

The Montessori Elementary School

Mary Jane Besante, Principal

August 6, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Montessori Elementary & Middle School is working with the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) and New Mexico's Department of Health (NMDOH) because a staff member at our facility or a child who attends our school has tested positive for COVID-19.

This letter is to inform you about the next steps necessary to protect your child and our community from COVID-19. Per guidance from both NMPED and NMDOH, we are required to investigate to see who had "close contact" with the staff member or student who tested positive for COVID-19. A "close contact" is defined as being closer than six feet for a cumulative total of fifteen minutes or more over a 24-hour period to a person who is positive for COVID-19.

According to NMPED and NMDOH, all students and staff who were in "close contact" with the infected individual are encouraged to be tested seven to ten days after close contact exposure to the positive COVID-19 individual. "Close contacts" must self-quarantine at home for ten days, regardless of the test result.

In the meantime, if you or your child begin to develop symptoms of COVID-19, which are fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of smell or taste, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea [<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>], please call your healthcare provider or the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-855-600-3453.

It is important that you call ahead to your healthcare provider before presenting to the physician's office, clinic, urgent care or emergency room so that they can be prepared for your arrival. They may also refer you to a testing clinic.

Areas of the school (including buses) in which the COVID-19 positive individual spent time will be cleaned, **and those who were close contacts of the positive case will be notified via email.**

Please continue to send your child to school unless you are notified that your child was a "close contact" of a positive COVID-19 individual, your child develops COVID-19 symptoms, or your child has a positive COVID-19 test. Likewise, your household members do not need to quarantine unless your child tests positive for COVID-19 or your household members are identified as a "close contact" of a positive COVID-19 individual.

You may email Stan Albrycht at covid.info@tmesnm.com or call NMDOH at (505) 827-0006, if you have questions. Thank you for your support in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Besante and Stan Albrycht