



LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

January 7, 2022

Dear Kiva Families,

Over the the first semester, Kiva's attention to Health and Safety has paid off: there have been very few interruptions to learning at the school this year due to COVID-19.

We couldn't have done it without you, the student, parent and/or guardian. Thank you.

And as we head into the second half of the school year, I'm asking for your help again because we are not out of the woods yet: The Omicron variant of COVID-19 is more contagious (but luckily, indications are that it is less dangerous).

Attached, please find our Protocols for Isolation and Quarantine, updated January 7, 2022. Kiva Montessori's administration and health advisory committee continues to monitor local conditions and make adjustments as necessary. And as such, these protocols are subject to change.

Let us all continue to do our part for our children and our community. Thanks in advance for your support of our learning Community.

Warm regards,

Jeffrey Pope
Head of School



Protocols for Isolation and Quarantine Kiva Montessori Charter School

Isolation vs. Quarantine

- You [quarantine](#) when you might have been exposed to the virus and may or may not have been infected.
- You [isolate](#) when you are sick or when you have been infected with the virus, even if you don't have symptoms.

Isolation

Who needs to isolate?

Staff and students:

- That have a positive viral test (PCR) for COVID-19, regardless of whether or not you have symptoms.
- That have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, including those who are:
 - Awaiting test results;
 - Have not been tested; or
 - Have not been in close contact with someone with COVID-19

Isolation means:

- Stay home for at least five (5) days after a positive test or presumed contact.
- Return to school if you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days.
- Must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved.

Return to School:

- Staff and students must continue to wear an KN95 or Surgical mask around others for five additional days.

At any time upon the recommendation of Montezuma County Public Health, Colorado Department of Education, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and state mandates, this Plan could change to better meet the health and safety of those we serve.



Quarantine

See [CDPHE Flow Chart](#) (attached) or follow the text below

Who does **not** need to quarantine in a school setting?

If Staff or Student:

- Are ages 18 and older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
- Are ages 5–17 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines:
 - Have been boosted; OR
 - Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within last 6 months; OR
 - Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months.
- Had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive using a viral test).

And Staff or Student:

- Came into [close contact](#) with someone with COVID-19

Then Staff or Student:

- **Remain in school** and wear a N95 or Surgical mask around others for 10 days.
- Isolate if symptoms develop.

Test on day 5 if possible.

Who needs to quarantine in the school setting?

If Staff:

- Are ages 18 and older and completed the [primary series](#) of recommended vaccine, but have **not** received a [recommended](#) booster shot when eligible.
- Received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine (completing the primary series) **over 2** months ago and have not received a [recommended](#) booster shot.
- Are **not** vaccinated or have **not** completed a [primary vaccine series](#)

And Staff:

- Came into [close contact](#) with someone with COVID-19

Then Staff:

- May return to work following exposure with a negative test (PCR Test).
- Wear an KN95 or Surgical mask around others for 10 days after exposure.
- Should get tested again on day five after exposure.

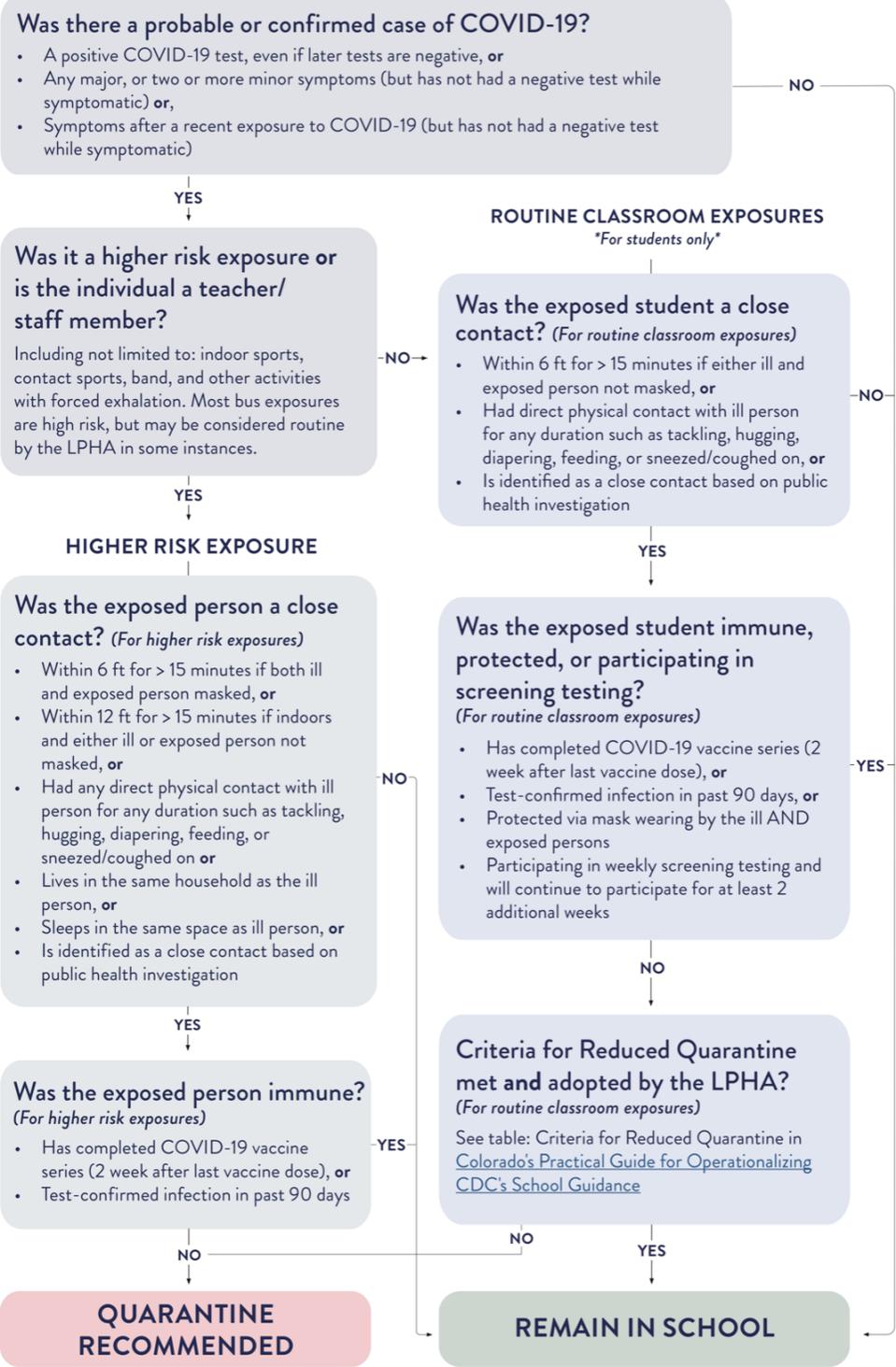
*Additionally, staff will be considered up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations immediately after they have received their third dose; they do not have to wait 14 days after vaccination.

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WHO NEEDS TO QUARANTINE?

For students, teachers, and staff in the school setting



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NOTE: Local public health agencies (LPHAs) have statutory authority to require quarantine and determinations may differ from this tool; individuals should defer to the determinations of their LPHA. Issuance of exposure notification letters, 14 day symptom monitoring, and exposure-based testing at 5-7 days are recommended even when quarantine is not required.





HOW CAN PARENTS ASSIST IN SCHOOL HEALTH AND SAFETY?

- Take student(s) temperature at home prior to coming to school
- Stay home when you or your child is sick or have COVID-19 symptoms
- Stay hydrated and use a refillable water bottle for you and your child
- Wash hands regularly or use hand sanitizer and insist your children do the same
- Use face coverings appropriately and avoid touching your face
- Physically distance appropriately
- Consider transporting your child to and from school when able to limit the number of students riding the school bus and expanding cohort groups

WILL THERE BE DIFFERENT LEARNING MODE OPTIONS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR?

No. Children's Kiva has one option for learning: **Kiva Direct**, which includes:

1. **In Person Learning:** in-person, in-school learning at our facility on all scheduled school days; and
2. **Temporary Remote Learning:** used when a classroom or the school is closed, or, a small group of students must be isolated or quarantined for learning at home.

WHAT WILL SCHOOL LOOK LIKE?

Regardless of the learning environment, The Kiva Montessori will always prioritize the following:

1. Student Safety and Well-Being:
 - We will be taking attendance, contacting and connecting with students and their families, and providing and connecting you to resources to ensure safety and well-being.
 - The Kiva Montessori will continue to provide nutritious meal options for students.
 - We will strictly adhere to recommended protocols, and cleaning regimens asked of us by our health partners.
2. Student Learning:
 - Each student will be advancing in their learning toward the next grade level and a future beyond the Kiva Montessori.
 - Academic, social-emotional, and health development are all part of these curricular goals. We will be using evidence of student learning to guide our support, and engaging students in learning experiences in and out of the building that move them forward in their development.
 - All students will receive a new Chromebook provided by the school to facilitate communication and learning in any setting.
3. Continual Improvement:

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- The Kiva Montessori will lean into the lessons, and feedback, we have learned during this remote learning process.
- By implementing Montessori, Project-Based and Expeditionary Learning platforms, we believe we will keep a consistency and flexibility for our students throughout the school year, and help them advance their academic goals whether they are learning in-person or remotely at home.

Health and Safety

According to the Colorado Department of Education, The following criteria constitute higher risk in a community:

- The community has a vaccination rate around 70% among individuals age 12 and older.
- The school has a vaccination rate under 70% among staff and students age 12 and older.
- The community's transmission rate is above 35 cases per 100,000 people over a seven-day period.

Unfortunately, our community meets all of these criteria: Montezuma County is experiencing low vaccination rates (below 50% in Montezuma County) and high transmission rates (above 35/100,000 locally). And staff/student rates of vaccination across the region do not yet reach 70%. As such, our students and staff are more susceptible to contracting COVID-19, and students are at risk of more interruptions to their education.

KM will apply a layered approach to health and safety measures including, but not limited to:

- Masking.
- Increased physical distancing.
- Voluntary, free serial COVID-19 testing.
- Contact tracing.
- Targeted quarantining.
- Limiting high risk activities.
- Voluntary, free serial COVID-19 testing at home.
- UV Air treatment system in place.
- Sick leave policies for staff.

KM adheres to [Colorado Department of Education Guidance](#) for operationalizing the advice of the National Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The District has approved a comprehensive 2021-22 [Revised Citizen's Guide to Reopening Schools Safely](#) covering the following areas:

1. Commitment to Health and Safety.
2. Operational Safety (Facilities, Busing, Cafeteria, and Food Services).
3. Supporting Student Academic Success Through our School Options for 2021-22.
4. Student Engagement and Activities.
5. Communications and Parent and Family Engagement.

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KM will follow the Montezuma Cortez School District's [Revised Citizen's Guide for ReOpening School Safely](#) and Colorado Department of Education COVID-Related policies as detailed in its Citizen's Guide, with the following exceptions:

Personal Protective Equipment/Masks

- Staff--All staff are required to wear a mask while indoors at school regardless of vaccination status.
- Students – All students will be required to wear masks indoors at school regardless of vaccination status. For more information on mask requirements, please click the following link: [Colorado Mask Guidance](#)
- Parents -- Parents and guardians will be required to wear a mask in the building regardless of vaccination status.

Serial COVID-19 Testing and daily screening

- Screening:
 - Parents are requested to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms **before** arriving at school.
 - All children will be screened upon their arrival to school
- Testing: KM is working with the State of Colorado to make serial testing available for families on a voluntary basis. This is a free program.

Cohorting

- There will be three cohorts in the school:
 - Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary and Middle School. These cohorts will remain separate throughout the day, except during outdoor assemblies and field trips.
 - Students traveling by bus to school are required to wear a mask.

Educating students on health and hygiene

- KM will educate students on how to stay healthy and prevent the spread of germs.
- KM teachers will create consistent, scheduled times and procedures for younger students throughout the day for hand hygiene and promoting hand washing. Older students will be reminded to practice hand washing and good hygiene through education efforts and signage. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms as well.

Social distancing

- State guidelines do not provide limits on class sizes but state that schools should try to maintain 3–6 feet between people wherever practical. This section may change from time to time with new state guidance and will be updated accordingly.

Large groups and assemblies

- KM will follow the state guidelines for the different size groups. There are no limitations on outdoor gatherings.

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School Supplies and Sharing

- KM will not be allowing students to share classroom supplies to the extent possible without properly sanitizing them between use (based on state guidelines). Montessori works will be cleaned between usage.

Arrival/Dismissal

- KM's procedures for arrival, dismissal, recess and passage is published in the 2021-22 Parent-Student Handbook.

Transportation

- All transportation of students will be conducted by the families, with the exception of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's bus service for Ute Mountain Ute Students living in Towaoc. It is the understanding of KM that UMU Education Department will follow CDE Guidance regarding student transportation. In the event that an individual staff or student involved in the UMU Bus Service tests positive for COVID 19, the bus route will be suspended for a period of 14 days in alignment with the Montezuma County Health Departments guidelines for quarantining individuals who have had "close contact" with someone who has tested positive for COVID. Other students who rode that bus will be moved to temporary online learning during this period but their respective classmates who do not ride the bus will not be impacted unless additional students test positive.

Food Service

- KM will continue to serve breakfast and lunch in the student's individual classrooms or outdoors with school lunches prepared and provided by the District. How school meals are delivered to children will depend on the mode of Learning--In-Person or Remote Learning

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Students will attend school according to the school calendar between the hours 8:00 AM to 3:20, or according to the Temporary Remote Learning Schedule (TBD).
- A back-to-school night for parents and students will be offered on August 12, 2021 from 4-7pm. Email invites will be sent to parents specifying the time scheduled for families to visit the school.
- Elementary students will strictly adhere to all procedures outlined in the Kiva Parent/Student Handbook.
- Elementary students will remain with their grade-level cohort throughout the day. These students and teacher groups will learn, recreate, transition, and eat together.
- Students may interact with teachers or other staff outside of their cohort for specials.
- Students may be part of additional cohort groups as bus riders, extra-curriculars, etc. The Kiva Montessori will work to follow all safety protocols and health restrictions to maintain safety within these cohort groups. Families may reduce exposure of additional cohort groups by securing third-party childcare or transportation.
- Recesses, lunches, and common spaces (such as the computer lab) will be accessed by student cohorts in order to maintain physical distancing.

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- Schedules will be created to limit exposure.
- Specials (PE and STEAM) teachers will create lessons for students in school, and for home, in the instance that the students should have to be home due to a quarantine. Please reference other safety provisions outlined in the [Revised Citizen's Guide to Reopening Schools Safely](#).

Timing of Mode of Learning

- KM may opt to start school in Temporary Online Learning Mode as a response to conditions in the community as directed by the Local or State Public Health Authorities or at the discretion of the KM Board of Directors.

Start of School

- KM may opt to begin school on a different day that is currently scheduled--August 16th--to provide staff, teachers and families more time to prepare for a new culture of learning.

Emergency Drills

- A fire drill must be conducted within the first 10 days of school. KM will reserve the option to stagger its fire drills in ways that protect the cohorts of students.

Outside/Expeditionary Education

- KM will leverage its access to parks and outdoor learning spaces as a means to provide high-quality education and decrease likelihood of COVID-19 transmission.

Technology

- All K-8 students will receive a school-issued computer to use in their online learning program. Families may be asked to pay a small fee to cover insurance for the device that will be provided to their student. Technology fees may be waived for students in need.

Janitorial Services

- KM contracts its janitorial services. Staff will provide supplemental cleaning of high-traffic areas (doorknobs, keyboards, and bathrooms) throughout the day on a prescribed schedule that is aligned to the CDC standards being applied at other District Schools.

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