphere and teach breathing techniques, relaxation exercises, etc. We will work to meet the needs of every person, be it child, staff member, or parent. We hope to have a counselor on campus several times a week for any child, staff member, or parent who would like additional support.

The Way of the Shepherd

Learning Levels

LEVEL ONE	LEVEL TWO	LEVEL THREE
Physical Distancing Not Required	Required Physical Distancing	Required Physical Distancing and Lower Density

LEVEL ONE: Physical Distancing Not Required

LEVEL TWO: Required Physical Distancing-WOS will start on September 1st at

LEVEL TWO:

LEVEL THREE: Required Physical Distancing & Lower Density

(A1 and Elementary at home)

CH will remain on campus since we are DHS licensed

What if I have other questions? Who should I contact?

Please email joann_schulzetenberg@wayoftheshepherd.org or sheri_rylicki@wayoftheshepherd.org.

Or call the office at 763-862-9110.