

Harbor Waldorf School Pandemic Plans 2021/22

Harbor Waldorf School is an Early Childhood Program for children ages 2 ½ to 6.

MISSION

Our curriculum emphasizes the healthy development of the heart, body and mind through imaginative play, meaningful work and expressive arts in a natural environment. In the spirit of the Early Childhood Programs of Waldorf Education, we holistically address the emotional, intellectual and physical needs of each child. By upholding truth, beauty and goodness, we seek to instill bold thinking, self confidence and social responsibility in our students.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS

The health of our community is our top priority.

COVID-19 policies are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk. No single action or set of actions will eliminate the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk.

According to the CDC, vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection.

Suffolk County has not mandated faculty to be vaccinated. All unvaccinated faculty will be tested weekly for COVID-19.

HWS safety protocols must be followed regardless of vaccination status.

All protocols and modifications are subject to change as guidelines change.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

All faculty and staff are required to wear masks or other CDC-approved face coverings; children are encouraged, though not required to wear masks in our

outdoor program. Faculty, staff, and adults may lower their mask outdoors when a distance of 3' or greater is between any other person. Though the NYSDE does not require masks outdoors at this time, HWS feels it is an appropriate additional protective layer until more is understood about the variants.

8/27/21 Effective immediately, in accordance with the Commissioner's Determination issued pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.60, any person over the age of 2 (including all students, personnel, teachers, administrators, contractors, and visitors) must wear masks at all times indoors in P-12 school buildings, regardless of vaccination status. People with medical or developmental conditions that prevent them from wearing a mask may be exempted from mask requirements, as documented by a medical provider. People do not need to wear masks when eating, drinking, or singing; when masks are removed for these purposes, individuals must be spaced three feet apart.

The CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Masks are required for children on days that inclement weather (high wind, extreme cold) shifts the program indoors.

Parents and caregivers are asked to maintain the following safety protocols during pick-up and drop-off: wear a mask, maintain social distance, and follow CDC hand sanitizing regulations when needed.

PROGRAM

Daily class size in the Nursery is limited to 12 children, with two teachers. Daily class size in the Children's Garden is limited to 15 children, with two teachers.

HWS is located on the ground floor of the Methodist Church at 11 Carroll Street, Sag Harbor, NY. The facility hosts two classrooms, three bathrooms, and one kitchen. HWS has an extensive outdoor play area and forest yard.

The program this fall is almost exclusively outdoors. Children will have access to the indoor school for toileting, snack, use of cubbies for personal belongings, and rest time for AfterCare.

During play, children will not be required to maintain social distance between one another, though appropriate space will be established for snack, lunch, and rest time.

Snacks that are baked or cooked may be prepared together by the teachers and children; any raw or uncooked food will be prepared and served by the teachers.

For AfterCare, each child is asked to bring their own **NUT-FREE meal**. Children remaining for AfterCare will have an opportunity to lunch and rest, adequately spaced (minimum of 3') from one another.

HYGIENE, CLEANING and DISINFECTION

Hand washing stations and hand sanitizer are available in both play yards, as well as indoors.

Faculty and children will follow handwashing procedures in accordance with CDC guidelines at morning drop off, before snack, after bathroom use, and before going home.

Children are not allowed to bring toys, water bottles, or other items to share from home.

Toys that are unable to be adequately cleaned will be removed from classrooms.

All surfaces and areas will be cleaned and disinfected daily in accordance with CDC guidelines. A thorough deep clean will occur every weekend.

Ventilation filters in the building will be changed every month.

Classrooms are outfitted with Blue Pure 211 Air Filters.

SCREENING

If your child doesn't feel well, PLEASE keep him or her home. For the safety of all, please adhere strictly to this protocol.

At drop-off each day, a health screening with temperature checks will be conducted.

Persons who have a fever of 100.40 (38.00C) or above or other signs of illness will not be admitted to the facility.

If a child becomes ill during the school day, he/she must be picked up immediately. The child will wait in a designated area; comfortable, supervised, and away from the other children.

RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR INDIVIDUALS DISPLAYING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

All students, teachers, and staff with new or worsening symptoms must be excluded from school regardless of vaccination status AND provide either a negative Covid test result or remain excluded from school for a minimum of 10 calendar days from onset of symptoms.

If symptoms are improving and the individual is fever free without the use of fever reducing medications for at least 24 hours, they may return to school with either a note from a health care provider indicating a negative covid test or a copy of the negative test result.

In the event a child or family member in our HWS community tests positive for Covid 19, all close contacts (15 minutes within 6' over a 24 hr period) will be notified and quarantined as required. If needed, the class will shift to our [At-Home Learning Plans](#) for the required time period to quarantine. If NYS mandates school closures at any time, HWS will shift to our At-Home Learning Plans.

QUARANTINE AND CLOSE CONTACTS

All close contacts with someone with Covid-19 must quarantine, unless they are fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated individuals must test 3-5 days after exposure.

COMMUNICATION

Aynsley Schopfer, the HWS administrator, is the designated staff person responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Please contact Aynsley at (631) 725-1520 or aynsley@harborwaldorfschool with questions.

Please self-report to the school administrator if any member of your family has [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were knowingly exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.

Preventive actions HWS will implement include but are not limited to:

Majority of the day outdoors.

Limit unnecessary visitors into the building.

Basic safety practices, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

Adults will wear face coverings.

Children will wear face coverings on designated indoor days.

Daily cleaning and disinfecting procedures in accordance with CDC and DOH guidance.

Social-Emotional Well-Being

This is an emotional time for all of us and we recognize the stress that starting school with another covid surge places on teachers, families, and children.

In Early Childhood Programs, physical distancing among children cannot be reasonably expected and is certainly difficult to implement. Therefore, HWS will focus on more effective risk mitigation strategies for young children. These include hand hygiene, infection prevention education for staff and families, adults physically distancing from one another, adults wearing face coverings, cohorting, and spending time outdoors.

Cloth face coverings are intended to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms.

Children reflect their parent's ease or unease with mask wearing. HWS will support parents' preferred mask protocol for their child outdoors at HWS. All children must wear facemasks on indoor days at HWS.

Reducing classmate interactions/play in Early Childhood Programs may not provide substantial COVID-19 risk reduction. Play is the essential work of childhood.

What you can do to help

Reinforce basic safety practices, proper hand washing, and respiratory etiquette at home.

Maintain strong immune systems with plenty of rest and a healthy diet.

Learn to recognize [COVID-19 disease symptoms](#)

Learn how COVID-19 transmission occurs and how to [protect yourself](#).

Get tested 3-5 days after traveling to a high risk area, regardless of vaccination status.

Self monitor your child(ren) and family members for symptoms. Report any exposure or symptoms to the HWS Administrator.

Before dropping off each day, please check your child's temperature for a fever or early signs of illness.

REFUNDS

There will be no refunds or tuition reduction if HWS is required to close mid-year due to county or state mandates. We will shift to our AT-HOME LEARNING plan ([attached](#)). By enrolling your child in HWS you agree to pay the full cost of tuition.

Sources:

<https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Health-Services/Health-Bulletins/Novel-Coronavirus/SCDHS-COVID19-Guidance-and-Services>

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/back-school/nysed-health-and-safety-guide-for-the-2021-2022-school-year.pdf>