



Mālamalama Waldorf School

COVID-19 Response Plan

School Year 2022-2023

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WELCOME and Introduction

Our decisions regarding COVID protocols will again guide us to another successful year of in-person learning. We are absolutely committed to making sure that it can be done safely and with the health and well-being of our community as the highest focus while incorporating the guidelines and requirements from federal, state, and local agencies.

The school understands that keeping classes open and having our students on campus is ideal. Maintaining a clearly defined set of Health Measures and Protocols will allow us to keep our on-campus learning in place as much as possible.

We have made changes to our MWS COVID-19 Response Plan based on past practices and experiences along with the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) COVID-19 Guidance for Schools and the Department of Human Services (DHS) Guidelines for Child Care Facilities. Not every strategy outlined in this guidance can be practically implemented at all times. The guidance is intentionally layered and flexible as it takes into account the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 Community Levels which guide decision making based on local measures on the impact of COVID-19 illness.

Although this guidance is specific to COVID-19 prevention, many of the strategies help prevent the spread of other common infectious diseases. All guidance, including this document, is subject to change as new information regarding COVID-19 becomes available.

The goals of the MWS Response Plan are to:

- Plan a safe school year of on-campus learning
- Protect & monitor the health of ourselves, our students, & our household members
- Keep our school classes and campus open
- Communicate frequently, clearly, and openly
- Work closely together to safeguard our community

HEALTH MEASURES & PROTOCOLS

The following Health Measure & Protocols are intended to create a safe and healthy environment for our school community by following recommendations from the Hawai'i State Department of Health Guidelines for K-12 Schools and the Department of Human Services Guidelines for Child Care Facilities.

We will need to actively work together and consciously practice the values that we hold dear and strive to imbue to our students: patience, grace, aloha, care for others, flexibility, and the ability to cooperate with each other in the spirit of goodwill.

We ask for your partnership and kōkua in keeping us all safe.

MWS Strategies:

1. HDOH promotes stay up to date on vaccinations
2. STAY HOME WHEN SICK
3. Masking correctly and consistently
4. Hygiene - Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette
5. Ventilation
6. `Ohana Bubbles/Cohorting
7. Cleaning & Disinfecting
8. Open Communication
9. Testing/Isolation/Exposure
10. Avoid Crowding

Vaccination

Our students' overall health is always a priority and concern. The school follows immunization requirements put in place by the Hawai'i State Board of Education and the Hawai'i Department of Health. Mālamalama Waldorf School advises our parents to consider their social and civic responsibility as members of the greater Big Island community when making decisions regarding immunization. We also recognize that a parent's decision to immunize their children happens before they enter school and that it is a decision made in consultation with their family doctor.

Fully vaccinated does NOT mean you are 100% protected against contracting or spreading the COVID-19 virus. You must still take precautions to keep yourself, your family, and our community safe.

Stay Home When Sick

People with symptoms of infectious diseases, including COVID-19, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and gastrointestinal infection, should stay home and get tested for COVID-19. Staying home when sick is our most important mitigation strategy to keep COVID-19 and other common infectious diseases from spreading through the school. All MWS staff, contracted service providers, visitors, and students need to complete a Daily Wellness Check each morning before going to school or work.

Daily Wellness Check for COVID-19-like Symptoms

- Fever (higher than 100°F or hot to the touch)
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If any symptoms of infectious illness or COVID-19 are present, stay home, test for COVID-19, to prevent the spread in school and follow the DOH's [Isolation and Exposure Guidance](#). Report any illness, a positive COVID-19 test, or COVID-19 exposure within the last 10 days to the office. To comply with reporting requirements of the [law](#), the school/office will need the date of the positive test and/or symptoms onset.

If someone develops symptoms at school/work, they will be required to go home and will need to wear a mask while waiting to be sent home. Those with symptoms who have not been tested, should be tested as soon as possible.

Free test kits are available and can be picked up in the office.

Masks

Correct and consistent mask use, regardless of vaccination status, reduces the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens. Wearing a well-fitting mask is highly effective and an inexpensive tool to protect yourself and others.

Please bring 2 clean masks in a ziplock bag to be kept in your child's school cubby.

- Indoor setting
 - Individuals who have been diagnosed with or tested positive for COVID-19, **must** wear a well fitting mask indoors on days 6-10 after completing home isolation.
 - Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 should start wearing a mask immediately when they learn of the exposure and for 10 full days.
 - Indoor masking is strongly encouraged when COVID-19 Community Levels are medium or high.
 - Universal indoor masking or targeted indoor masking (e.g., in a class or grade level) is strongly recommended in specific situations (e.g., high absenteeism, cluster of cases, outbreak).
 - The school will support anyone choosing to wear a mask indoors
 - If someone is unable or unwilling to wear a mask indoors and has tested positive with COVID-19, they must remain in isolation for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status.
 - Outdoor setting
 - Individuals do **not** need to wear masks in most outdoor settings.
 - The school will support anyone choosing to wear a mask outdoors
 - Masks must have at least 2 cloth layers (**no** gaiters, bandannas, vented masks, mesh, jeweled, etc.)
 - Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face and cover the nose and mouth
 - Face shields are not a substitute for masks
 - Masks can have any design or pattern if the design is not distracting and does not include advertising or political statements
- Masks are not required when children are resting or napping

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (i.e., covering coughs and sneezes) is a mitigation strategy to keep from getting and spreading respiratory illnesses including COVID-19.

All students, faculty and staff wash hands thoroughly and correctly preferably with soap & water

- Upon arrival on campus
- Before and after eating
- After the bathroom
- After touching mouth/nose
- After sneezing and coughing (into a tissue or crook of arm)
- Before and After recess
- Before leaving for the day
- Hand sanitizer available for use when there is no access to soap and water
- Children taught proper hygiene and monitored throughout the day

Ventilation

Optimizing ventilation helps improve air quality and reduce infectious disease risk.

- Windows and doors always open
- Circulating fans in place, when needed
- Activities and classes held outside, when possible
- All chanting, singing, playing flute/recorder occur outside
- Children should be prepared, with appropriate clothing, to spend extended time outside, rain or shine

Physical Distancing, `Ohana Bubbles/Cohorts

- Distancing will not take precedence over instruction or learning
- All classes in Grades 1-8 will be considered a single bubble/cohort
- The three Kinderhale classes will continue holding each class as a bubble/cohort
- Grades 1-8 `Ohana Bubbles/Cohorting will take effect when COVID-19 Community Levels are high or if MWS is experiencing a cluster of cases or outbreak
- Students will eat their snack and lunch outside as often as possible. Those eating inside will be socially distanced. There will be no sharing of food or utensils. The Grades lunch service is currently not available.
- Sleeping spaces will maximize social distancing and NO masks will be worn.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Risk of infection from touching surfaces is low
- Classrooms, outdoor tables, and common areas cleaned daily; high touch surfaces more frequently
- Ozone generators used indoors throughout the week after hours
- Full school deep cleaned weekly
- Spaces will be cleaned and disinfected where a sick person or if anyone tests positive for COVID-19 has been within the last 24 hours.

Open Communication: *This is vital to our success*

Families are asked to closely monitor the health of their child and their family daily.

- Parents, guardians, and caregivers show they have conducted their Daily Health Check by bringing their healthy child to school.

Please reach out to our MWS office if anyone in household:

- Has symptoms of COVID-19
- Tests positive for COVID-19

MWS is required by [law](#) to report all cases to Hawai'i Department of Health.

Testing

Testing is a strategy used to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to lessen learning disruptions. Testing is useful for diagnosis and when someone has symptoms or known exposure. *Quick Tests are available through MWS to take home while supplies last.*

MWS Students and Staff must test when:

- You have symptoms
- 5 days following travel regardless of symptoms
- 5 days after known exposure to someone with COVID-19
- Test results need to be reported to the Office (no pictures required) before returning to school or work. A negative test result is **not** required (but is recommended) if the person has completed 5 days of isolation.

Crowding

When COVID-19 Community Levels are medium or high or during a cluster of cases or outbreak, campus access will be discouraged to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

ISOLATION PROTOCOL

<p style="text-align: center;">COVID-19 Positive Test <u>or</u> COVID-19 Symptoms</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ACTIONS</p>
<p>Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, need to isolate for 5 days.</p> <p>Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected.</p> <hr/> <p>Students and staff who are sick with symptoms of COVID-19 but do not yet have test results, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Additional Considerations for Participation in High-risk Extracurricular Activities:</u> Participation in high-risk activities that increase disease transmission and do not allow for mask usage (e.g., indoor or close-contact sports, singing, playing wind instruments, etc.)</p>	<p>Students and staff can return to school:</p> <p>On <u>Day 6</u>, if positive test and NO symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must wear a well-fitted mask around others indoors from day 6 to day 10 after completing home isolation. <p>On <u>Day 6</u>, if positive test and <u>SYMPTOMS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 hours with no fever without use of fever reducing medications; <u>and</u> • Symptoms have improved; also • Must wear a well-fitting mask around others indoors from day 6 to day 10 of illness after completing home isolation. <p>If you have a fever or are not yet improving, remain in isolation until the above are true.</p> <hr/> <p>Students and staff can return to school:</p> <p>After a negative test <u>if</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 hours with no fever and without use of fever reducing medications <u>and</u> • Symptoms are improving <p>If you have a fever or are sick <u>and</u> your negative test was from a home test, continue to isolate and test again after 24-48 hours.</p> <hr/> <p>Participants can return to high-risk extracurricular activities on <u>Day 11.</u></p>

EXPOSURE TO A PERSON WITH COVID-19 PROTOCOL

COVID-19 Exposure	ACTIONS
<p>Students and staff who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected.</p> <hr/> <p>Students and staff who tested positive for COVID-19 within 30 days or less</p>	<p>Students and staff can return to school:</p> <p>Immediately if <u>NO</u> symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must wear a well-fitted mask indoors for 10 full days. <p>Watch for symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If symptoms start, isolate immediately. • Test and stay home until you know the result. • If positive, follow isolation protocol. <p>Test on <u>Day 6</u> even if no symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If positive, follow isolation protocol. • If negative, continue to wear a mask indoors through day 10. • COVID-19 can develop up to 10 days after exposure. <hr/> <p>Students and staff can return to school:</p> <p>Immediately if <u>NO</u> symptoms.</p> <p>Testing is <u>not</u> recommended if you have <u>no</u> symptoms.</p>

Parent Expectations

- Prepare children for school each day to include a Daily Health Check
- Kinderhale Parents will park along 26th or school parking lot for Drop off and Pick up and walk to their child's class gate
- Grades Parents will either utilize the circle for drop off and pick up **or**
- Grades Parents may park in school lot and either walk their child to class or let their child walk themselves
- Parents are welcome to participate in the Grades' Morning Protocol 8:00 am held on the first school day of the week
- All drivers must drive with caution and not loiter on campus
- The campus is closed during operating hours to all parents, visitors, and vendors without first checking in with the office
- Masks are optional in the Kinderhale and Grades except during times following travel, COVID-19 exposure, and following COVID-19 illness. Provide a proper clean mask for your child/ren as needed and have two masks in a plastic bag to remain in their cubby.
- Practice often proper handwashing
- Report all absences via email office@hawaiiwaldorf.org or call the office 982-7701
- Grades parents, prepare and pack individual student snacks/lunches/water including all utensils. Students need to bring containers they're able to open/close on their own
- If you need to bring something to your child, you will first need to call the office to arrange for drop off and someone from the office will gladly take the item(s) to your child's classroom
- Office is open to walk-ins with a recommendation to first call
- VOLUNTEERISM is greatly needed and always appreciated. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator or the office for opportunities. During Substantial/High transmission levels, volunteerism will be restricted to small numbers, socially distanced, and wearing a proper mask when indoors and unable to socially distance.
- Be Positive and Gracious when others offer safety reminders.
- Be Attentive and Helpful to anyone who may be in need of support

While a child missing school is an inconvenience for a family, closing a class or the entire school because we have a COVID-19 Cluster or Outbreak in our school community is a disruption we want to avoid. Although these restrictions may become tiring, please continue to do your part to keep our school community safe and healthy.

Events, Field, and Class Trips

- We look forward to bringing back our festival life, on-campus events, meetings, and other celebrations. This school year, we will be hosting on-campus group gatherings and scheduled events, except during community Substantial/High transmission levels.
- Field trips and class trips will resume but will be reassessed based on transmission levels.
- Mask wearing is recommended when boarding, disembarking, and for the duration of the travel.

Visiting Campus

We want all to feel welcome at our 'ohana school; however, risk mitigation measures must be in place to maintain the health and safety of our community.

ALL Campus Visitors are Required to:

- Perform a Daily Health Check for you and your family
- Check in with the office when on campus for any reason other than during morning drop off and afternoon pick up
- Wear a proper face mask correctly and consistently while physically distanced during Substantial/High transmission levels
- Sanitize hands
- No loitering. Anyone completing their school business needs to exit the premises. This limits class disruptions.

Adults & Children: International Travel

All international travelers will need to follow all State and Federal mandates. Any restrictions will require families to inform the MWS Office of travel plans.

DROP OFF and PICK UP

ALL Kinderhale students upon arrival, will be escorted by their parent/guardian to their child's designated check-in area located near your child's classroom outside the Kinderhale yard. Lilikoi class will be near the access gate to the play yard on 26th Avenue; Hui Kukui will be near the Kinderhale sign; Maile classroom will be at the wooden gate at the backside of the Watumull Building. Only Students may enter the school yard at their designated point of entry following the check-in procedures. Parents will need to say goodbye to their keiki at the gate and make sure the child will be accompanied by one of their teachers into the play yard.

There are no early drop offs and it is particularly important to be timely.

At pick up time, Kinderhale teachers will bring the children to the gate of their specific classroom (same as drop off gate) when their parent/caregiver arrives.

All Grade Students will have two options for drop off and pick up. Students may be dropped off/picked up at the circle off Maku'u between 26th and 27th or parents can park in the parking lot off of 26th and either have student(s) walk to/from class or parents may escort them. Every student must arrive with a water bottle filled with water, a morning snack, and a lunch. It is particularly important to be timely.

TARDY - Grades Parents that arrive after 7:55 am, will need to park in the parking lot off of 26th, and escort their child to the office to sign them in prior to them going to class. **Kinderhale parents** may escort their child to their class gate.

LEAVE EARLY - Any Students that are needing to leave school early, will be required to have parent/guardian call the office to arrange for sign out in advance of departure or submit information to teacher and office via email office@hawaiiwaldorf.org or call 808-982-7701.

School supplies will need to be brought in by your child during the Parent Welcome or the first day of school.

DROP OFF / PICK UP SCHEDULE

KINDERHALE		GRADES	
Drop Off	8:00 - 8:15 am	Drop Off	7:35 - 7:55 am
Pick Up M-Th	2:00-2:15 pm	Pick Up M-Th	2:30 - 2:45 pm
Pick Up F	12:00-12:15 pm	Pick Up F	12:30 - 12:45 pm

*** Late pick ups will be charged a fee of \$1.00 per minute**

After School Care

We will begin the school year with the day programs only, with every effort to provide after school care as soon as possible. COVID-19 protocols will apply.

Additional Information

What to do if there is a COVID-19 infection:

- Anyone who shows symptoms while at school will need to be isolated, wear a mask, and go home immediately
- Anyone confirmed to have COVID-19 will need to inform the school office
- The school will provide appropriate information to the school community while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act
- The room(s) will be cleaned and disinfected where a positive case has been
- If confirmed positive, you can return to school when the following conditions are met:
 - See Isolation and Exposure Protocols

DISTANCE LEARNING

- In the event of a physical campus closure due to a confirmed cluster or outbreak, a portion of or the entire campus will move to Distance Learning
- We have developed ways to deliver curriculum and provide family support through curriculum packets, Google Classroom, and Zoom

OFFICE HOURS

The office will be open *M-TH 7:45 am-3:00 pm; F 7:45 am-1:00 pm* to walk-in traffic to better serve our community. However, the office will close to walk-ins if/when transmission levels are Substantial/High to ensure the health and safety of our staff. To maintain personal connections during such times, we will ask that you call in advance with any needs so we can do our best to help.

SUPPORT for OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

As we work together to create a warm and familiar school environment, we are relying upon our school 'ohana to support your child. We ask that you please be mindful that children take their cues from the adults that surround them. We will all have varying risk profiles and tolerances, as well as unique viewpoints, perspectives, and experiences. While we, of course, respect your choices, we kindly ask that you please respect the choices of others even if they are different from your own when working within the context of school activities.

Keeping our community safe and intact is a high priority at our school. Please contact the administrative office if your family is experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.

We will continue to monitor information from public health officials to keep you informed of any changes.

We are looking forward to seeing you!

As the school administration, faculty, and staff, we will do our absolute best to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the students in our care. As a parent or caregiver with a student attending MWS, it is your responsibility to follow the relevant measures and processes outlined in this Plan.

We are working our way through this process together, one step at a time and your cooperation and goodwill have been an incredible gift to us all through this journey thus far. We appreciate your understanding that revisions to this plan may be made to meet future requirements, as necessary.

Please contact the School Director, Kelley Lacks, admin@hawaiiwaldorf.org if you have questions or need additional information.

Mahalo A Nui Loa

We hold the health and safety of our keiki, 'ohana, kumus, and staff foremost in our hearts and minds. Please watch for further communications from the school as we continue to work together. Please speak to your teacher if you have special considerations regarding your child.