

Dear Preschool and Tamim Community,

As we enter 2022, we continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 pandemic and public health guidance to keep our school as safe as possible. Based on updated guidance from the CDC and DPH, and input from our medical advisors, we are sharing updated protocols at this time. The CT OEC and Town of Greenwich recently distributed test kits and N95 masks to licensed preschools. If you are in need of a home test kit, please contact us. We ask that you keep us informed of COVID 19 exposures and positive tests in your household. Please note that some exposures may require a more or less stringent application of these protocols. Over the last two years, we have found that each situation is often in need of a unique interpretation of the protocols. Please know that we do our best to enforce the quarantines in a manner that is fair and safe to the community.

TESTING	Testing may be required before returning to school after extended vacations and when returning to school after an exposure. Although PCR tests are preferred, during times of high community transmission rates and times when appointments for PCR tests are difficult to arrange, we will accept rapid home antigen tests.
TRAVEL	We will no longer require unvaccinated individuals to quarantine and test after commercial travel, nor will vaccinated individuals need to quarantine after international travel.
MASKS	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. Masks are not required while outdoors; 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.
VISITORS	We continue to limit visitors into the building. Anyone entering the building, including parents and caregivers, must wear masks. 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).
Frequent and Thorough Handwashing	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.
Cohorting	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.
Cleaning & Disinfecting	Bathrooms are thoroughly cleaned multiple times throughout the day. Classrooms are cleaned nightly. All rooms receive a deep cleaning at least weekly.

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

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified within our community, contact 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 an **unvaccinated** student is identified as a "**Close-Contact**", they should:

- Notify the school and establish a date for returning to the classroom.
- Stay home for seven 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.
- Return to school on day eight with a negative test. A return to the classroom assumes no symptoms and no additional exposures.
- 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.**

If a **vaccinated** staff person or student is identified as a "**Close-Contact**" in a **high intensity exposure**, such as a household contact, they should:

- Notify the school and establish a date for returning to the classroom.
- Stay home for five 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 five and return to school with a negative test.
- Continue to monitor for symptoms and wear a mask at all times during any activity when around others for five additional days.
- A return to the classroom assumes no symptoms and no additional exposures.
- 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.**

If a **vaccinated** staff person or student is identified as a "**Close-Contact**" in a **NON high intensity exposure**, they should:

- Notify the school and identify the nature of the exposure.
- Return to the classroom.
- Test five days after the exposure.
- Continue to monitor for symptoms and wear a mask at all times during any activity when around others for ten days.
- A return to the classroom assumes no symptoms and no additional exposures.
- 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.**

	<p>Remain Home for “Cautious Pause” If a staff person or student is notified of a possible exposure to a positive case of COVID 19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 3-5 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.
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<p>CONFIRMED CASE OF COVID-19</p>	<p>If a staff person or student tests positive for COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify Maryashie immediately. • Keep all family members home from school. • The person testing positive must enter isolation for 7 days. • Any siblings (or children or parent) of the person testing positive should enter quarantine for seven days. This assumes that the family member that tests positive is isolated from the rest of the family. • The case and return to school activities will be managed by Maryashie, with the family and the child’s healthcare provider • Written notification of the student positive testing will be sent to the School community if children / classrooms were exposed. • 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. • Each situation can be different and we would work with the local health department on recommendations and contact tracing. • Vaccinated siblings (or parents) may have a different timeline for returning to school. The timeline is dependent on the nature of the exposure (within the household vs. outside the household) and the presence of symptoms.
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<p>ISOLATION</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 also extremely important that you communicate information about exposures with the school in a timely manner. Your privacy will be respected.</p>
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**GENERAL
ILLNESS**

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.

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 sniffle or cough” or the like. **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:**

- fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
- 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.
- 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.
- there is no excessive coughing or runny nose.
- If your child is not able to "*cover their cough*" he/she should not be at school.
- If there is no crusting or discharge from the eyes.
- If your child is on antibiotics, we may require a doctor's note before returning to school.

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. 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. We are also so grateful to our teachers who have helped us maintain in person learning.

Best wishes for a healthy 2022,

Maryashie and Greta