

MDO COVID POLICY

We are very excited to have the opportunity to reopen our program this fall! We have missed teaching your children, and we hope that this time at home has been a positive experience for your family. In order to provide a healthy and safe environment for your child to learn, program operations will look different than they have in the past. Below, we have outlined some of these changes that will help keep our children and staff healthy as this situation with COVID-19 evolves and we receive further guidance from federal, state, and local health officials.

School Closure: Unless otherwise indicated by the State of Texas, MDO's first day of school will be Tuesday, October 1, 2020. MDO will follow NBISD's schedule. If NBISD remains open with in-person learning, MDO will maintain our Tuesday, Thursday schedule. If NBISD campuses close and move to virtual learning, MDO will close as well.

Daily Temperature Checks: As an additional safety precaution, and to gain admission into the Children's building, staff, children, and parent/guardian temperatures will be taken at the entrance to MDO. Individuals with a fever of 100.4°F, or higher, or showing other symptoms of illness, will not be admitted to the facility, as this may be an indication of an active case of COVID-19.

Masks: All parents/guardians will be required to wear a mask when entering the MDO building. Teachers will wear a mask during drop off and pickup times—when parents/guardians are present in the building. Children are not required to wear a mask in the classroom. Teachers will not force children to wear a mask in the classroom.

- *Masks should NOT be put on children under age two because of the danger of suffocation.*
- *If your child wears a mask, we will remove the mask when eating and napping/resting.*
- *We will ask your child to take the mask off if they are touching it frequently, as that could increase the potential transmission of the virus if your child is asymptomatic.*

Door Access:

Before entering the building at drop off time, all students and parents/guardians will go to one of our Temperature Check Stations outside the Entrance doors to our building. After that check, student and parent may then enter the building. **(Students may be brought in by one adult only.)** Please enter only through the doors marked ENTRANCE. After drop off time, temperature stations will cease and and late-comers will be temperature checked by a staff member at the door, upon entry. If you do not see a staff member, please ring door-bell and a staff member will greet you at the door shortly.

Arrival and Dismissal:

Parents/guardians and siblings will not be allowed to enter the classroom. Classrooms will be reserved for teachers and children only.

All children will be dropped off at their classrooms. We will have a one-way direction of “traffic.” Parents and children will enter the RIGHT SIDE hallway and walk towards their child’s classroom, and then will continue in the same direction (to the interior hallway that joins both main halls) where they will continue to the other main hall that will move in the OPPOSITE direction to exit back into our foyer then out the doors marked EXIT to get to the parking lot. In other words, we will have a counter-clock-wise flow through our entire building at all times. The only place that will not have this flow is the ends of each hall at the back of our building. Please do not exit out the back doors of our building.

Only MDO staff will be allowed past the office during the school day.

Cleaning: The following will be disinfected at least twice daily:

- Playground equipment
- Doors and cabinet handles
- Sink handles
- Shared objects- toys, games, art supplies
- Restrooms (between classrooms) – sinks/toilets/areas used by kids
- Ledges on half-doors – classroom doors

Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be used. Cloth toys will not be allowed in the classroom.

All this is in addition to the daily cleaning that already takes place- cleaning of tables, chairs, classroom toys, countertops etc.

Handwashing: Children will be reminded to wash their hands when entering the classroom at the beginning of the day, and when leaving the classroom at the end of the day. Children will also wash their hands throughout the day (e.g. after blowing their noses, going to the bathroom, before eating, etc.). Hand sanitizer will be provided if a sink is not available.

Food: Snacks brought from home to share with the class must be store bought and brought to school unopened. For parties, we are asking that you send individually wrapped items or store bought items that have not been opened. (Fruit, veggies etc will be fine). We are encouraging no homemade items- just for now.

Water Fountains: Water fountains are disconnected. Children must bring a LABELED water bottle/sippy cup filled with water to school each day. Please wash your child’s water bottle/sippy cup each night before bringing it back to school the next day.

Be Equipped: Please make sure to send a full change of clothes for your child. Even if they do not have an “accident” that requires a change of clothes, they could need to be changed if they come in contact with a spill from someone else’s lunch or other similar circumstance.

Mats: Mats will be sent home each Thursday. Please wash your child's mat and return it to school with your child on Tuesdays.

Toys: Toys from home will not be allowed. Please help your child with this by not letting them bring them in their backpacks etc.

Separate Classes: In the past, children have attended enrichment classes including music, children's church, etc. This school year, children will remain with their class and in their classroom for the entire day, except for P.E. and Stretch N Grow (2, 3 and 4 year old classes) or outdoor buggy rides (baby and toddler classes) and their scheduled playground time. They will not be combined with other classes or attend any activities in any other class. This will help keep the children healthy and limit transmission and/or exposure to illness. Curriculum in the classrooms will be enhanced and geared toward keeping your child(ren) engaged throughout the day. Children MAY combine with one other class outside during playground times if and when this is deemed safe.

Stay Home if Sick: If your child has been sick, they will be required to stay home until they've been symptom-free without medication for at least **48 hours**. Classrooms will be open to healthy individuals only. **If your child becomes sick at school, we will err on the side of caution, when deciding to send them home.** Please have someone available to pick up your child at any time during the school hours. To reduce risk of exposure/spreading, children must be picked up within 45 minutes of parents notification.

COVID-19 Exclusion: Sick staff members and children will not return to school until they have met the criteria established in guidelines from the Texas Department of Health and CDC. In regard to exposures, diagnoses, and positive tests, the CDC recommends the following:

- Individuals who have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 may not be around others until 10 days after exposure
- Any child/teacher who tests positive or has COVID-19 symptoms may return to school:
 - after 3 consecutive days with no fever AND
 - no diminished respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) AND
 - 10 days since symptoms first appeared
- Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, but have had no symptoms, can return to school after 10 days have passed since the test.

If a child or staff member from MDO tests positive and were in attendance at MDO when symptoms were present, the classroom will close, and the children and staff will be excluded from the program for up to 10 days (based upon recommendation from the Health Department). If a child or staff member tests positive, but symptoms were not present when at school, only the individual will be excluded from the program. If your child is excluded from MDO due to the COVID 19 guidelines, refunds or partial credit will not be able to be given.

If your employer has notified you to isolate yourself from work and quarantine for 10 days: Your child(ren) will also need to stay home for the 10 days or until your employer states that you are no longer needing to quarantine.

Thank you for your understanding of these guidelines during this unprecedented time. We will be following the CDC guidelines as well as the guidelines from NBISD as we navigate our way back to school. We will keep you updated of changes in procedures, events and school closures if needed. Please check our website and our FaceBook page as well as your child's backpack for any updates.

Blessings,

MDO Staff
