

Harbor Waldorf School Pandemic Plans 2022/23

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.

HWS safety protocols must be followed regardless of vaccination status.

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

MASKS

As of March 2, 2022, the mask mandate has been lifted in schools in NY State.

NYSDOH recommends students, staff and teachers wear masks when:

- *They feel more comfortable wearing a mask for personal reasons.*
- *They were exposed to COVID-19 in any setting for 10 full days.*
- *They are moderately-to-severely immunocompromised and have discussed the need to mask with their healthcare provider(s).*

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 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.

For AfterCare, each child is asked to bring their own **PEANUT-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.

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.

Classroom windows will be opened for additional ventilation.

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 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. 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.

Testing is recommended for people with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible after symptoms begin.

In the event a child or family member in our HWS community tests positive for Covid 19, all close contacts will be notified.

QUARANTINE AND CLOSE CONTACTS

NYSDOH recommends exposed or potentially exposed individuals follow [NYSDOH Isolation and Quarantine Guidance](#) for testing and masking.

COMMUNICATION

Cholena Smith-Boyd, the HWS administrator, is the designated staff person responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Please contact Cholena at (631) 725-1520 or cholena@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:

Health screening at drop off.

Children remain home when they are sick.

Majority of the school day is outdoors.

Basic safety practices, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

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 the pandemic has placed on teachers, families, and children.

HWS will focus on effective risk mitigation strategies for young children. These include daily health checks, hand hygiene, infection prevention education for staff and families, and spending more time outdoors.

Children reflect their parent's ease or unease with mask wearing. HWS will support parents' preferred mask protocol for their child at HWS.

It is imperative that those making the personal choice to wear or not wear a mask, when it is not mandated, are not stigmatized, bullied, or made to feel uncomfortable.

What you can do to help

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

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

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

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

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/back-school/health-and-safety>

