

Health and Safety Plan

2022-2023

www.gtms.org

info@gtms.org



GTMS Health and Safety Plan, 2022-23

Greene Towne Montessori School operates with health and safety protocols in place as guided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, and the Policy Lab of Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania, acknowledging that there is no detailed ECE guidance for mixed age classrooms at this time. Our practices are strengthened by our experience as a school operating in person amid the pandemic since late June 2020. We remain attentive and flexible, adapting the current Early Childhood Education and K-12 guidelines as needed depending on community levels of transmission and vaccination, as appropriate for our mixed age classrooms, and as the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available for our young students. Our success in maintaining in-person learning depends on all of us adhering to the health and safety plan which has allowed us to be successful and safe in school. Thank you for your partnership in keeping our children and educational community safe.

Families with any COVID-19 health related information are required to email Sarah Sweeney-Denham (ssweeneydenham@gtms.org) and Deb Edmonds (dedmonds@gtms.org) as soon as possible. This allows us to determine action plans, notify teachers and families accordingly, and prevent unnecessary exposures at school.

DEFINITIONS AND KEY TERMS

- **Fully Vaccinated Staff and Teachers:** 2 weeks after all recommended doses and boosters of each type of COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Fully Vaccinated GTMS Students:** 2 weeks after third dose of Pfizer mRNA vaccine, or 2 weeks after the second dose of Moderna mRNA vaccine, as well as any and all additional recommended doses as they become available. Please note: students may begin the 2022-23 school year if they have begun the vaccination series, acknowledging that it will take time for all students to complete the full series of doses.
- **Day 0** = date of onset of symptoms in symptomatic individuals who test positive
- **Day 0** = date of positive test (rapid test or PCR) in originally asymptomatic individuals
- Positive individuals are considered infectious (contagious) **48 hours prior**
- **Exposure:** Contact with someone known to be infected in a way that increases likelihood of getting infected:
 - Provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
 - Had direct physical contact (hugged or kissed) with someone who has COVID-19
 - Shared eating or drinking utensils with someone who has COVID-19
 - Has been sneezed or coughed on by someone who has COVID-19

(Reference: CDC Coronavirus Self-Checker <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)

- **Specific to GTMS:** The above applies to **siblings** of those exposed as well, given that they live together and are likely unmasked at home
- **Masked at all times** applies to those who can wear a mask safely and reliably, covering both nose and mouth, changing masks when soiled
- **Isolation:** separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick, even if the sick person is not experiencing symptoms
- **Quarantine:** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. These people may have been exposed to a disease and do not know it, or they may have the disease but do not show symptoms.

Greene Towne Montessori School
COVID-19 Isolation & Quarantine Tool - August 2022
 (Subject to change at any time)

PLEASE NOTE: Shortened quarantine periods are subject to child's age/ability to mask and wear masks reliably, and may not apply in specific situations.

SCENARIO	WHO	RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDANCE
Scenario #1 COVID-like Symptoms	Everyone regardless of vaccination status	<p>Get tested (rapid antigen or PCR) for COVID and do not attend school until test results are received.</p> <p>Negative Test result: Return to school based on clinical criteria for an alternative diagnosis from a doctor.</p> <p>If no clinical diagnosis is known, return to school per Family Handbook, pg 25. Greene Towne's general health policies 24 hours after symptoms have improved.</p> <p>If symptoms are not improved, contact the primary care provider for evaluation, alternative diagnosis and/or PCR testing.</p> <p>Positive Test Result: Follow return to school guidance for scenario #2</p> <p><i>If not tested, assume the individual is positive, and follow return to school guidance for scenario #2 or #3 (depending on vaccination status).</i></p>

SCENARIO	WHO	RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDANCE
<p>Scenario #2 Tested Positive for COVID-19 & Fully Vaccinated and/or Boosted</p>	<p>If individual:</p> <p>Age 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters if eligible, and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Age 6 months-17 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines AND remain asymptomatic since last exposed</p>	<p>Do not attend school and isolate at home for 5 days, or until a rapid antigen test is negative. *</p> <p>If no symptoms or symptoms have resolved after 5 days, isolation is complete and individual can return to school on day 6 with negative rapid antigen test, wearing a well-fitting mask through day 10.</p> <p><i>If individual has a fever, or cough, continue to stay home until 24 hours after fever/cough resolves without the aid of medication.</i></p>
<p>Scenario #3 Tested Positive for COVID-19 & NOT Fully Vaccinated and/or Boosted</p>	<p>Has not completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines and/or not yet received booster for those eligible</p>	<p>Do not attend school and isolate at home for 10 days. *</p> <p>If no symptoms or symptoms have resolved after 5 days, isolation is complete and individual can return to school on day 6 with negative rapid antigen test, wearing a well-fitting mask through day 10.</p> <p><i>If individual has a fever, or cough, continue to stay home until 24 hours after fever/cough resolves without the aid of medication.</i></p>
<p>Scenario #4 Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 & Fully Vaccinated and/or Boosted</p> <p>NOT A Household Contact-see #6 for household contact information</p>	<p>If individual:</p> <p>Age 18 or older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters if eligible, and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Age 6 months-17 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines (Moderna, Pfizer, J & J)</p> <p>AND remain asymptomatic since last exposed.</p>	<p>Take a rapid antigen test as soon as possible and within 1 day of exposure. Rapid antigen test every other day through day 7 after exposure.*</p> <p>Negative test result: Attend school, wearing a well-fitting mask through day 5 after exposure.</p> <p>Positive test result: Follow return to school guidance for scenario #2</p> <p><i>If individual develops symptoms, they should get tested, stay home, be excluded from school, and follow return to school guidance for scenario #1.</i></p>

SCENARIO	WHO	RETURN TO SCHOOL GUIDANCE
<p>Scenario #5 Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 & NOT Fully Vaccinated and/or Boosted</p>	<p>If individual:</p> <p>Has NOT received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters if eligible, and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people</p> <p>(For age 6 months-17 years: Considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after completion of primary series)</p>	<p>Take a rapid antigen test as soon as possible after exposure and within 1 day after exposure.*</p> <p>Rapid antigen test every other day through day 7 after exposure.</p> <p>Negative test result: Individual can attend school wearing a well-fitting mask 5 days after exposure.</p> <p>Positive test result: Follow return to school guidance for scenario #3.</p> <p><i>If individual develops symptoms, they should get tested, stay home, be excluded from school, and follow return to school guidance for scenario #1.</i></p>
<p>Scenario #6 Household Contact to a Positive Case</p>	<p>Everyone regardless of vaccination status</p>	<p>All must quarantine at home minimum of 5 days. <i>Quarantine period will be dependent on the ability to isolate in the home from the positive case.</i></p> <p>Take a rapid antigen test as soon as possible and within 1 day of exposure.</p> <p>When quarantine is complete and individual can return to school on day 6 with negative rapid antigen test, wearing a well-fitting mask through day 10.</p> <p>Please contact Sarah Sweeney-Denham ssweeneydenham@gtms.org and Deb Edmonds dedmonds@gtms.org.</p>

*Isolation/Quarantine date determination: Day 0=symptom onset or date of positive test if asymptomatic.

Recent COVID Infection Exemption: Individuals with a positive test in the past 14 days before exposure DO NOT need to quarantine, if they remain asymptomatic.

Test-to-Stay Protocol:

“Test to Stay” is intended only for school-based exposures, in which exposures occurred among other mitigation efforts (which make them close contacts at lower risk for infection and transmission). Individuals who were exposed to COVID-19 in household exposure are not eligible for Test to Stay and are required to quarantine. Greene Towne’s TTS protocol is based on guidance for ECE and K-12 schools from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (Source: <https://www.phila.gov/programs/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/guidance/guidance-documents/early-childhood-education-ece-guidance/>)

Greene Towne will take into consideration relevant characteristics of the student body and staff (e.g., adherence to masking and other mitigation measures) when deciding whether to implement a TTS program or a quarantine period for a specific in-school exposure.

- Individuals who have had a direct exposure to a COVID-positive person in school should test as soon as possible after exposure, and within one day. Then individuals should test every other day until 7 days post exposure.
- Families are asked to email test results to health@gtms.org.
- With a negative test result and if **symptom-free**, children may attend school wearing a mask for 5 days past exposure. Families will then retest children every other day until 7 days post exposure. Greene Towne will ask parents to take home any children who have any symptoms during this 7 day period as there is increased risk of developing COVID post exposure.
- Families have the option of completing quarantine and may choose not to participate in the “test to stay” program.
- Greene Towne has rapid antigen test kits available to parents who have financial need.
- Families will receive specific information and instructions when test-to-stay is necessary.
- Household exposures are not eligible for the test-to-stay protocol, and require quarantine.

Contact the Greater Philadelphia COVID-19 Hotline to consult about your specific circumstance: (800) 722-7112.

The strategies to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission at Greene Towne include:

MASKING & PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- We will begin the 2022-23 school year requiring masking for all students (over age two) and staff for the first two weeks of school (through September 16th). Beginning on Monday, September 19, masking is encouraged but will be optional for all students and staff under certain conditions, as detailed below.
- Anyone choosing to wear a mask is supported in doing so, whether because they are immunocompromised, have a family member who is immunocompromised, or are simply not ready to stop mask-wearing in school.
- Masking will be required for all students (over age 2), faculty and staff:
 - in times of [high community transmission](#) as tracked by the CDC,
 - in cases of direct exposure to a positive COVID case at school,
 - And as the school community returns from extended breaks from school.

- When masking is required, children over age 2 are required to wear masks for everyone’s health and safety, except when prevented by a medical or other condition with documentation. Parents requesting an exception to mask wearing should contact the Head of School.
- Teachers at Greene Towne have found the following masks work well with our young children:
 - [Kids KN95 Face Masks for Children](#)
 - Jaanuu: Reusable Antimicrobial Finished Masks ([Jaanuu](#))
 - You and I K9F4 Kids Mask ([Amazon](#))
 - Lutema Mask ([ASTM level 3 masks](#))
 - Smaller Lutema Mask ([M94K](#))
- Staff wear disposable gloves when diapering, preparing food and administering medication.

REDUCING THE RISK OF EXPOSURE

- Item sharing is limited, and shared items are disinfected when they come in contact with any bodily fluid, or put aside until disinfection is possible.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- Staff clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily, including tables, chairs, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, tables, phones, toilets, toilet handles, faucets and sinks.
- Classroom materials are cleaned and disinfected when they come in contact with any bodily fluid or set aside until disinfecting is possible. All materials are disinfected daily and deep-cleaned on a regular basis.
- Nap blankets and sheets are laundered weekly.
- Greene Towne staff and the cleaning company are using cleaning products that are EPA-approved for use against COVID-19. As is required by DHS licensing, all cleaning products are stored securely and out of reach of children.
- Hand hygiene is practiced at the following times:
 - Arrival at school
 - Before and after eating
 - Before and after using the toilet or diaper change
 - After coughing, sneezing or blowing nose
 - After playing outside
 - After coming in contact with bodily fluids
 - In between using works, as possible
 - Children are reminded and guided to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, a CDC approved alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used with children under adult supervision
 - Hand sanitizer is stored out of reach of children

VENTILATION

- Each classroom is equipped with a HEPA filter. Teachers are encouraged to keep windows open and use fans to increase ventilation in the classroom.
- We’ve installed filters in the HVAC systems with increased efficiency and inspect and replace filters regularly.

HEALTH MONITORING PROCEDURES & EXPECTATIONS

- Parents/caregivers are required to use the health screening app as part of myGTMS.org **prior to arriving at school**. The daily health screening checklist includes screening for fever, symptoms and exposure.
- Parents and staff are required to complete the screening at home prior to arriving at school to avoid community exposure to symptoms.

The daily check includes:

- **Fever:** Every staff member and child coming into school is required to take their temperature each morning. If either a child or a staff member has a temperature of 99.5 (temporal) or 100.4 (oral) or higher, they are not permitted in school and/or are sent home. Non-touch thermometers are available for your use at school, if needed. Teachers re-check any child who has a fever after 30 minutes, using the thermometer at the main desk.
- **Symptoms:** All families and staff members are required to complete a brief daily COVID-like symptom checklist each day; we are using the health screening as part of myGTMS.org. **If the child or staff member has 2 or more symptoms, the child or staff member is not permitted in school/is sent home and should take a rapid antigen test.** If the child or staff member OR anyone in their household is planning to be tested due to exposure or symptoms the child or staff member may not come to school until results are received. Parents/Caregivers are asked if medications were used to lower the child's temperature and if there are any household members with COVID-19.
- **Visual Inspection:** The designated staff person makes a visual inspection of the child or staff member for signs of illness (flushed cheeks, rapid breathing, fatigue, coughing, nasal congestion).
- **People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days and recovered DO NOT need to get tested following an exposure.**
- Staff members should contact the Head of School immediately with any direct exposure or symptom development to determine appropriate action as well as to contact trace regarding the 48-hour timeframe of exposure.

VACCINATIONS

Greene Towne Montessori urges all community members to maintain all recommended vaccinations and booster shots, including COVID-19 and flu.

All Greene Towne faculty and staff are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 including a booster (third dose) in accordance with CDC recommendations. (Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>)

For the health and safety of our students and our broader community, the COVID-19 vaccine is required for all Greene Towne students (with the ability to apply for an exemption). Students need to have received at least their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine prior to the start of the school year, and upload a copy of their vaccination card into myGTMS.org each time they receive a dose. If your child's doctor advises that they begin the series later due to having recently recovered from COVID-19, please contact Head of School Sarah Sweeney-Denham and Senior Administrative Assistant Deb Edmonds with the child's scheduled vaccination date.

Anyone who applies for and is approved by Greene Towne for an exemption from the vaccination requirement is subject to the following:

- Will submit a negative PCR or rapid antigen test twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays. Families of children with an approved exemption status are responsible for acquiring their own test kits.
- May be excluded from school in cases of linked positive COVID-19 cases in close proximity to the child.

RESPONSE TO STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER WHO IS SYMPTOMATIC

- If a child develops symptoms, they will be isolated while waiting to be picked up, waiting with a masked staff member.
- Staff who have symptoms of COVID-like illness (cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell), a fever or one of the following symptoms: chills, muscle pain, sore throat, will be sent home.
- **If a child or staff member has COVID-like illness, they can return to school if:**
 - COVID-19 rapid antigen testing or PCR testing is negative and individual meets Greene Towne’s normal criteria for return after an illness OR
 - a clinician has evaluated the child and documented an alternative diagnosis OR
 - for children who were not tested for COVID, all of the following are true:
 - at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms AND
 - fever-free and symptom-free without medications
 - They have followed the guidance in the sections regarding exposure or positive diagnosis for COVID-19 (explained in the previous section)
- Cleaning/disinfection after a COVID-19-like illness: Greene Towne closes off areas used by the person who is sick, opens windows to increase air circulation in the areas, cleans and disinfects all areas used by the person who is sick, such as classroom, bathrooms, common areas, and the area used to isolate the sick person.

MEALS AT SCHOOL

- Lunch is an important part of Greene Towne’s curriculum. It provides opportunities for children to develop dexterity and independence in a fundamental form of self care.
- Children bring their lunches with a freeze pack. Children eat lunch in their individual classes at tables or on a mat arranged with as much distance as possible.
- Snack works are pre-prepared in individually packaged servings for children. One child at a time may take part in snack works.
- Children wash hands before and after eating. Staff wash hands before and after helping children with lunch.

PARENTS AT SCHOOL

- Parents who have been invited to Greene Towne for special scheduled events must show proof of vaccination.

TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL

- Students who are over 2 years old and staff who take public transportation should wear well-fitting masks at all times while on the bus/train and while in the station.
- Travelers should practice hand hygiene before and after using public transportation.
- Domestic Travel During COVID-19 as per the CDC as of January 4, 2022 (Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>)

- Delay travel until you are fully vaccinated.
- Check your destination's COVID-19 situation before traveling. State, local, and territorial governments may have travel restrictions in place.
- Individuals that have an approved exemption from vaccinations must get a PCR test 1-3 days before trip; stay home and quarantine for a full 5 days after travel; and get tested with a PCR test 3-5 days after returning from travel.
- Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required in indoor areas of public transportation (including airplanes) and indoors in U.S. transportation hubs (including airports).
- Do not travel if you have been exposed to COVID-19, you are sick, or if you test positive for COVID-19.

After travel:

ALL: Self monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms

- With any travel, as with everyday actions, Greene Towne community members should continue to practice appropriate public health measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 such as obtaining vaccination and boosters if/when eligible, masking when in crowds or on public transportation, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and avoiding crowds indoors or outdoors. (Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>)

At Home Learning Kits

As individual children's quarantine or isolation periods may vary. In the interest of providing as much in person learning as possible, Greene Towne @ Home may become an option in certain circumstances which will be determined by class. Children who are quarantining or isolating may receive at home learning kits depending on the length of the quarantine period. Teachers will schedule phone check in times with families. This allows teachers to be in the classroom to receive children who are cleared to be in school or with varying lengths of quarantine. For a class with a significant number of children quarantining, we may offer Zoom classes for movement, music, or storytime.

GREENE TOWNE COVID-19 ADVISORY GROUP

Dan Rainer, Board President

Chris Booth, Montessori Director/Dean of Faculty

Natalie Cooper, Board member

Dr. Asmita Joshi, Pediatrician, CHOP Primary Care, Roxborough

Dr. Nahla Khalek, Board member and Parent, CHOP Obstetrics-Gynecology

Maggie McCaffrey, Primary All Day Montessori Co-Lead Teacher

Michelle Nowacky, Toddler Coordinator and Toddler Lead Teacher

Sarah Sweeney-Denham, Head of School

REFERENCES

Greene Towne's Reopening Framework was developed through research and guidance from the following organizations:

American Montessori Society

Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia PolicyLab

City of Philadelphia: Guidelines for Childcare and Early Learning Centers
Early Childhood Education Linkage System
Headstart Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center of the US Department of Health and Human Services
Independent School Management
National Association of Independent Schools
National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness
Office of Childhood Development and Early Learning, Department of Human Services
Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools
PAIS-Business Officers Association
Pennsylvania Child Care Association
Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society Reopening Guidelines
Pennsylvania Montessori Association
Philadelphia Department of Public Health

Each family and staff member at Greene Towne is required to abide by this Health and Safety Plan. By signing below you acknowledge that you have reviewed this plan and will:

- Participate fully in the school's requirements to provide negative results of COVID testing.
- Complete the Daily COVID-19 Symptom Check on myGTMS.org; commit to keeping sick children home per the GTMS Health and Safety Plan; any GTMS family members (student siblings or faculty / staff parents) must stay home as well pending the sick person's test results.
- Communicate with the Head of School Sarah Sweeney-Denham (ssweeneydenham@gtms.org) and Senior Administrative Assistant Deb Edmonds (dedmonds@gtms.org) about family illness or exposure as soon as possible.
- Seek medical advice if uncertain about symptoms or exposure.
- **Greene Towne Montessori School urges all community members to maintain all recommended vaccinations and booster shots, including COVID-19 and the flu.**
- With any travel, abide by safe travel recommendations and quarantine guidelines per the CDC.
- Model and practice behaviors known to reduce risk of transmission, such as proper mask-wearing (over the nose and mouth) when required, and frequent hand-washing.
- Engage in ongoing conversations with your child(ren) about the importance of their role and their own behaviors in helping to keep our entire community safe.
- Respect and abide by school policy for all aspects in the Health and Safety Plan, including avoiding high-risk behaviors.

Families are asked to review the Family Handbook and the Health and Safety Plan carefully, and sign off that you accept them where indicated in the Family Fact Sheet on myGTMS, by August 15, 2022.