



Apple Blossom Waldorf School & Family Center

2021-22 SUMMER AND SCHOOL YEAR COVID-19 POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Please carefully review this entire document. Your child's enrollment is contingent upon following our updated school policies and procedures.

Dear Parents,

Spring 2021

As we prepare for the 2021-22 Summer and School Year at Apple Blossom Waldorf School and Family Center, we have adjusted our procedures by implementing State of Connecticut and CDC guidelines to keep our community healthy and help limit the spread of Covid-19. ***Please know these guidelines are subject to change as State regulations change.*** It takes a village to proceed safely, and we must work together with respect. We ask that you make sure that you and your child are healthy and symptom free before coming to Apple Blossom Waldorf School. Before the start of our program, the town health department will come for an inspection and each staff member will receive training in these procedures.

We ask that you read the new procedures carefully and share them with all the adults that come from your home to Apple Blossom Waldorf School. We appreciate your flexibility and patience as we navigate our reopening. Recommendations and guidelines at the national, state and local level are frequently changing. We will continue to monitor updates and adjust our policies and procedures as necessary. We will make every effort to communicate these changes in a timely manner to the community.

In accordance with current guidelines, we will be implementing the following procedures:

[Mask policy](#) (included in this packet)

Drop off and pick up procedures

1. Before school, while still at home, please make sure your child is healthy and well to participate in a day of outdoor play in all weather, movement activity and engagement. Please use this tool to assess your child's health: [Daily Health Home Screening Tool](#).
2. We ask that only one adult drops off and picks up to avoid congestion. Adults are asked not to enter the school building or the outdoor play areas. If you need to go to the office, please make an appointment with the business manager or enrollment coordinator and come to the office door and ring the bell with a mask on. Please make every effort to leave your child(ren) outside while conducting business in the office. Office business should be conducted during school hours. All visitors must wear a face covering when entering the school building. We ask that parents and caregivers not use the restrooms in the school building. We have discontinued use of the mailboxes inside the school. Important school communications and notes will be sent electronically. When necessary, additional notes or communications will be placed in your child's bag prior to dismissal. Please do not enter the building to check your mailbox or leave mail for other members of the community.
3. Once you arrive on the school property, adhere to social distancing guidelines and make sure to keep a 6ft distance between other families while dropping off. There will be circular markers to assist each family in adhering to the distancing policy. Please drop off your child at their class' play yard gate one at a time. Please make sure to say goodbye outside of the gate to respect the threshold and make drop off easier for your child. Parents may not enter the play yard.
4. At pick up please wait outside the play yard while keeping 6ft distance to other parents. The teachers will call the children one at a time to the play yard gate for dismissal. There will be circular markers to assist each family in adhering to the distancing policy. Once you have picked up your child, please promptly return to your vehicle allowing for the next dismissal. Please only send one parent or caregiver to the play yard for dismissal. The dismissal route will be clearly marked; a one way path around the school building towards Cannon. Rd will be designated for ease of traffic.

5. As usual we will have staggered drop off and pick up times for the different classes.

Social distancing

Young children cannot be expected to follow social distancing guidelines and **will interact** with their peers during play. Therefore, the adults will provide an environment where this can happen as safely as possible.

1. We will spend as much time outside as possible in the designated Kindergarten or Nursery play space.
2. Group size will be limited to a maximum of 14 children (Kindergarten), 8 children (Nursery)
3. As usual, each group will stay in their own classroom with their own teachers, thereby creating a “family unit”
4. Each child will keep their belongings in their designated cubby and bag. We recommend sending in bags that can easily be cleaned each day at home. We encourage all families to sanitize materials coming back and forth to school daily.
5. Supplies will not be shared between classrooms.
6. A single serving of dried fruit will continue to be offered to each child as a snack during the day. After vigorous hand washing, the teacher will place a small snack in the child’s hand. Second helpings will not be offered without additional hand hygiene. Staff will exercise caution to minimize the risk of children sharing snacks.
7. Additional space will be provided during meal and nap time. As usual, utensils and food will not be shared among the children. Children will continue to assist in the preparation of snacks as per our daily rhythm. All food is cooked at high temperatures for an extended period. Once cooked, staff will serve snacks and water to the children after washing their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Children will not pass plates or pitchers during meal times. Second helpings will not be offered without additional hand hygiene. Staff will exercise caution to minimize the risk of children sharing snacks. Utensils and food prep items will be sanitized daily in the dishwasher. Those

materials that are not dishwasher safe (i.e. wooden bowls and spoons) will be sanitized daily with boiling water. Linens are assigned to each child and will be sanitized with boiling water daily and laundered weekly. Teachers will distribute and collect all linens.

8. Employees will be wearing face masks as long as that is a state requirement. All staff will give themselves a home health check at the start of each workday prior to the children's arrival. Prior to resuming classes, and as done annually, all staff will attend a mandatory training session which includes proper hand hygiene, don/doff of personal protective equipment, diapering policy and disposal, recognizing signs and symptoms of communicable disease, isolation of a sick child and enhanced sanitation and disinfection protocols.

Healthy Hygiene and Intensified Cleaning

Children learn by imitation. Therefore, the teachers will continue to model healthy hygiene practices. Intensified cleaning of high traffic areas will happen throughout the day. Toys and classrooms will be cleaned at the end of each day.

1. The teachers will be modeling and observing regular handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds. (Before coming in contact with any child, before and after eating, after sneezing, coughing or nose blowing, after using the restroom, diapering, before handling food, after touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated, after using any shared equipment like toys, computer keyboards, mouse)
2. The teachers will be modeling and encouraging the children to cover all coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the corner of the elbow. Soiled tissues will be discarded immediately.
3. Additional cleaning and sanitizing protocols have been implemented and posted in each room of the school. The staff will complete the cleaning checklist daily using a disinfectant pursuant to the current CDC recommendations.

In case of illness

Covid-19 is a reportable disease. If you or a family member is diagnosed, please inform the school office and your child's teacher immediately and do not send the child to school. If a member of your household tests positive for the Covid-19 virus or your family comes in direct contact with an individual that is known to be actively ill with Covid-19, we request that any enrolled child and their family follow current CDC guidelines and stay home for 14 days **after exposure** based on the time it takes to develop illness.

Apple Blossoms may need to implement short-term closure procedures regardless of community spread **if an infected person has been in the school building**. If this happens, Apple Blossom Waldorf School will follow current CDC guidelines and alert local health officials. These officials will help the Board determine a course of action for the school. All students and most staff may be dismissed for a period of 2-5 days. All members of the community will be contacted within 24 hours of confirmed potential exposure.

During this short-term dismissal Apple Blossom Waldorf School will be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly. Efforts will be made to increase air circulation to any enclosed areas where the potential for virus spread may have occurred. Prior to reopening, all areas used by the ill person, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected.

In the event an enrolled child or staff member tests positive for Covid-19 a physician's statement will be required before returning to the school. The statement should indicate it has been at least 3 days (72 hours) since recovery: defined as no fever without the use of medications and improvement in respiratory signs like cough and shortness of breath; AND at least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms.

If a child shows any symptoms of illness during the day (i.e. fever, vomiting, diarrhea, sudden onset or spreading of rash) the parent or caregiver will be called to pick up the child immediately. While awaiting pick up, the child will be escorted and continuously supervised by a staff member in our designated sick room. The state guidelines for cleaning and ventilation of the sick room after each use will be strictly followed.

Should your child be absent for any reason, please contact their lead teacher and the administrator via email and/or phone call. It is important for the staff to be aware of illness of any kind beginning on the first day of absence.

Travel

We ask that all families exercise caution upon returning to school if they have travelled domestically or internationally for any length of time. As the spread of the Covid-19 virus remains in constant flux, please be advised that any member of the Apple Blossom community, including staff, may be subject to a minimum of 14 day quarantine period upon your return home or required to submit evidence of negative Covid test.

Please check the CT portal for updated travel requirements:

<https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/travel>