

# COVID-19 Response Plan

Based on the amount of COVID-19 still circulating as of March 2021 and the CDC's latest recommendations for childcare/school settings, we consider the precautions explained here to be the baseline in our effort to keep our families safe and free to play and learn.

We will closely monitor the rates of infection and make changes to our policies as recommended by local and national officials.

Case data by country can be found here:

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view> .

The CDC recommendations for schools can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

***We ask all families to be critically careful and exceptionally generous about the extent of infection risk you allow in your own social encounters, with transparency in the event of exposure, and in staying home in case of any hint of COVID-19 symptoms.***

## Highlights

- The Unschool of San Antonio staff are fully vaccinated.
- All adults will wear masks at drop-off and pick-up, including staff.
- The teacher at The Unschool of San Antonio will be unmasked through the day and will strictly follow the CDC guidelines and avoid all but essential social interaction.
- At this time, children will not be required to wear masks outside and will be considered "one cohort" of no more than eight children (five in addition to the three in our own family).
- When the weather forces us to move to the Indoor Classroom, adults and children will wear masks. We will provide disposal child-sized masks and open windows (when safe) to enhance ventilation.

- **Come-and-Play days will be limited to one parent/guardian (with mask) and child(ren) without masks.**
- **All family events will be modified and held virtually until further notice. If it seems possible to hold in-person, socially-distant events, we will notify everyone and explain protocol.**

**Please take note of the following policies and procedures. Where they contradict our Parent Handbook, the COVID-19 Response Plan will take precedence.**

### **Check-In and Pick-Up**

Families will be greeted at the gate where the teacher will greet the child(ren) who will not be masked. Parents and other family members are not required to enter the gates but will be allowed inside the gate when wearing masks. Adults are asked to maintain the recommended six-feet of distance from all other children and staff. Prior to parents leaving the site, we will take the temperature of the child(ren) and ask parents the following questions:

- Do you live with anyone or have you had close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
- Do you or anyone in your household have a fever, cough and/or shortness of breath?
- Do you or your child(ren) have any other signs of communicable illness such as a cold or flu?

Children will wash their hands immediately upon entering the gate and throughout the day. A hand-washing station will be set up just inside the gate. Children will change their shoes, storing their "home" shoes in a cubby at the gate and putting on their mud boots or the "school only" shoes of choice).

Upon your arrival to pick up your child, we will bring your child to the gate. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

### **Healthy Environment**

- We are limiting the inaugural class to no more than eight children (our three and five more).
- We will disinfect high-touch surfaces, such as restroom fixtures, tables, chairs, outdoor faucets, and toys/games at least once daily.

- Outdoor toys/surfaces will have the benefit of UV rays for disinfection. We will use a bleach solution to clean outdoor toys overnight when necessary.
- We will perform an enhanced deep cleaning every night in all areas, on all touched surfaces, using CDC and EPA approved, non-toxic cleaners.
- Adults will use anti-bacterial hand sanitizers and disposable gloves when needed.
- Adults will wash their hands and monitor the children washing their hands before eating, when grouping together for a shared activity or lesson, before and after interaction with animals, etc.
- No tours will be given to reduce the number of visitors to the property.

### **Indoor Classroom**

We use our Indoor Classroom in cases of severe weather, temperatures below 32F, or temperatures over 100F. If weather makes it necessary to move inside, we will take the following precautions:

- Adults and children will wear masks.
- Children will be provided a child-sized, disposable mask. These masks will be disposed of and new ones provided should we need to return to the classroom later in the day or subsequent days.
- Windows will be open and fans used to enhance ventilation when possible.
- All toys, books, and games children play with while indoors will be cleaned with/soaked in CDC/EPA-approved cleaners overnight.

### **Snack/Meal Preparation and Service**

- All surfaces (whether indoor or outdoor) will be disinfected before snack/meal preparation and service using CDC/EPA-approved products.
- Adults and children will wash hands before and after snacks and lunch.
- Each child's snack will be plated and served by staff, instead of served family-style.
- Children will not cook together or share serviceware until further notice.
- Lunch packs will be wiped down before being stored in the refrigerator each day and before being stored in cubbies to return home.
- Children will be encouraged to maintain distance from one another when eating.

## Child Health

- Children who start to experience symptoms of respiratory illness, including a fever of >100.4F will be isolated from other children (with a familiar adult) until they can be picked up.
- If a child or family has been exposed to someone who has tested positive or is a presumptive case, we will require that they self-quarantine for a minimum of 10 days and do not attend school.
- Do not bring your children to school if they have any of these three symptoms:
  - Fever over 100.4F
  - Coughing
  - Shortness of breath

Children exhibiting any of the above symptoms will be expected to remain out of school for 72 hours after a cough/fever are resolved without medication or for 10 days from the onset of any other symptoms and symptom free for at least 72 hours.

Other symptoms reported with COVID-19 such as:

- Chills
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

(source: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/#symptoms> )

A runny nose alone is not a COVID-19 symptom and does not in itself require keeping a child home from school, but should a runny nose present with a second symptom, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, a child should remain at home until symptom-free for at least 72 hours.

If your child or someone in your household has COVID-19, we will require a physician's note before the child can return to school.

## Staff Health & Wellness

- Adults will not share their phone, other device, meal, or utensils with children.
- Adults will check their temperature at the beginning of each day and notify parents if >100.4F and self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Should any adult experience fever, cough, or shortness of breath, we will notify parents and take a COVID-19 test as soon as possible.
- **ALL UNSCHOOL OF SAN ANTONIO ADULTS ARE FULLY VACCINATED.**

## Tuition

- If you must quarantine or if The Unschool of San Antonio must close due to a quarantine, we will credit you two-weeks of tuition.
- As long as we are open and your child is in attendance, tuition will be due in full. This includes if we are only open for a portion of a week and need to close for the remainder of the week due to lockdown protocols.
- If you are able to work from home and choose to keep your children at home, you will be required to pay your normal tuition to retain placement.
- In the event of a county- or state-wide lockdown due to a surge, we will follow all government directives.
  - We will offer virtual check-ins each day in one or two sessions, neither longer than half-an-hour, in order to give children practice for reading and to allow them to check on their gardens, projects, and animals. To keep the children connected, we will virtually read and create stories, offer home-based (outdoor) activities, and deliver project materials (seeds, caterpillar hatcheries, arts/crafts, etc.). In short, we will pursue our goal of nurturing connection, curiosity, and creativity as best we can in a virtual context.
  - If a lockdown is called and we are forced to close, tuition will be reduced by half from the first day of closure until we return in-person. No refunds will be given if children do not wish to participate in virtual meetings; half tuition is required to hold your place.

## Communication

- If the current situation changes and it becomes necessary to update our procedures or close our program temporarily, we will notify families as soon as possible by phone/text/email.
- We will call or email with late-breaking changes and post them on our social media page <https://www.facebook.com/UnschoolSA/>.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we implement these procedures. Our goal is to minimize disruption while at the same time keeping us all safe and living as normally as possible.

Together in this,

Dr. Misty Ferguson

Director/Teacher

The Unschool of San Antonio LLC