

July 29, 2021

Dear Casa Esperanza Parents,

In light of the updated [NC DHHS StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit \(K-12\)](#), the Casa Esperanza Montessori Charter School Administration is implementing a universal mask policy for all students, faculty, and staff while indoors for ages three (3) and above. Masks will not be required outdoors, while eating indoors, or for those who qualify for mask exceptions as outlined in the toolkit. We fully expect all students to be in face-to-face learning, to the best of our ability, three feet of distance whenever possible while following state and local requirements regarding COVID19.

Per the Governor's Press Release on July 21, 2021: "The updated StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit is aligned with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics guidance, which urges that everything possible be done to keep students in schools and emphasizes continued masking. The Toolkit says schools with students in kindergarten through eighth grade should require all children and staff to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status."

On Thursday, July 29th at 7:00, I will be hosting a live training session on the official Casa Esperanza Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/CEMCS>. Feel free to join us there and ask your question.

We plan to continue to monitor COVID19 metrics and follow updated official guidance with the safety of students, staff, and families uppermost in mind. In the event that we receive instructions indicating the need to move to a remote learning plan, we will provide you with as much advance notice as possible. If you have any questions or concerns about the school's policies and practices around COVID19, please speak with our COVID19 Care Coordinator or Head of School.

Kind regards,

Teresa Outlaw & Dr. Tom Miller (Interim)
Head of School
Casa Esperanza Montessori Charter School



2021-22 Guidance for Parents

Safe School Practices Under COVID19

What Will the School Do to Keep My Child Safe?	What Can I Do To Help?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Require masks for all those who enter the building. ● Ensure students age 3 and over, staff, and any visitors wear appropriate face coverings when in the building. ● Limit non-essential visitors and activities involving external groups or organizations. ● Provide physical distancing floor/seating markings where necessary. ● Work to ensure students maintain a safe (3 feet) distance apart in lines and at other times when they may congregate. ● Work to ensure a 3 feet of distance where possible between students in classrooms to the greatest extent possible. ● Have teachers and staff monitor arrival and dismissal to encourage students to go straight from a vehicle to their classrooms and vice-versa. ● Choose physical education activities to assure that any close contact between students during those activities is limited and brief. ● Limit in-person activities that involve bringing together large groups of people or activities that do not allow for physical distancing (assemblies, performances, field trips, etc.) ● Utilize proper hand-washing techniques and provide frequent hand-washing or hand sanitizing opportunities for students and staff. ● Require that each student have an individual supply box to limit sharing of supplies within the classroom. ● Clean materials and seating areas throughout the school day. ● Monitor for symptoms and take appropriate steps to address presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID19. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please help keep our community safe by keeping your child home when sick. ● Reinforce the importance of good hygiene, keeping a safe distance, and mask wearing. ● Notify the COVID Care Coordinator or the School Nurse if your child has been exposed to the virus. <p>*Please see the COVID19 Care Coordinator (Head of School) if you need to request a mask accommodation for your child with a medical condition or disability that renders mask-wearing harmful or medically inadvisable.</p> <div data-bbox="922 1423 1409 1690" style="background-color: #4a86e8; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <p>The COVID19 outbreak has been incredibly stressful for all. Access to mental health and wellness can be found at: 211 and Hope4NC Helpline 1-855-587-3463.</p> </div>