

Meher School Parent Information For Re-Opening June 1

Dear Parents,

We hope you are all safe and well. We look forward to once again becoming that special place that your children love! Since the opening of our school in the fall of 1972, we have seen many kinds of infectious childhood diseases and have always taken measures to protect children and staff from their transmission. Your children are crucially important to us and we want to be sure we follow protocols to keep them safe. As is often the case, the disease is transmitted to others before the one who transmits it displays any easily discernible symptoms. The current COVID-19 pandemic is similar in that regard but is quite different in its impact on the general community.

We have put together a tentative set of guidelines for reopening June 1. These guidelines and directives, which are fluid and we will alter according to changing circumstances, are based primarily from the following three sources:

- CDC's Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open,
- California State Department of Social Services bulletin for child care centers in collaboration with the State Department of Education regarding being open during the COVID-19 pandemic, and
- Cal/OSHA guidelines for child care centers for infection prevention.

Screening Procedures & General Information

When you drop your child off in the morning we will have special screening procedures in place. These will change somewhat as we settle into a day to day routine. Similar screening procedures will apply to staff.

- We will have set up a table outside the classroom building for you to sign your child in.
- First we will ask you about your child's health and that of your child's family and others with whom he or she lives. You must tell us if your child has taken any fever reducing medications in the prior 24 hours. We are interested in any symptoms - primarily fever, cough, difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), extreme fussiness, or other signs of illness.
- We will take your child's temperature using a no-touch forehead thermometer. 100.4°F/38°C is the threshold for mandatory exclusion but a higher than normal temperature coupled with other symptoms may require a child be sent home or not admitted.
- We also will enquire if anyone in the family has had any exposure to another individual with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

- Parents please have your own pen handy for use for signing in and out.
- Make sure your child has washed his hands before drop off, parents before coming for pick up also.
- Our staff members will wear some form of PPE to cover the nose and face, whether it be a mask, bandanna, kerchief or other covering.
- It is not recommended that in a protected environment such as our school that children wear PPE, therefore they will not be required. However, if a parent wishes, a child can voluntarily wear a mask, marked with his or her name. It cannot be worn outside however - or during meals!
- We will daily periodically clean and sanitize various portions of the environment as needed.
- We will, as per our regular practice, monitor children throughout the day for signs of illness.
- We will endeavor to keep the children in small groups of 10 or less and will keep the same group together with the same staff daily when practical and possible.
- We will give the children instruction on keeping distance from each other, proper hand washing techniques and the necessity for frequent hand washing during the day.

Tuition and Fees and Hours

Tuition will be charged at the same rate as during the regular school year that was interrupted by our closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The amount due for any given child will vary according to his or her payments received to date. Some parents paid ahead for the entire school year and will owe nothing. Others paid according to the regular tuition schedule and may or may not have made the March 15 payment. In any case, tuition is calculated using the total number of school days in the regular school year and dividing that into the tuition fee for the entire school year deriving a daily rate. Some variations are involved so we will calculate and let you know when we have your commitment to return. Hours will be the same as they were before our closure.

We Need Your Commitment by Tuesday May 26

We need to know how many returnees we will have when we start June 1. Please get in touch with Mrs. Muñoz for Monterey Park children (323) 724-0683, adelamunoz@mehermontessori.org, or Ms. Wildhaber for Altadena children (626) 798-1171, altheawildhaber@gmail.com.

New Children May Be Accepted

We will consider new children for enrollment for June 1. Contact the Director.