



2021-22 Opening Protocols – communication sent 8/2/21:

Dear CWS families,

We are checking in with information on what we know as of July 30th about protocols for school in the coming year. As you are certainly aware, the situation around Covid changes almost daily. We were hopeful that things had improved, but now we see that Hamilton County is “orange” again. This (sadly) isn’t so much different from last summer; however, we now have a year of this under our belts and we know that we can safely operate our school in the midst of this ongoing pandemic. Any decisions we make around masking and distancing protocols will be based on the conditions in our community and on the guidelines we receive from the Hamilton County Health Department, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the CDC. Many things could change in the coming weeks. We do, however, have a few certainties, and the purpose of this email is to let you know what we know for sure.

1. Students, faculty, and parents will **not** need to be masked outdoors. Just like last year, we will spend as much learning, playing, and eating time outdoors as possible.
2. All students and faculty **will** be required to wear a mask at all times when indoors, until further notice.
3. Students riding the bus to school **will** be required to wear masks in transit. This is not a CWS protocol, but is dictated by state and local transportation guidelines.
4. We will maintain our strict adherence to insisting that parents keep students home from school when they exhibit **any** cold or flu-like symptoms. A child that arrives at school with a fever, cough, or runny nose will be sent home immediately. Please do not consider taking that risk.
5. Any positive cases of Covid within the community should be communicated to Nicole Stout, Office Coordinator, as always. She works directly with the health department and can advise as to testing, quarantine, time away from school, etc.
6. Outdoor field trips will resume this year. Indoor field trips may also resume, depending upon the regulations and protocols dictated by the various venues. Parent chaperones will need a background check in order to drive and chaperone children other than their own. A separate email will be coming soon from the CWS Business Office with instructions for completing a parent volunteer background check. All chaperones, students and faculty will adhere to the indoor masking rules listed above including using masks when driving students on field trips.
7. We will resume major community events outdoors. We will start the year with Back-To-School Night, the Rose Ceremony, and Michaelmas, during which families can gather together outside (maskless) to enjoy these special Waldorf moments. All of our community events this year will include a rain date, in order to ensure that we will be able to celebrate these special times together. Large indoor gatherings will not take place in the near future, unless conditions change.
8. Parents that wish to have in-person meetings with administrative or teaching faculty can do so through scheduled appointments.
9. School birthday celebrations will resume - outside!



10. After Care will resume in its typical fashion; however, a contract will be required for Early Care (12-3) attendance. We will only accept 24 children in Early Care (no drop-ins or day switching), so if you believe you'll need to use this service and do not already have an after care contract, please contact Libby Rupp (lrupp@cinciwaldorf.org) as soon as possible to get that set up. We will accept drop-ins in Late Care (3-6) with 24 hours notice, assuming there is space.
11. We continue to follow the immunization guidelines dictated by the State of Ohio. Once the Covid vaccination is approved for children under 12, we are required to collect the standard immunization information for all students, with the understanding that parents should make their own personal choices within the confines of the law. Vaccination records are, as always, kept in the strictest confidence. Please read our immunization statement [HERE](#).

We are excited and eager for another great school year of being together with you and your amazing students. Keep an eye out for more information about Back-To-School Night, coming soon!

Warmly and With Thanks,

CWS Leadership Council

- Connie Davis
- Susan Gray
- Bari Mairose
- Adam Petersen
- Kirsten Roberts
- Luke Schelly
- John Williams

Follow-up Communication on 8/6/21:

Dear CWS families,

As we prepare to welcome students to a new school year, we are aware that there is concern among some parents about students wearing face coverings indoors this year. We also have received emails and phone calls from many other parents expressing equal concern that we might stray from suggested protocols. So we know that there are many varying opinions on the face-masking topic which span the full spectrum. We also know that guidelines and protocols may change as new research is conducted on the virus, and as the virus evolves. We are all in this together to create the best possible experience for our students under these circumstances: we did it last year to an amazing degree, and we will do our very best again this year.

Our primary goal is to provide a safe space for children to learn in person, and for our faculty to feel protected when teaching. We also hold a responsibility to best manage risk for the overall



well-being of the school and the community. To these ends, we rely on key agencies (CDC, AAP, ODH, HCHD) to provide guidance on health and wellness matters. These organizations have indicated that masking outdoors is likely unnecessary and so we have changed our protocols from last year around this and assure you that students will spend as much time outdoors and unmasked as possible. We are a Waldorf school and outdoor education is our strength. At the same time, masking indoors is still necessary; therefore, we will honor the guidance by these key agencies until they make a different recommendation.

It is further worth noting that ODH has modified its quarantine guidelines. They now state that individuals who have been exposed to Covid in school settings and remain asymptomatic can continue to attend school if all classmates are wearing masks indoors consistently and correctly, in addition to other layered prevention strategies including distancing (all of which is happening at CWS).

By following the guidelines set forth by health agencies closest to this issue, we believe we can best ensure as much in person learning for students as possible, protect our faculty, and act conservatively to manage overall risk to the school. It is worth noting that the protocols we implemented last year allowed us to have a joyful and productive school year in person (minus only 2 weeks of distance learning). We hope to improve that record this year. We are a small community and divisive issues can be detrimental to all of us. We respect individual opinions and personal health choices that people may make. And yet we need to act on behalf of the entire community the best way we know how. So we are asking for your partnership to help the school navigate through this particular period of our history.

Several families have had questions about our immunization policy and we encourage you to read our policy statement [HERE](#).

We are looking forward to another wonderful school year where our children can learn, play, and grow in an environment where they are loved and cherished.

Warmly,

Connie Davis, Faculty Chair
Susan Gray, Administrative Director
John Williams, Board President