



Painted Oak Nature School • Caregiver & Child • Pandemic Protocols

(last updated 1/26/21)

As a parent, you may be wondering how we plan to keep each child, parent, and staff member safe on our campus in the midst of the pandemic and the aftermath. Below is a list of the protocols that we are putting in place, as well as a list of what you need to know, as we will be asking for your assistance and cooperation during this time of change.

First and foremost, we want to thank you for your diligence, and remind you that as the situation evolves, so, too, will our protocols. We have put into place several different plans, depending on the severity of the outbreak in our area, that we will move between in order to facilitate a healthy environment for everyone among the changing requirements.

Painted Oak Nature School will:

- Keep group sizes as small as possible with a max of no more than 10 children and 1 caregiver per child. 1 teacher will guide the session.
- Have our students remain entirely separate from the public and other PONS classes to the best of our abilities.
- Keep our program 100% outdoors, which is the safest place to be during this time!
- Space our tree stump seating further apart to enable each child/caregiver a distance barrier during gathering times.
- Staff will actively monitor children/caregivers throughout the class for symptoms of any kind, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, rash on body including toes/feet, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting and children/caregivers exhibiting signs of illness should be separated from the larger group.
- Provide only materials that are easily cleaned, limit sharing of materials, and clean them frequently: as necessary throughout the session, as well as at the end of the class. These materials will only be used by the same group of children.
- While outside, teachers will wear masks around their necks, but not on their faces, unless physical distancing is not possible, then they will raise their masks to provide care or comfort to children as needed.
- Children will not be required to wear masks while outside however it is **highly recommended** that your child (older than 2 years old) wear a face covering when close to other children. We will respect, honor, and support family preference during outdoor times.
- Caregivers will be required to wear masks whenever social distancing is not possible.
- If you need to come inside the building at any point (ie. to use the restroom) children (over the age of 2)/caregivers will be required to wear masks (per Governor Murphy's mandate 8/3/2020)
- We will allow children to interact normally. We feel that it is important for children to be children, so we will not interfere with their play unless it feels unsafe.
- Ask a series of short questions daily at arrival to help minimize possible transmission of coronavirus, including a temperature reading of both the child and caregiver, as we will track temperatures daily.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body fluids will be removed, and will not be returned until they have been thoroughly cleaned.
- Provide hand washing stations in every outdoor classroom.

- Children will be monitored while handwashing at appropriate times throughout the day (upon arrival, before and after eating, after toileting, after coughing or sneezing, etc)
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We ask that you make sure to:

- Take your child's temperature, as well as the caregiver who will be attending class, before leaving for school-if they have a fever, please keep them home. We will have thermometers available on-site to take their temperature upon arrival, but anyone with a fever will not be allowed to attend class until they are 24 hours fever free with no fever-reducing medication
- Ensure that your child/caregiver has been fever free for 24 hours prior to drop off, without the aid of any fever reducing medications
- We ask that caregivers wear masks on campus whenever social distancing is not an option
- Let us know if anyone in your home/caregiver's home, or anyone who has been in direct contact with your child, has tested positive for COVID- 19 so that we may take steps to ensure the health of all others in the group
- Keep extra clothes in a wet bag inside your child's backpack, as well as have a second, empty wet bag for any soiled or contaminated clothing - <https://tinyurl.com/y97rp2o2>
- Pack your child food that is easy to eat out on the trails. If they require utensils, please provide them, as we will not have any with us. Parents will provide snack. We ask that if your child or caregiver exhibits any of the symptoms below, that you keep them removed from campus until they are no longer exhibiting symptoms for 24 hours.
- Children and caregivers should come to class with a mask or two in the event they need to come into the building or social distancing is not possible.

What you and your child can expect at arrival:

Teachers will ask you a few short questions each day, so please know to anticipate them, and be ready with answers:

- Has anyone in the household traveled anywhere outside of the immediate area within the last 14 days?
- Have either the child or the caregiver taken fever reducing medication within the last 24 hours?
- Have either the child or the caregiver had close contact with anyone diagnosed with Covid-19 in the past 14 days?
- Is anyone within the household experiencing cough, shortness of breath, or trouble breathing?
- Is anyone within the household experiencing TWO or more of the following symptoms: headache, fever, muscle pain, chills, new loss of taste or smell?

You will not be able to participate in class if your child/caregiver has:

- Fever (100.4)
- Persistent cough
- Difficulty breathing

Or if we see 2 or more of the following symptoms:

- Sore throat

- Stomachache
- Chills
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches
- Rash or discoloration of skin

The above list is in addition to our regular policy on communicable diseases-

“A center serving well children shall not permit a child who has any of the illnesses or symptoms of illness specified below to be admitted to the center on a given day unless medical diagnosis from a health care provider, which has been communicated to the center in writing, or verbally with a written follow-up, indicates that the child poses no serious health risk to himself or herself or to other children. Such illnesses or symptoms of illness shall include, but not be limited to, any of the following:

- Severe pain or discomfort
- Acute diarrhea, characterized as twice the child's usual frequency of bowel movements with a change to a looser consistency within a period of 24 hours, or bloody diarrhea
- Two or more episodes of acute vomiting within a period of 24 hours
- Lethargy that is more than expected tiredness
- Yellow eyes or jaundiced skin
- Red eyes with discharge
- Infected, untreated skin patches
- Difficult rapid breathing or severe coughing
- Skin rashes in conjunction with fever or behavior changes
- Weeping or bleeding skin lesions that have not been treated by a health care provider
- Mouth sores with drooling
- Stiff neck

In Case of Exposure

- Children/caregivers or staff with a fever (100.4F or higher), cough, or shortness of breath will be excluded from the center. Children/caregivers with household members who are known to have COVID-19 will also be excluded from the center for 14 days. *PONS will not prorate or provide refunds of tuition if your child has to be excluded from the school due to a positive test result of COVID-19 by a child, parent or staff member.*
- If a child/caregiver develops symptoms of COVID-19 (fever of 100.4 or higher, cough or shortness of breath) while at the center, they will be asked to leave class. If symptoms persist or worsen, please call your healthcare provider for further guidance. Please report to the school leadership team immediately if your child/caregiver is diagnosed with COVID-19.
- If a child/caregiver tests positive for COVID-19, you should contact the local health jurisdiction to identify the close contacts who will need to quarantine. It is likely that all members of the infected child/caregiver’s class would be considered close contacts.
- Upon notification of a confirmed case of COVID-19 among our staff, parents, or children, we will consider closing at least temporarily (e.g. for 14 days, or possibly longer if advised by local

health officials). *PONS will not prorate or provide refunds of tuition if we are closing due to a positive test result of COVID-19 by a child, parent or staff member.*

- If the infected individual with confirmed or suspected COVID 19 spent minimal time (i.e. 10 minutes or less) in close contact with those in the SCHOOL BUILDING, the school may consider closing for 2-5 days to do a thorough cleaning and disinfecting and to continue to monitor ill individuals. *PONS will not prorate or provide refunds of tuition if we are closing due to a positive test result of COVID-19 by a child, parent or staff member.*
- If a staff member, child, or caregiver has symptoms of COVID or is in close contact of someone with COVID-19, they can return to the school when the following conditions are met:
 - *If you had a fever, 3 days after the fever ends AND you see an improvement in your initial symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)*
 - *If an individual believes they have had close contact to someone with COVID-19 but are not currently sick, they should notify a member of management and monitor their health for fever, cough, and shortness of breath during the 14 days after the last day they were in close contact with the sick person with COVID-19. They should not go to work or school, and should avoid public places for 14 days.*