

Dear Thacher Families

A safe return to the in-person school environment will require a culture of health and safety every step of the way. As Thacher Montessori's COVID-19 designated point person I will be happy to help you as questions arise. You may always reach me at [nursemoore@thacherschool.org](mailto:nursemoore@thacherschool.org). I am closely monitoring the frequently changing MA Department of Public Health and CDC recommendations and regulations. We are planning to meet all requirements and will at times have requirements that go above and beyond out of an abundance of caution and protection to fellow students and staff.

**Parents should supply emergency contacts when household forms are requested in August.**

Please be sure I have received a copy of your child's most current physical form dated after 9/1/2019. As of 8/19/20 the MA Department of Public health set forth the following two new requirements: A physical must be submitted for ALL students regardless of being an in-person or remote learner and proof that a student received a flu shot by 12/31/2020 for the upcoming season. For more information regarding the flu shot requirement please see the link at the bottom of our re-entry plan.

Parents and staff alike will be asked to do a daily symptom check prior to leaving your home. **Individuals who display the following signs and symptoms should stay home until those signs and symptoms subside: headache, chills, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, temperature of 99.5 or above, cough, atypical fatigue, nasal congestion or runny nose not due to a known cause such as allergies or in combination of other symptoms, shortness of breath, or with diminished sense of taste and/or smell.** For students displaying these symptoms should they arise in school they will be expected to be picked up within one hour should the symptoms not be related to a known condition in which those signs and symptoms can be attributed. I will guide you through situations where you or a family member may be recommended for a COVID-19 test. In situations where a student previously was asked to stay home for 24 hours with relief from symptoms there will be instances in which they will need to remain at home for 72 hours or more dependent upon nursing assessment and evolving guidelines from the state and government. Contacts should be able to pick up your child(ren) within an hour.

**For any absence please email or call me with the reason for the absence prior to 8:30 am.**

We will be closely monitoring the health of all students and staff, looking for trends and being proactive when a sickness arises.

Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19- what will happen?

- ✓ Evaluate symptoms
- ✓ Separate from others
- ✓ Disinfect spaces and surfaces utilized by individual with potential symptom(s)
- ✓ Get tested for COVID-19 and stay home while awaiting results. Be prepared that an additional test may be needed 5 days after last known exposure (if applicable)
- ✓ If symptomatic with or without a test prepare to quarantine for 14 days. (updated by MDPH on 8/19/20).

- ✓ Notify school and close contacts immediately if you know you may be a close contact of a positive case or if a family member within the household may have COVID-19.
- ✓ Answer the call from your local Board of Health or MA Community Tracing Collaborative to help identify close contacts to help them prevent transmission
- ✓ If suspected individual within a cohort (class) the cohort will be closed to in-person instruction for 14 calendar days. (more detailed protocols to be provided in Family Handbook)

**A close contact is defined as an individual who has been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual for 15 minutes or more, or has had direct physical contact.**

Our goal will remain having students in school in person, healthy and ready to learn! I am honored to be Thacher Montessori's school nurse and will always be happy to assist you with your health care needs and concerns.

Warmly,

Carolynn Moore BSN, RN

[nursemoore@thacherschool.org](mailto:nursemoore@thacherschool.org)