



# **Mālamalama Waldorf School**

## **COVID-19 Response Plan**

**School Year 2023-2024**

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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.

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 and healthy school year using the guidance from the Hawai'i Department of Health and the Department of Human Services.
- Protect & monitor the health of ourselves, our students, & our household members
- Keep our school classes and campus fully operational
- 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 healthy.**

## **MWS Strategies:**

1. HDOH promotes stay up to date on vaccinations
2. STAY HOME WHEN SICK
3. Testing
4. Ventilation
5. Hygiene - Hand Washing and Respiratory Etiquette
6. Cleaning and Disinfecting
7. Masking correctly and consistently as needed
8. Management of Cases & Exposures
9. Responding to Outbreaks
10. Open Communications

## **Vaccinations**

Staying up to date on routine vaccinations is recommended by the Department of Health. We as a school recognize parents/guardians have come to our school already having made decisions concerning vaccinations which we will respect.

## **Stay Home When Sick**

People who do not feel well or have any symptoms of illness should stay home. If someone comes to school/work with symptoms of illness or develops symptoms of illness at school/work, they will be sent home or to a healthcare facility depending on symptom severity. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or have [symptoms of COVID-19](#) should follow the DOH [Isolation and Exposure Guidance for K-12 Schools](#).

Staying home when sick is our most important mitigation strategy to keep COVID-19 and other common infectious diseases from spreading through the school.

## **Test**

People with [symptoms of COVID-19](#) should [get tested](#) as soon as possible. If exposed to someone with COVID-19, get tested at least five full days after your last exposure, even if no symptoms develop. To find a COVID-19 testing location near you, use the CDC [testing locator](#). Individuals who test positive for COVID-19, have [symptoms of COVID-19](#) or were exposed to someone with COVID-19, should follow the DOH [Isolation and Exposure Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)

## **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 will practice proper [handwashing](#) 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

## 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.

## Masks

Wearing a [well-fitting mask](#) consistently and correctly reduces the [risk of spreading the virus](#) that causes COVID-19. Anyone who chooses to wear a mask will be supported in their decision to do so.

***Please bring 2 clean masks in a ziplock bag to be kept in your child's school cubby when required to wear a mask***

- 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.
  - Universal indoor masking or targeted indoor masking (e.g., in a class or grade level) is strongly recommended in specific situations (e.g., 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.

**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 a daily health check by bringing their healthy child to school.

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

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

MWS is asked to report any suspected outbreaks and clusters of COVID-19, Influenza, and Gastrointestinal Illnesses to Hawai'i Department of Health.

# ISOLATION PROTOCOL

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COVID-19 Positive Test <u>or</u> COVID-19 Symptoms</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACTIONS</b></p>
<p>Students and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, <b>need to isolate for 5 days.</b></p> <p><b>Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms started or your positive test specimen was collected.</b></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><b><u>Additional Considerations for Student Athletes:</u></b> 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><b><u>Students and staff can return to school:</u></b></p> <p><b>On <u>Day 6</u>,</b> if positive test and <b><u>NO</u></b> symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wear a well-fitted mask</b> around others indoors from <b>day 6 to day 10</b> after completing home isolation.</li> </ul> <p><b>On <u>Day 6</u>,</b> if positive test and <b><u>SYMPTOMS:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 hours with no fever (and no fever reducing medications); <b><u>and</u></b></li> <li>• Symptoms are improving.</li> <li>• <b>Wear a well-fitted mask</b> around others indoors from <b>day 6 to day 10</b> of illness after completing home isolation.</li> </ul> <p>If you have a fever or are not yet improving, remain in isolation until the above are true.</p> <hr/> <p><b><u>Students and staff can return to school:</u></b></p> <p><b>After a negative test <u>if</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 hours with no fever (and no fever reducing medications) <b><u>and</u></b></li> <li>• Symptoms are improving.</li> </ul> <p>If you have a fever or are sick <b><u>and</u></b> 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 sport when fever free for a minimum of 24 hrs, symptom free, and in compliance with COVID-19 isolation and exposure guidance for schools.</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><b>Day 1 is the first full day after exposure to the person with COVID-19.</b></p> <hr/> <p>Students and staff who tested positive for COVID-19 within 30 days or less</p>	<p><b><u>Students and staff can return to school:</u></b></p> <p><b>Immediately if there are NO symptoms.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wear a well-fitted mask indoors for 10 full days.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Watch</b> for symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If symptoms start, isolate immediately.</li> <li>• Test and stay home until you know the result.</li> <li>• If positive, follow isolation protocol.</li> </ul> <p><b>Test on <u>Day 6</u></b> even if there are no symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If positive, follow isolation protocol.</li> <li>• If negative, continue to wear a mask indoors through day 10.</li> <li>• COVID-19 can develop up to 10 days after exposure.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b><u>Students and staff can return to school:</u></b></p> <p><b>Immediately if there are NO symptoms.</b></p> <p>Testing is <b><u>not</u></b> recommended if you have <b><u>no</u></b> symptoms.</p>

## **Parent Expectations**

- Prepare healthy children for school each day.
- 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 the 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.
- All parents, visitors, and vendors must always first check in with the office.
- Masks are optional in the Kinderhale and Grades except during COVID-19 exposure and following a 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 when required to wear a mask.
- Practice often proper handwashing.
- Report all absences via email [office@hawaiiwaldorf.org](mailto:office@hawaiiwaldorf.org) or call the office 982-7701
- 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.

## **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 as directed by the Hawai'i Departments of Health and Human Services.

### **ALL Campus Visitors are Required to:**

- Perform a daily health check for you and your family to insure you are well.
- Check in with the office when on campus for any reason other than during morning drop off and afternoon pick up.

# 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 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 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, must park in the parking lot off of 26<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 is open *M-TH 7:30 am-3:00 pm; F 7:30 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.

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 and appreciate your cooperation and goodwill that 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](mailto:admin@hawaiiwaldorf.org) if you have questions or need additional information.

**Mahalo A Nui Loa**