

Dear Preschool and Tamim Community,

As we look forward to the start of the 2021–22 school year, we are monitoring the evolving COVID-19 pandemic and public health guidance to keep our school as safe as possible. Today we are sharing information you will need as you prepare for the start of classes.

Vaccination is the very best protection our society has against this devastating virus. We are in compliance with Governor Lamont’s mandate regarding teacher vaccinations. We strongly encourage our parents and their eligible household members to vaccinate. That said, we will take appropriate precautions in response to recent infection increases. The protocols below take into account expert guidance from the CDC, local and state health departments, the OEC, and our own medical advisors.

<b>TESTING</b>	Testing is required for all students at the opening of school and likely, upon return to school after certain extended vacations, based on prevailing conditions. As long as COVID-19 tests are readily available in the community, families are responsible for arranging the test and for reporting the results. Tests may be taken anywhere within five days of returning to school. Testing sites are located throughout the area and include local hospitals, CVS and Walgreens retail stores.
<b>TRAVEL</b>	If an unvaccinated child or immediate household member travels outside the CT/NY/NJ area during the school year, a negative Covid test is required before returning to the classroom. The test should be taken 3-5 days after returning to CT. The alternative to testing is to remain in quarantine for 7 days, returning on day 8. <b>This testing / quarantine protocol applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated when the travel is international.</b> <i>Example: If a teacher travels and returns to CT on October 1, testing is to take place on or after October 4. The teacher can return to school as soon as she receives a negative PCR test result. If the teachers opts to not test, she can return to the classroom on October 9.</i>
<b>MASKS</b>	All staff and children ages 3 and up must wear masks at all times while indoors. Staff in private offices may remove their masks when alone in their office. <b>Masks are not required while outdoors;</b> however, if a staff person must be in very close contact (face to face) with a child, then a mask is required by the staff person. <b>We firmly support the personal choice of anyone in our community to wear a mask for any reason at any time.</b>
<b>VISITORS</b>	Visitors including parents and caregivers, are not allowed inside the building while children are present. Exceptions to this may include use of the bathroom, or if a child is having trouble separating. If a visitor does come in the building while school is in session, masks must be worn at all times. Any external person providing instruction on campus will conduct their program outside, or if necessary, indoors – masked and in a room with direct ventilation to the outdoors (open doors and / or windows).
<b>Frequent and Thorough Handwashing</b>	Staff ensure children wash hands throughout the day. At a minimum, handwashing occurs upon arrival at school in the morning, before and after snack & lunch times, and upon entering the building after an outside activity. Hand sanitizer is also used.
<b>Cohorting</b>	Classes are kept separate during the school day. Clubs and playground time may require children from two classes of similar age to come together while outside. While inside, no two classes are together at the same time Classes may share a bathroom with other classes; however, each class is assigned its own stalls.

**CONTACT  
TRACING /  
CLOSE  
CONTACT  
WITHIN OUR  
COMMUNITY**

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified within our community, contract tracing is conducted by Town of Greenwich health officials and/or Gan of Greenwich. We cooperate fully with the Town's inquiries and directives and expect our families to do so as well.

If a school employee or currently enrolled student is identified as a "**Close-Contact**", they should:

- Notify the school.
- Stay home for 10 days. Do not attend school, travel, or attend any sports or other activities.
- Monitor for symptoms and inform the school of any changes in medical status.
- Arrange for a PCR Test after day seven. Testing before day seven may not catch the most common transmission. Submit the test result, complete the full quarantine even if lacking symptoms, and confirm a return to school date with the school.
- Consultation with the family doctor is not required by the school and is entirely up to the family.
- Inform the school if symptoms arise or if a positive test is obtained. **In the case of a positive test, the quarantine will change to isolation with a different timeline and requirements to return.**
- Since conflicting test results are possible, a subsequent negative test result for the originally positive person should, where possible be certified by a physician who has reviewed both tests to classify the first test as a "false positive."

**Remain Home for "Cautious Pause"** If a staff person or student is notified of a possible exposure to a positive case of COVID 19:

- Notify the school.
- We encourage the individual to remain home while contact-tracing is in process.
- While quarantine is not required until contact status has been determined, we encourage families to keep children home for a few days to allow contact tracing to happen and to monitor for the development of any symptoms.
- Many families also choose to test for the virus, ideally 4-5 days after the exposure to get the best results.
- This voluntary "pause" of in-person attendance would end when the family is fairly sure that the child was not a close contact and that they remain healthy.
- The case and return to school activities will be managed by Maryashie.

<p><b>CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19</b></p>	<p>If a staff person or student tests positive for COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notify Maryashie immediately.</li> <li>• Keep all family members home from school.</li> <li>• The person testing positive must enter <b>isolation</b> for 10 days</li> <li>• All household members must quarantine for 10-14 days.</li> <li>• The case and return to school activities will be managed by Maryashie, with the family and the child’s healthcare provider</li> <li>• Written notification of staff and student positive testing will be sent to the School community.</li> <li>• Depending on the timing of exposure to classmates and staff, it is likely that the classroom would be closed with the potential for remote learning.</li> <li>• Each situation can be different and we would work with the local health department on recommendations and contract tracing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ISOLATION</b></p>	<p>If a member of your household has Covid like symptoms or tests positive for Covid 19, it is important that they fully isolate from the rest of the family. It is often difficult to do this when a young child is in the home. If you are not able to fully isolate a diagnosed family member from the rest of your family, it is imperative that you keep your child home during the full isolation period. It is <b>also extremely important that you communicate information about exposures with the school in a timely manner.</b> Your privacy will be respected.</p>
<p><b>GENERAL ILLNESS</b></p>	<p>If a child or staff person presents with any Covid-like symptoms, they must present a negative PCR Covid Test before returning to school. A written note from a doctor is also acceptable for return to the classroom.</p> <p>It is so important for the wellness of the school to keep a child home from when they are even slightly “under the weather”. Please err on the side of caution and do not send a child to school when they present with what seems like “a little snuffle or cough” or the like. <b>Please be respectful of the teachers and the other children in the class if you are asked to pick your child up from school due to a suspected illness, or if further documentation is required from your medical provider. At a minimum, a child may be in school if:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.</li> <li>• able to participate FULLY in all school activities. This means that if your child is feeling tired or cranky, or is uncomfortable eating, the child should stay home.</li> <li>• free from vomiting or diarrhea for 24 hours. In addition, if diarrhea is present, the child should have at least one solid bowel movement before returning to school.</li> <li>• there is no excessive coughing or runny nose.</li> <li>• If your child is not able to "<i>cover their cough</i>" he/she should not be at school.</li> <li>• If there is no crusting or discharge from the eyes.</li> <li>• If your child is on antibiotics, we may require a doctor's note before returning to school.</li> </ul>

As we have all learned, we may need to change quickly to adapt to new information, and we have proven that we’re prepared to do so. This could be tightening or easing of our protocols, or if necessary, a classroom closure or remote learning. We reiterate that vaccination is the most effective layer of protection against the devastating effects of this virus, and the additional layers of protection that are in place are intended to keep our community as safe as possible. We hope you will encourage everyone you know to get the vaccine. Be mindful of your interactions in the broader community where vaccination rates are lower and the risk of exposure is higher. We encourage everyone to freely share their concerns with us as we move forward with the school year. Our goal is to have a healthy in-person school year. We are grateful for your commitment to keeping one another safe and for everything you do to support our mission.

Best wishes for a healthy school year,

Maryashie and Greta