

Frequently Asked Questions about The Avalon School operations during the pandemic

Updated September 1, 2020

- 1) Remote learning while others are attending school in person: If a student needs to remain at home because of concerns about exposure to Coronavirus or the need to quarantine at home because they were exposed to the virus, they are expected to remain current with their studies. Every teacher has a variety of means to deploy in order to help their students remain current, based on the material being covered, the age of the students and the number of students in the class who are at home, etc. Among those options are regular phone calls; recordings or livestreaming of class; small group online meetings; emails; screencasts; and building online assignments in Jupiter Ed. Teachers will communicate their plans to students and parents.
- 2) Mask Guidance: Properly worn, both masks and gaiters are currently acceptable face coverings at The Avalon School.
 - a. The CDC recommends:
 - i. Face coverings have two layers of washable, breathable fabric.
 - ii. Against the wearing of bandanas, masks with exhalation valves, or face shields worn without a mask.
 - iii. That masks be worn in public settings around people who don't live in your household.
 - b. The Montgomery County Executive Order dated 8/24/20 states masks should be worn inside the school building when others are present and outdoors when unable to consistently maintain six feet of distance from individuals who are not members of your household.
- 3) Water Bottles: Please send your child to school each day with a water bottle, labeled with their name. We will use water fountains to refill water bottles, but not to drink from.
- 4) Pre-Existing Conditions: Please make certain the school is aware of pre-existing health conditions. If your child has seasonal allergies that present as one symptom, please send a doctor's note to keep on file in the school office.
- 5) Sending Students Home: If a student presents with COVID-19 symptoms at school, that student and any siblings in the school will be sent home for that day until a doctor is consulted and documentation of that consultation and recommendations are brought to school.
- 6) Educational Presenters and Field Trips: Due to transportation restrictions during the pandemic field trips will be limited to those places we can safely walk to while social distancing. We will consider scheduling presentations by visitors that can be done outside.
- 7) Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning: In classrooms we will open windows in order to increase the amount of fresh air moving in and out of the rooms. We have purchased HEPA portable air filtration units for use in certain rooms.
- 8) CDC Guidance on Cleaning and Disinfection in order to Maintain Healthy Environments:

- a. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the school and on school buses at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) should be limited when possible, or cleaned between use.
- b. Develop a schedule for increased frequency of routine cleaning and disinfection.
- c. Shared Objects:
 - i. Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
 - ii. Keep each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
 - iii. Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assigning each student their own art supplies, equipment) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
 - iv. Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.

9) Disinfection guidance from Montgomery County order of August 24, 2020:

- a. CDC and Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") approved disinfectants need to be used to clean spaces daily; including use of disinfectants to wipe down high contact surfaces at least once every 2 hours while staff or customers are present ("high contact surfaces" are surfaces that will have human contact at least once an hour); and employees are required to wash their hands hourly.
- b. If, for instance in younger grades, one student uses the same desk, without contact from others, that desk will be cleaned daily, to minimize exposure to chemicals.
 - i. At Avalon AirX ACE (44) will be used as the everyday disinfectant and Spray & GO will be used in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the building.

10) Sports: Football, as a high-risk sport, may hold no-contact, skills building and drills practices with masks off, so long as 6 ft. distancing is maintained and the total number of staff, coaches, player, spectators, etc. must be limited to 50 people.

11) Montgomery County Restrictions on Gatherings from the August 24, 2020 Order:

- a. Gatherings of more than 50 people continue to be prohibited at all locations and venues, including but not limited to parties, receptions, parades, festivals, conventions, and fundraisers. Planned large gatherings and events must be canceled or postponed until after termination of the state of emergency and the proclamation of the catastrophic health emergency has been rescinded.
- b. Social, community, recreational, and leisure gatherings may resume provided the following physical precautions are met and followed:
 - i. Limited to 1 person or household per 200 sq. ft. or a maximum of 50 people, whichever number is lower; and
 - ii. the size of the location and venue must accommodate applicable social distancing for the number of attendees.
- c. Religious Facilities. Churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and other similar religious facilities of any faith ("Religious Facilities") may open to the general public for indoor and outdoor services provided the Religious Facility complies with the following:
 - i. One participant (or one household group) for every 200 sq. ft of religious ceremony space; and

- ii. absent a Letter of Approval from DHHS, the number of outdoor service participants shall not exceed 150 participants.