

Summerfield Waldorf School and Farm Reopening Plan

Overview:

We are committed to the goal of safely pursuing the highest quality Waldorf education possible in these times. Due to the health conditions of the pandemic, how we do this will most likely change over the course of this year, and we have built our protocols, schedule and school calendar on the principles that will meet this goal and accommodate these changes. Learning from home will be formed with the highest standards for an age appropriate Waldorf education guided by our experienced teachers who know the children and their craft. Any on-campus activity will be in full accordance with all state and county guidelines and regulations for safety, and we will adjust as these change. These guidelines do recognize that a school will follow protocols as much as is reasonable in the context of the education of children and young people (see the SCOE Sonoma County Roadmap to Safe Reopening, Executive Summary). In addition to following all California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE), and County Health Department guidelines, we are adding more safety measures: our plan is to have class outside for as much of the year as possible to further decrease risk of transmission. We will create class cohorts outdoors with desks spaced so children are six feet apart. We are also blocking our schedule and creating 10 days of distance time between each block (see below).

Schedule, Cohorts and Quarantine Periods Grades 1-12 (See ECE below):

To maximize health standards and create smooth transitions, our school schedule will have all the subjects blocked. This is to reduce to a minimum the number of teachers working with a class for a four week period of time to create a cohort of each class. After four weeks we will have either a week of vacation—like Thanksgiving week or Winter break—or we will have a special week of learning from home. With the last Friday of the block from home, this would make 10 days of time away from campus between blocks, creating a quarantine period so that teachers can start the new block with a new cohort with the minimum risk of increasing possible exposures. (It has been shown that a very high percentage of cases show symptoms within 10 days.)

We are following the SCOE definition of cohort as the number of people who can have class together while being six feet apart. We will use the class as the cohort unit and provide the spaces needed. Population density of an indoor room is defined in the same way: the number of people who can be in it and six feet apart.

Physical Distancing:

We are pursuing outdoor learning because it is much safer than indoors, and have identified a dedicated outdoor classroom space for each cohort. If off the watchlist or with a waiver we have the option to use indoor spaces when masked and six feet apart. We plan to be outside as much as possible all year. When the weather turns or as conditions change, we will reassess. Outdoors means tents with no sides. We have the option to add sides in winter to have more indoor space. This helps with density and cohort protocols (defined above). Each class/cohort will have a separate space outside for lunch and recess. We will remind students that for now, we may not shake hands or hug one another.

Face Coverings and Other Essential Protective Gear:

We will follow all current requirements for [face coverings](#). Other than ECE children under licensing guidelines, students wear masks while they are in any movement and not seated at their distanced desks, except during individual outdoor conditioning, for which we would increase distancing. When all students are seated at desks that are six feet apart and outside, we will allow them to take masks off if that is deemed safe by the County Health Office. If it is not cleared for safety, we will be in masks all day, and we will check in with County Health regularly on this as conditions change. Masks will be available on campus in case a student forgets or loses their mask. Students who are not willing to wear a mask at the times that are required will not be permitted on campus, if they do not have an exemption on file.

Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition should wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it. An exemption must be on file with the Registrar.

Entrance, Egress, and Movement within the School: How movement of students, staff, and parents will be managed to avoid close contact and/or mixing of cohorts.

We will have staggered start and end times, and parents will drop off and pick up from their cars, except for Early Childhood children who will be walked to separate gates by parents. We will use four different drop off areas and different paths to classrooms assigned by grade to increase distancing. We will keep the number of people on the campus as low as possible for the safety of all. We have a large campus with plenty of rooms for classes to accommodate proper distancing.

Signs are posted in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and healthy hygiene (such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face covering). Plexiglas shields have been mounted in the main school offices to add a level of protection.

Cleaning and Disinfection:

All rooms and furniture will be professionally sanitized before school resumes. Bathrooms are being professionally cleaned and sanitized after each school day, and approved cleaning materials are available for cleaning after use. Class and office surfaces such as desks, chairs and door handles will be sanitized regularly and after school each day. If used, playground

equipment will be sanitized after each cohort uses the playground. Extra supplies have been ordered so all children will have their own of the majority, if not all, items. For the minimal times that there will be a shared supply or tool, that item will be sanitized between uses.

Health Screenings for Students and Staff:

We will check faculty, staff and student temperatures with no touch thermometers and screen for visual signs of illness. Faculty will regularly be tested for COVID-19 in accordance with the recommendation of 50% every month or as these guidelines change.

In addition to on campus temperature checks, parents will be asked to complete an assessment of their student's, as well as their own, overall well-being every day before coming to school. We will request that employees and students (and their families) who are sick, have a temperature of 100°F, or who have recently been in close contact (longer than 15 minutes) with a person with COVID-19 stay home. Parents and staff will continue to report the reason for absences on a daily basis. We also ask that parents, staff & faculty self-report illness. Any student, parent, caregiver or staff showing [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 will leave campus or picked up by a parent immediately. Any student who passes the morning health checks but develops symptoms during the school day will be separated from other students in the designated isolation area near the office and guardians will be called to pick up the student immediately. Symptoms can include: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. We also ask that all families exercise caution upon returning to school if they have travelled domestically or internationally for any length of time. If symptomatic, faculty, staff and children will stay home for 14 days or until they have tested negative or have a doctor's written release and at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)). Anyone who has been exposed to or has symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to meet these requirements. As the spread of the COVID-19 virus remains in constant flux, we are becoming increasingly mindful that our movements and actions impact our community. Please refer to the [CDC guidelines for travel](#), and consider quarantining for 14 days or getting tested upon your return.

Healthy Hygiene Practices: The availability of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer, and how their use will be promoted and incorporated into routines.

We have rented additional porta potties and sinks to have less traffic in all bathrooms. Hand sanitizer (ethanol based 70% denatured hand sanitizer) and surface cleaner (65% IPA) will be available in all offices and areas of instruction. In addition all classrooms have their own sinks, and teachers will incorporate regular [hand washing](#) into the schedule of the day including before and after eating or recess. Teachers will instruct and support students in other [healthy hygiene practices](#) such as avoiding contact with one's eyes, nose, and mouth; and covering coughs and sneezes. As much as we can, we will dedicate all our bathroom facilities to as few people as possible. Sanitation protocols will be followed. Bathrooms will be cleaned professionally every day after school. All classrooms will be disinfected professionally before they are used for on-campus learning and again, if there is a case in the class while at school.

Identification and Tracing of Contacts: Actions that staff will take when there is a confirmed case:

Our cohorts are all by class, so class list and schedule make it simple for us to report for contact tracing. These lists are kept by our registrar and updated regularly. In addition we keep attendance daily. Our receptionist will be our contact person.

Any students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms at school will immediately be required to wear a face mask covering if they were in an activity that allowed it to be removed. The student will be removed from their cohort and will wait in the designated isolation area in the main office until they can be transported home (immediately by a parent) or to a healthcare facility depending on the severity of their symptoms. Testing will be recommended.

The designated staff member who will care for sick students will direct the student to the isolation room, disinfect hands and put on PPE (surgical gown, cloth face covering, face shield, nitrile gloves) prior to entering the room. All PPE items worn will be securely disposed of in the isolation room).

If there is a suspected case of COVID-19, or if a parent notifies the school that their child has a confirmed case of COVID-19, the designated staff member will immediately notify the Public Health Nurse. The Public Health Nurse may be the first to notify the school when a student or staff member is confirmed positive with COVID-19. The school administrator will immediately notify exposed staff and families as relevant while maintaining confidentiality as required by state and federal laws. Any areas used by the sick student will be closed off and not used until after cleaning and disinfecting. Following the recommended guidelines, the school will wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, we will wait as long as possible. The Public Health Nurse will lead contact tracing efforts as needed and we will work with the County Health Department through their existing protocols to conduct testing and contact tracing, as needed, identifying whether quarantine of impacted students and staff is necessary.

Staff Training and Family Education:

Faculty, staff and parents will receive regular written and verbal reminders that 1) Students, staff and faculty should stay home if they or a member of their household have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms. 2) Staff and students who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health. We will share CDC's [criteria](#) to help inform when employees should return to work if they have been sick with COVID-19 or if they have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19. *(Please note that the CDC and CDPH/SCOE guidelines may vary. In such cases Summerfield will comply with the county requirements (e.g., the CDC states that a person may return to school/work after 24-hours with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, while the CDPH/SCOE guidelines state 72-hours. Summerfield will follow the 72-hour guideline).*

We are making it possible for employees and students who are sick or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 to stay home, including when a member of a student's household has been sick with COVID-19. We are revising and extending our illness policies to require sick employees and students to stay at home without fear of reprisal, and will continue to communicate with employees, students, and students' families to be aware of these policies.

Testing of Students and Staff:

Our faculty and staff will follow a testing schedule recommended by SCOE of 50% tested per month. If symptomatic, faculty, staff and children will stay home for 14 days or until they have tested negative or have a doctor's written release and at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)). Anyone who has been exposed to or has symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to meet these requirements.

Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning: The criteria the Governance Council will use to determine when to physically close the school and prohibit in-person instruction.

As a private school, we will follow the county schools, or as directed by SCOE or County Health in accordance with the waiver protocols.

Communication Plans: How the school will communicate with students, staff, and parents about cases and exposures at the school, consistent with privacy requirements such as FERPA and HIPAA.

As we have done with other illnesses, we will communicate in consultation with the County Public Health Disease Control Unit and follow their guidelines for proper reporting and privacy.

Lunch, Snack and Recess:

The hot lunch program will not be offered this year. Students will bring their own lunches and eat outside, sitting 6 feet apart.

Early Childhood Education:

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) section is licensed by the Community Care Licensing Division of the California Department of Social Services. Our classrooms function under similar guidelines as the rest of the school with some notable differences: ECE classes are pods of 12 or fewer children; teachers are masked but children are not required to wear masks. Strict physical distancing is not required with young children; we will work with developmentally appropriate ways of distancing when possible. The creation of smaller pods of children reduces exposure as do our hygienic practices (health screenings, handwashing, disinfecting, outside classrooms) which are described above. Our yearly calendar is not blocked as in the lower and upper school; we have some breaks that overlap with the rest of the school and some flex weeks that allow for the addition of school days (should we be forced to close due to smoke, floods or illness).

Camps:

If permitted by County Public Health, we may hold camps under the camp health and safety protocols. These would be optional, recreational activities that would enhance students' experiential encounters with concepts developed through home learning. Students will do academic work at home until the campus is opened for school.

Farm Classroom:

As it is fully experientially based, this will run under the protocols of camp. These have been reviewed in depth with the families involved. We will adjust to any change in protocols and inform families immediately.

Choice:

When on campus learning is possible, teachers will do all they can to support the learning of those who might not be able to come to school. This will be managed on an individual basis with the teachers, and it may be different than the full distance learning program.

Sports:

Sports have been cancelled.

Aftercare:

We are looking into how to provide aftercare in the lower school within the protocols and cohort requirements.

Conclusion: The pandemic reminds us constantly that we are more closely connected to each other than perhaps we ever realized. Our actions do have a direct impact on others. Heightening our awareness of this fact can deepen our sense of community, ethical action and responsibility to others. Choices each of us make, and the choices of those we interact with can have a dramatic impact on others. To be able to be a community, and to be on campus, we must all do our best to minimize the risk to others and ourselves. We must also recognize that each family makes decisions that weigh this responsibility to others with their own health, economic and social needs. That means that not every family will act the same way. While our protocols on campus will be followed - as much as reasonably possible, with differences in parts of the school or for those with medical exemptions for masks, as outlined above - the school cannot require any standard of action outside of school time. To keep our community strong, healthy and vibrant, we must all be constantly aware of others in our actions, and always keep present in our minds both our differences and that which brings us together.

State and County Guidelines and Resources:

[COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs](#)

[Sonoma County Roadmap to Reopening of Schools Safely](#)

[California Department of Public Health COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Learning](#)

[California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Updates](#)

[Sonoma County Office of Education \(SCOE\) Coronavirus Health Guidelines and Updates](#)

[SCOE COVID-19 Case Flowchart](#)

[CDC: Schools and Childcare Programs: Plan, Prepare, and Respond](#)

[CDC: COVID-19 Prevention](#)

[CDC: Handwashing Information](#)

[CDC: Face Coverings](#)

[CDC: Social Distancing](#)

[CDC: COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[CDC: Managing Stress and Coping](#)

[COVID-19 Testing in Sonoma County](#)