



COVID-19 Precautions for the 2020-21 School Year

School plans will evolve as required by emerging health risk assessments. August 7, 2020

On June 9, 2020, the Government of Saskatchewan announced that in-school learning will resume for the 2020-21 school year. Allegro has developed guidelines to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 with the goal of protecting the children and staff.

We understand that some of the guidelines will feel restrictive. They have been constructed with the guidance and approval of the Independent Schools, the Saskatchewan government, and our areas health officer. We appreciate the effort of each family to help protect everyone in the Allegro community.

What is COVID-19?

A new virus in the coronavirus family of viruses. It typically infects the respiratory system.

“The infection transmits via coughing and sneezing (droplet transmission). It can also be spread by touching surfaces with the virus on it and then touching your mouth nose or eyes before washing your hands.”

[Government of Saskatchewan website: About COVID-19](#)

- **Common Symptoms:**
 - new or worsening cough
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - temperature equal to or over 38°C
 - chills
 - fatigue or weakness
 - muscle or body aches
 - new loss of smell or taste
 - headache
 - gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting)
 - feeling very unwell
 - Children have been more commonly reported to have abdominal symptoms, and skin changes or rashes.
- **If you or your child are displaying any of the above symptoms, please keep them home.**
- **Children with the above symptoms will be isolated and sent home immediately.**

Protect Yourself

Please practice these actions with your child -

- Coughing etiquette
- Washing hands
- Wearing a mask

- Practice proper coughing and sneezing etiquette (into a tissue or the bend of your elbow).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you cannot wash your hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Practice safe distancing and wearing a mask.
- Clean and disinfect your home regularly.
- Maintain safe food practices.
- Avoid unnecessary travel to infected areas.
- Avoid large crowds.

Before Re-Opening

- All our environments (classrooms) and materials have been sanitized.
- Communal items in the school, (i.e. water fountains) have been closed.
- Preparations made for each environment to function autonomously.
- Extra provisions required for immune compromised students will be made as parents/guardians require.

Staff and Screening

- Staff must be in-province for 14 days before school starts.
- Staff must self monitor for 14 days following out of province travel.
- Before they enter the school daily, each staff member must assess themselves for COVID-19 symptoms, sending temperature reading to Head of School.
- COVID -19 symptoms require an automatic isolation and testing.
- Provisions will be made for immune compromised staff who need to wear/have extra protection.
- Mental and emotional supports are in place.

School Attendance

We will err on the side of caution if there is a question about health.

- Allegro Montessori School expects that you are following Saskatchewan Health's latest guidelines. As of September 14, 2020, they advise avoiding non-essential out of country travel and are advising to limit non-essential travel out of province as well.
- Allegro Montessori expects that if you or anyone in your social bubble are out of province, you will closely self monitor for fourteen days.

School Entrance

- If your job requires you to work out of province the expectation is that you will closely self monitor and be tested regularly for COVID-19.
- If you or anyone in your social bubble have been out of country within fourteen days, our expectation is that your child will not enter the school for fourteen days from the date of contact.
- ***Parent/guardian must keep up to date emergency contact information. Someone must be available for pick up at anytime during the school day.***
- Students must exhibit none of the above listed COVID-19 symptoms.
- The student's temperature will be taken daily at 9:30 a.m. and evaluation of symptoms will begin there.

***All people 2.5 years or older must wear a mask when entering the building.
All people 2.5 years or older must wear a mask in Allegro hallways.***

- **A.M. and P.M. Extended Care information.**
(7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)
 - **Extended Care will be a combination of students from different rooms.**
 - Students ***must*** wear a mask while in Extended Care.
 - Extended Care room toys/activities will be single use only.
 - Drop off and sign in by texting (306) 741-8406 and your child will be met at the door.
 - Pick up and sign out by texting (306) 741-8406 and your child will be brought to the door.
 - Students leaving Extended Care will wear their mask to their Casa or Elementary room.
 - Students will be walked by staff member to their respective rooms at 8:30 a.m.
- **KISS AND FLY IS ENCOURAGED AS YOUR BEST DROP OFF OPTION.**
 - **The designated area in front of Allegro is for our Kiss and Fly drop off.**
 - It minimizes the number of people in the school.
 - It promotes the independence of your child.
- **It is critical that Allegro families always use the Allegro entrance.**
 - You will not be permitted entrance or exit at any Roland Michener access point.
- Masks are required for all students 2.5 years and older.
 - These masks are to be worn in Extended Care, the hallways, and bathrooms.
 - **These masks must be supplied by the child's parent/guardian.**
- Students in Toddler Program needing accompaniment into the school will bring in ONE adult only.

In House Changes

- All adults entering the school will not be allowed to enter the student's environments.
 - All adults entering the school must register with the QR code on the Allegro doors.
 - All students will have their temperature checked at 9:30 every morning.
 - Students will be met in the lobby by staff and elementary helpers and walked to their rooms.
 - Alumni are encouraged to walk to their environment independently.
 - Please arrive with your child's backpack containing only:
 - their lunch kit and water bottle(s),
 - several changes of clothing to remain in their locker.
 - **No extras please** (this includes toys, stuffies or any extra items from home).
 - Every time a student enters or exits their environment, they will be required to use hand sanitizer. At this time, hand sanitizer from home **will not** be allowed.
 - Each environment opens at 8:30, leaving a half hour for staggered drop off.
 - We no longer shake hands and say hello when we arrive.
 - Instead we ask our students to look us in the eye and say hello.
-

- Each student will have their own basket containing materials such as pencil, eraser, crayons, scissors, and individual rug for floor work.
- All other materials will be limited to one use and then sanitized appropriately.
- Each environment will have a "to be cleaned" table where used communal materials will be placed on to be disinfected before another student's use.
- More practical life materials will be provided so that there are always materials on the shelves to explore.
- Two person tables will be divided with see through shields.
- Students will stay in their environment and outside as much as possible.
- Environments will be sanitized as needed and at end of day.
- Hand washing and hygiene will continue to be taught daily as part of the Montessori curriculum.
- Individual work and lessons will continue as part of the Montessori pedagogy.
 - Directors and aides will be wearing masks and/or shields during individual work and lessons.
- Mental and emotional supports for our students have always been in place by way of Montessori philosophy and pedagogy. We see and respond to the needs of the whole child.
- NO outside food or treats brought for your child's classmates please.

Bathroom Usage

- All parent/guardian conferences will be held via telephone and/or Zoom. This includes both school scheduled conferences and parent/guardian requested meetings. Dropping in to chat with the director is no longer feasible.
- There will be no bussing of students during the school year.
- Staff meetings happen via zoom from each separate environment.

-
- Each environment will have a designated bathroom stall, sink, and soap.
 - Physical distancing will be maintained while waiting to use the bathroom facilities.
 - Bathroom will be monitored and cleaned by staff regularly.
-

Snack, Lunch and Recess

- **Lunch**
 - To avoid cross contamination issues, students will eat directly from their lunch kits and thermoses.
 - Please do not send plates or bowls for your child.
 - Please provide all eating utensils they will need.
 - Spare cutlery and eating materials will no longer be available.
- We will no longer provide **snack** containers. All snack containers will be kept with the child in their basket throughout the day.
- ***There are no available water fountains in the school!***
 - Please send water in a bottle for your child! We will be able, as far as we know, to fill up their bottles at lunch but will not be able to do it during the day. Send two bottles if you feel your child will need it.
- **Recess**
 - For now, recess will happen in four different areas. Each environment/cohort will play in one of these areas each recess.
 - Each room has a selection of their own balls and equipment for recess and PE use.
 - We will make our recess groupings larger and more varied as regulations allow.

Procedure in Case of Illness

-
- Students who have travelled outside the province must quarantine for 14 days.
 - **Students displaying any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated and sent home:**
 - new or worsening cough
 - shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - temperature equal to or over 38°C
 - chills
 - fatigue or weakness

- muscle or body aches
- new loss of smell or taste
- headache
- gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting)
- feeling very unwell
- Children have been more commonly reported to have abdominal symptoms, and skin changes or rashes.
- When students display symptoms at school the following steps will be taken:
 - The student will be immediately masked and isolated with supervision.
 - The student will be cared for by masked members of the admin team.
 - Emergency contact will be notified, and child will be picked up immediately.
 - 811 will be called by parent/guardian and instructions for testing and isolation followed explicitly.
 - We will then proceed as directed by the Saskatchewan Health Authority

If your child commonly displays any of these symptoms as part of another ailment, please notify us at the start of the year. We will do our best to differentiate between regular health issues and worrisome symptoms.

Shared Spaces / Specialties

- Any special guests will be invited by Zoom.
 - Physical education will be taught by directors and aides.
 - Physical education will happen outside as weather allows.
 - Small gym will be used only when we are not able to be outside.
 - French will be taught by Diane Kemp, a current staff member.
 - Music will still be taught by music specialist if space for a socially distanced class is provided.
 - Art will not be taught by a specialist, instead it will become a regular part of the Montessori day.
-
-

Environment Dismissal

- One adult only per family in the school.
- All Allegro staff, parents or guardians on the premises must wear a mask.
- Please do not congregate in the halls ahead of pick up time.
- Your child will be released to you as soon as you arrive; just knock on the door of their environment.
 - Lunch time parents/guardians please pick up between 11:50 a.m. and 12:05 p.m.
 - After school parents/guardians please pick up between 2:20 p.m. and 3:40 p.m.
- Please leave a space around the environment door so that children may exit to parent/guardian while trying to maintain social distancing.

In Case of Shutdown

- Please do not visit together around the lockers or remain in the school for visiting between families.
 - Please do not congregate in the front lobby to visit. Despite the weather please visit outside the building and away from the door.

-
- All instruction will happen through Zoom, See Saw and other forms of communication.
 - A combination of morning Zoom sessions, assignments and activities given to occupy their afternoons.
 - Zoom sessions will be a combination of whole group, small group and individual lessons and conversations.
 - As before each Director will specifically tailor their offerings after they assess the individual needs of their children. All “schedules” will be approved by the Head of School.

Any questions you have regarding the opening of school in September may go directly to Liz Reynolds (Head of School) at hosallegro@sasktel.net.