

## Painted Desert Montessori Academy COVID-19 Mitigation Plan



Painted Desert Montessori Academy (PDMA) is happy to announce the return of in-person school and virtual academy on August 17, 2020. We have developed a plan according to guidance from the Arizona Department of Education and the Center for Disease Control which seeks to establish a safe environment for our students and staff and ensure a successful re-entry to School Year 2020-2021. Because PDMA cares for the safety of our students, staff and families, our COVID-19 plan includes flexibility to evolve throughout the coming school year. We value and appreciate your support. This document will be revised and kept current with CDC guidelines, Maricopa County guidance and Arizona Department of Education.

Our campus has implemented some health and safety preventive guidelines to allow our students to return to campus as soon as it is safe for them. Our school schedule will be Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

### **BEFORE SCHOOL**

#### **PDMA Drop Off Procedures 7:15 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.**

##### **Screening # 1**

As you pull up in the parking lot to drop off your student, we ask that you stop at one of the six temperature check stations. Student must wear a face covering. Please have your student remain inside your vehicle until instructed otherwise. Once you have arrived at the station, we ask that only your student step out of your vehicle to have the temperature checked. **Please do not drive off** until your student has been cleared to proceed to their classroom. All students must have a temperature of <100.4 and medicine free to attend school. If your student has a fever, your student will return to your vehicle and asked to remain home until they are **fever free and medicine free for 72 hours**.

#### **Preschool Drop Off 7:15 a.m.-7:30 a.m. \*\*\***

Preschool parents pull up to the Preschool sign-in station. Please practice social distancing while waiting to sign-in your student. Parents and students must wear face coverings. Student's temperature will be checked at the sign-in table prior to being admitted on campus. Student must have a temperature of <100.4 to proceed to class. If your student has a fever they must remain home from school until they are **fever free and medicine free for 72 hours**. A doctor's note may be required.

#### **Late Arrivals – after 7:30 a.m.**

All students that arrive late on campus will need to be signed into school by their parents. PDMA will have a temperature check station located by the school's front doors for late arrivals. Parents and students must wear face coverings. We ask that you follow social distancing while waiting for your student's temperature check.

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### Health Precautions

PDMA will be consistent with State and Federal guidelines. Temperature checks will be performed every morning for children at student drop off. Temperatures will be checked at the student's vehicle for fever/visual evaluation. Any student showing respiratory signs or fever will be asked to return to their vehicle until they are symptom or fever free for 72 hours. A doctor's note may be required before the child returns to school. A list of students that were returned to their vehicle will be turned in to the Health Director for follow up.

Students and staff that are at higher risk for illness are encouraged to follow the healthy hygiene practice.

All students and staff will have an additional temperature check at 11:00 a.m. Any student that has a fever >100.4 will need to go home immediately. Please follow PDMA'S Health office guidelines for student exit and hygiene procedures.

All staff, students, parents and visitors must wear a face covering at all times.

### **DURING SCHOOL**

#### Recommendations

Students, staff, teachers and visitors on campus must wear a face shield or face mask following latest CDC guidelines and Maricopa County requirements. If a student needs a mask PDMA will provide it for them, upon availability. When students are sick, they should stay home. Teachers, teacher assistants and staff will reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, hand sanitizer or any other alternative sanitizing method will be available.

#### Adequate supplies

School will provide adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, disinfectant wipes, and no-touch/foot pedal trash cans to support healthy hygiene in every classroom and around campus.

#### Maintaining Healthy Environments

There will be three scheduled sanitizing periods throughout the whole campus to ensure our high standards. Students with the teacher's encouragement and support will sanitize each work on the shelf after using it before putting back for others to use.

Communal Spaces will be clean and disinfected before, during and between use.

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The office has installed plastic flexible screens in order to allow social distance. We have already measured and labeled designated areas to ensure that staff, students and visitors remain at least six feet apart.

Every classroom has installed plastic flexible screens on the students table in order to allow social distance.

### **Screening # 2**

A temperature check at 11:00 a.m. will be conducted every day in the classroom to ensure our students and staff are healthy. Teachers and assistants will keep track of this and report to the Health Clerk.

### **Behavior**

Teachers will provide adequate spacing among working areas as feasible to support social distancing and will encourage students to do so as well. Plexi glass partitions have been installed in some of our classrooms as safety barriers.

### **Snacks & Lunches**

Snacks should be brought from home for individual purpose only. Lunches can be brought from home or ordered through our catering company. If ordered, the lunch will be delivered to the classroom.

### **Recess**

Common areas will be sanitized between use. Students will be encouraged to wear face masks when social distancing is not possible. A scattered schedule will be put in place to minimize interaction between classes.

### **Celebrations**

Celebrations will be held in the classroom with prior authorization and arrangements with teachers. Treats may be offered, only with purchased pre-packed boxes or bags for each attendee.

### **Signs and Messages**

School will post signs in highly visible locations that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs. Regular announcements will be sent through Bloomz. Any questions regarding this matter will be through Mrs. Sally Stinson at [COVIDresponse@pdmabuckeye.org](mailto:COVIDresponse@pdmabuckeye.org)



### **Shared Objects**

Each student's belongings will be labeled and separated from other students and will be for individual use only. Each student will keep belongings inside a plastic bin provided by the school that will be in their cubie inside the classroom.

### **Water Systems**

Each student will bring their personal water bottle to minimize use and touching of water fountains. In case of need of a refill, students will be encouraged to use the filtered water faucet inside their classroom.

### **Field Trips**

Field trips will be put on hold until the second semester or a safer moment for our students and staff. Although virtual opportunities will be provided as an alternative.

### **Volunteers and Visitors**

At the moment, the school will refrain from having volunteers and visitors on campus to ensure the safety of our students and minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19. If there is a need to visit the office for an extraordinary situation, visitors should call ahead and schedule the visit. Visitors will wear a face covering and will go through all the screening process.

## **AFTER SCHOOL**

### **Pre School Pickup**

Parents will sign out their students at 11:30 am on the class assigned pickup stations. These stations will be located on the sidewalk next to the parking lot. Only authorized people will be allowed to sign your student out. You will need to present a valid photo ID. Please wait for your student inside your vehicle.

### **K-8<sup>th</sup> Pick up Procedure**

PDMA will practice curbside pickup as usual. Each family is assigned a pickup number for your student. Please pull up to your assigned pick up number to pick your student up. Each family will be given a pickup sign to place in your car windshield to help our pickup process flow smoothly and as quick as possible.

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### Before & After School Care

At the moment PDMA will not be offering before or after school care until further notice.

### Plan of Action

In the event of school closure or excused extended absences, PDMA will offer distance learning for K-8 students utilizing PDMA technology loaners.

Scenario	Action
No Flags	Proceed to school
Exposure, close contact, no symptoms	Cannot go to school. Home for 14 days after most recent exposure
Diagnosis, positive test, no symptoms	Cannot go to school. Home for 10 days since first positive COVID-19 test
At least 1 symptom	Cannot go to school. Home until: 10 days since 1 <sup>st</sup> symptoms No fever for at least 24 without medication Other symptoms have disappeared

- Reference to Maricopa County Public Health Screening Flow Chart.

### Health Information

- Arizona Department of Health Services [www.azdhs.gov](http://www.azdhs.gov) (602) 542-1025
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) 1-800-232-4636
- Maricopa County Department of Public Health [www.maricopa.gov](http://www.maricopa.gov) (602)-506-6900

### Updates and Communication

Please remember this document is not final and it is subject to change at any time and will be updated based on the most current information. We will continue to provide you with as much guidance as possible.