



**MONTESSORI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
RE-OPENING PLAN
[Revised Sept. 2021]**

[MIA's Action Plan for preparing Welcoming All the Children]

● **CLEANING AND DISINFECTION**

- Throughout the day, the desks, chairs, bathrooms, fixtures, and surfaces are disinfected.
- Shared spaces will be sanitized after each use.
- Our school is professionally disinfected and sanitized each night by a professional janitorial crew.
- The entire school and playground equipment will be disinfected and sanitized throughout the day.

● **COHORTING**

- During instruction, the children will be kept in the same group.
- During playtime at the playground, children are separated from another group of children by fences.
- Each group of children has access to an inside classroom, an outdoor play area and bathrooms located inside the classroom.
- Lunch will be eaten in their designated area.
- To the best of our ability, there will be no co-mingling between classrooms.

P.E Time

- Children wear a class color hat and apply sunblock by themselves.
- Children will be separated into 2 groups and have P.E outside.
- Children can take off their mask when they are running around, or if there is enough social distance from other children.
- Teachers will encourage children to drink water frequently.
- Teachers will supervise children's handwashing when they come inside the classroom.

● **ENTRANCE, EGRESS, AND MOVEMENT WITHIN SCHOOL**

- Parents and unannounced visitors are not allowed in the building.

Dismissal -Pick up and Sign out

- Teachers and staff will ask parents to sign in and out using 1CORE Family App with their phones.
- There is a designated outside drop off/pick up area located at the front and back of the school. Children are to be dropped off and picked up using a drive-through system by parent/guardian at this location.
- Tape markers or cones are placed on the ground for parents to stand socially distant from each other while waiting to drop off or pick up their child.
- Parents standing in line are required to wear a mask/and or shield
- Children will have their temperature taken with a touchless thermometer before entering the building.
- Parents are asked questions for screening.
- A designated staff member will escort the child to their classroom.

- **FACE COVERING AND OTHER ESSENTIAL PROTECTIVE GEAR**

- All teachers, staff and children up to 3rd grade are required to wear a mask and/or shield throughout the day.
- Wearing masks for students from age 2 to up to 3rd grade are required.
- Gloves will be worn when handling food, cleaning, or helping an ill child.

○ **STUDENTS**

Age	Face Covering Requirement
Under 2 years old	No
2 years old – 2nd grade	Yes, unless exempt
3rd grade – High School	Yes, unless exempt

**Face coverings are required for all the age groups of students in MIA. Except exempt children with doctor’s notes. A face shield is an acceptable alternative for children in this cohort who cannot wear them properly. (CDPH Industry Guidance for Schools Aug. 3)

- Persons younger than two years old, anyone who has trouble breathing, anyone who is unconscious or incapacitated, and anyone who is otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance are exempt from wearing a face covering.
- A cloth face covering or face shield should be removed for meals, snacks, naptime, or outdoor recreation, or when it needs to be replaced. When a cloth face covering is temporarily removed, it should be placed in a clean paper bag (marked with the student’s name and date) until it needs to be put on again.
- In order to comply with this guidance, schools must exclude students from campus if they are not exempt from wearing a face covering under CDPH guidelines and refuse to wear one provided by the school. Schools should develop protocols to provide a face covering to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions. Schools should offer alternative educational opportunities for students who are excluded from campus.

○ STAFF

- All staff must use face coverings in accordance with [CDPH guidelines](#) unless Cal/OSHA standards require respiratory protection.
- In limited situations where a face coverings cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (i.e. communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield can be used instead of a cloth face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others, to the extent practicable. Staff must return to wearing a face covering outside of the classroom.
- Workers or other persons handling or serving food must use gloves in addition to face coverings. Employers should consider where disposable glove use may be helpful to supplement frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer; examples are for workers who are screening others for symptoms or handling commonly touched items.

(CDPH Industry Guidance for Schools Aug. 3)

● HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

Before coming to school, check the temperature of all of your family members. If any family member has a temperature of 100.4 F/38C or higher, exhibit any of the following COVID-19 symptoms, or have been in circumstances that indicate that the child may be at risk (as determined by MIA in its discretion), the child cannot come to school, and parents must immediately notify MIA so that the school may enact precautionary measures.

Symptoms of COVID-19

- ❖ Fever or chills
- ❖ Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- ❖ Fatigue
- ❖ Muscle or body aches
- ❖ Headache
- ❖ Loss of taste or smell
- ❖ Sore throat
- ❖ Congestion or runny nose
- ❖ Nausea or vomiting xi. Diarrhea
- ❖ For more information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

- All children and staff members will have their temperatures taken each day prior to entering the building.
- All classrooms are equipped with touchless thermometers, and temperatures will be taken as needed.
- Any child or staff member with a fever or other flu-like symptoms will be sent to an isolation room in the office and parents will be notified to take their child

home.

- Parents must pick up an ill child as soon as possible.
- The isolation room will be disinfected after use.
- The school must be notified if anyone in the household has traveled outside of the state.
- The family must notify MIA if anyone in the household has tested and is waiting for the result. Also they need to inform MIA if the test result was positive.
- The infected person and the family must remain home for 14 days after the diagnosis.
- If a child is ill, they must be symptom-free without the use of a fever-reducing medication for 24 hours prior to returning to school.

- **HEALTHY HYGIENE**

- All children and staff members will use hand sanitizer or hand wash prior to entering the school, entering the classroom or any other area of the school.
- Teachers will sanitize the toilet seat and toilet handle after each use.
- All children and staff members must wash hands for at least 20 seconds after using the restroom and before eating.
- There are hand washing stations in each classroom, in the bathroom, and on the playgrounds.
- Hand sanitizer is placed in front of the school, at the front desk and in front of each classroom.
- Children enrolled in our extended program will bring their own snack packed by parents.
- No sharing of food will be allowed. We are unable to reheat or refrigerate food.

- **IDENTIFICATION AND TRACING OF CONTACTS**

- A confirmed COVID-19 case by a staff member or student will be documented immediately by the director.
- Names of individuals testing positive for COVID-19, will not be shared due to privacy laws.
- Orange County Health Care Agency will be notified by the director.

- **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

- MIA decided to set our own standard for safety that exceeds the requirements of both California and the CDC. We call our childcare **MIACARE**.
- In the serious pandemic time, while Current California social distancing guidelines suggest 6 feet (2 meters) distance between children. We are designing for up to **9 feet (3 meters)** between children. The children will have their own designated space with their own dedicated work and play space with all the tools and resources they need. We are creating warm, personal spaces for the children that are emotionally supportive.
- We have brought in our architect for construction to create significant, extra

ventilation. These are a few highlights from the many steps we are taking to make childcare safer and better for children and families.

- To the best of our ability, children will remain 7-9 feet apart, while indoors.
- Children will have their own individualized workstations, cubicles and keep all belongings (including snack, lunch, change of clothes, and water bottle) in their assigned cubbies.
- Tables are spaced 7-9-feet apart in the classroom.
- Clear Plastic curtains are installed as a partition in a classroom to separate each group of 12 children. (Above the curtain area is open for ventilation purposes)
- Hallways will be used one group at a time.

Extend Care

- Children will stay in their classrooms and will wash hands before and after eating snacks in their own cubicles.
- Teachers will clean the tables before and after eating snacks.
- Children will have Montessori work time and outside play time.
- When parents arrive and call the office, teachers and staff will bring the child to the car.

● STAFF TRAINING AND FAMILY EDUCATION

- All staff members and parents were notified of our policies.
- A copy of our policies are posted in the staff communication board and on our website.
- The staff and parents have been emailed our policies.
- The director and assistant director will ensure that our policies are followed each day.

● TESTING OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

- We have a list of COVID-19 rapid testing sites that do not require a referral in the front office.
- If staff and children are ill and test positive for COVID-19, they are not to attend school until they receive a negative COVID-19 test.
- At the school's discretion, staff can be tested periodically to detect asymptomatic infections.

● TRIGGERS FOR SWITCHING TO DISTANCE LEARNING

- During the school closures, Governor Newsom is fully supportive of technology-based learning, and we are too. We cannot operate a "traditional" school for the foreseeable future, but we will continue to teach children via MIA@HOME, just like we have since March.
- Of course, the safest solution for learning during this pandemic is MIA@HOME, with your child safe at home without physical contact with other children. However, we created MIACARE to enable childcare that fully supports facilitating

MIA@HOME, so you can have confidence that your child can be safe, happy and growing during the day.

- MIA follows our emergency procedures linked [here](#).
- If we have a confirmed case at school, we will close immediately for a minimum of three days and begin online instruction.
- Children will be welcomed back to in-person education based on availability and other safety conditions. Additionally, you may choose to continue with MIA@HOME until such time as you feel it is completely safe to return to school as normal.

- **COMMUNICATION PLANS**

- Parents will be notified immediately if their child was in contact with someone infected with COVID-19.
- Due to privacy laws, the name of the child or staff member will not be disclosed.
- [What is our Emergency Plan](#)