



Health and Safety Requirements*

**as required by the MA Department of Early Education and Care for Reopening - June 2020*

At Home

Families should do a self-screening at home which includes checking for the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, gastrointestinal symptoms, new loss of taste/smell, muscle aches, or any other symptoms that feel like a cold. Anyone with a fever of 100.0F or above, or any other signs of illness, should not attend school that day.

At School

A daily screening will be required of each member of the CNS community who is in physical attendance at school each day. This includes staff members and children. A parent or guardian will be asked to complete the health screening via a google form ahead of drop off time. If the screening is not completed or declined, individuals will not be permitted to enter the program space.

The screening will ask if the child or any household member has had any of the following symptoms in the last 24 hours:

- Fever (temperature of 100.0F or above), felt feverish, or had chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea, nausea, vomiting)
- Fatigue (Fatigue alone will not exclude a child from participation.)
- Headache
- New loss of smell/taste
- New muscle aches

- Any other signs of illness

Please be advised that the school will also ask if children, families, or staff members have had close contact with a person known to be infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), which may affect school attendance.

Parents and staff must sign daily attestations regarding any household contacts with COVID-19, symptoms (e.g., fever, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, or diarrhea), or - for parents - if they have given children medicine to lower a fever.

Staff will make a visual inspection of each child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), coughing, fatigue, or extreme fussiness. Also, some responses on the daily attestation form may require a need to obtain additional information. In this case, additional questions will be asked at drop off before the child may enter the school. If it is deemed that a child is not well enough to attend school, the parent will be required to take the child home and contact their pediatrician.

Cleaning Protocols

- CNS will be cleaned on a daily basis by professional cleaners. In addition to daily cleaning tasks (vacuuming, mopping, etc), our cleaners will fully clean and disinfect all bathrooms and high touchpoint areas such as sinks, countertops, door handles, light switches, etc, with an EPA registered disinfectant for use against COVID-19.
- Teachers will also clean, sanitize and disinfect specific areas, tabletops, and toys at various times during the day, as needed, with an EPA registered and child-safe sanitizer/disinfectant spray for use against COVID-19. Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected between each individual use.
- Areas outside of the classrooms will be sanitized and disinfected by an on site administrator. Outdoor equipment will also be disinfected after each classroom uses the space and at the end of the school day.
- Items in and outside of classrooms (including outdoor spaces) will be minimized to those which can be cleaned, sanitized and disinfected each day. In addition, we will request that items from home be minimized for the same reasons and will make suggestions for what should come to school, before the start of the year.
- All staff will receive training on cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting along with safe use and handling of all cleaning products. All products used for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting will be kept out of reach of children and stored safely on high shelves or in a locked closet.

- It is our protocol to keep windows open so fresh air can circulate, as permitted. Increased air circulation will be prioritized throughout each classroom.

CNS will continue to follow the requirements and recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), the Commonwealth of MA, and the Lexington Board of Health, as related to the mitigation of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Hand Washing

Hand washing, with soap and water, occurs throughout the day for children and staff. This includes, but is not limited to:

- At arrival
- Before and after snack
- At bathroom times
- After outdoor play

There may be other situations that arise during the day which also necessitate hand washing. Teachers will prompt children to wash hands during those times as well. We know that the partnerships we have with families will be most effective in helping promote consistent and good hand washing techniques in and out of school.

Physical Distancing

At CNS, we recognize that our approach to physical distancing must also account for each child's stage of development. We also recognize the contribution that physical distancing has made in the mitigation of the COVID-19 virus. In order to promote physical distancing in an organic way, indoor and outdoor classroom environments will be set up to allow for children to have adequate space while still engaging in a play based experience at school. This will include the use of natural barriers (i.e. classroom furniture; outdoor items) to create purposeful environments. Thoughtful consideration will also be used in creating daily schedules/routines that promote safe distancing.

Consistent cohorts of children and teachers will help create an organic environment for this as both become more familiar with the routines and practices of the group.

Mask Wearing

Appropriate PPE, primarily masks, must be worn throughout the day by all staff members. In order to keep everyone at school healthy and safe, mask-wearing will be expected of all members of our community, including children. Families should provide their children with a sufficient supply of

clean masks and face coverings for their child, to allow replacing the covering as needed. We understand that each child will respond to mask-wearing in their own way, and will work with families to support this routine in a nurturing manner.

There will be appropriate times during the day when masks will not be worn. This includes: when eating or drinking and during periods of mask breaks (these may be individualized as needed).

Our focus will be on building positive relationships and this will be prioritized in our approach around the personal protective equipment (PPE) which will be necessary for a safe experience at school for all.

Reporting of Illness

For the case of all suspected illnesses, including COVID-19, CNS will refer to the Board of Public Health for guidance. If a child becomes sick while at school, they will be asked to be picked up immediately by a parent or guardian. While waiting to be picked up, children will be kept outside of the group's classroom in a separate space that is comfortable and supervised by an onsite administrator. Families will be asked to consult with a pediatrician while the school determines next steps in conjunction with the Board of Health.

In the event of a positive case of COVID-19 in our community, we will follow direct guidance from the Lexington Board of Health. While maintaining privacy for each member of our community, our goal is to remain transparent and provide updates to our community in order to keep everyone healthy and safe. The local Board of Health will be the primary source for reporting and tracing COVID-19 positive cases and exposures. Questions about closure, quarantine, and reports of positive cases or exposures will always be directed to the Lexington Board of Health first.

Additional Information

Per the MA Department of Early Education and Care:

All children who attend Community Nursery School are required to have a current, unexpired, physical on file before entering school.

For each child enrolled, programs must maintain on file a physician's, nurse practitioner's, or physician's assistant's certification that the child has been successfully immunized in accordance with the current DPH's recommended schedules.

For each child with a chronic medical condition that has been diagnosed by a licensed Health Care Practitioner, programs must maintain an individual health care plan (IHCP). The plan shall describe the chronic condition, its symptoms, any medical treatment that may be necessary while the child is in care, the potential side effects of that treatment, and the potential consequences to the child's health if the treatment is not administered.

Understanding & Waiver

I have read the Health and Safety Requirements which was made available to me along with my child's enrollment agreement. I acknowledge that the Health and Safety requirements are subject to modification based on current regulations required by the MA Department of Early Childhood Education and Care (EEC) and the Commonwealth of MA. I agree to waive any liability related to COVID-19 and illness, on the part of Community Nursery School, should all precautions outlined in this addendum be in practice to the best possible ability of the school. I further understand that the risks of transmission of COVID-19 and illnesses are beyond the control of the school and that by agreeing to enroll my child in the program, I waive any liability related to such risk. I understand that Community Nursery School is complying with all guidance as outlined by the state of MA and EEC.

Printed Name of Parent/Legal Guardian

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

