



Summerfield

WALDORF SCHOOL AND FARM

## Revised Reopening Plan

1/28/21

### 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 makes 10 days of time away from campus between blocks, creating a quarantine period so that teachers start the new block with a new class/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. Because we have been granted 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](#). 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). Plexiglass shields have been mounted in the main school offices to add a level of protection.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection:**

Bathrooms are being professionally cleaned and disinfected (killing germs on surfaces) after each school day, and approved cleaning materials are available for cleaning after use. Shared surfaces such as tables/counters, supplies, technologies and door handles will be cleaned (using soap & water to decrease germs on surfaces) regularly. If a “case” has been identified, the spaces where the case spent a large proportion of their time will be disinfected (using approved cleaning materials that kill germs on surfaces). Extra supplies have been ordered so all children will have their own of the majority, if not all, items. Student cohorts wash their hands before and after using shared tools or playground equipment.

### **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 and staff are tested weekly for COVID-19 by Curative exceeding the recommendation of 25% per week or as these guidelines change.

In addition to on campus temperature checks, parents will be asked to complete an assessment of their household member’s well-being every day before coming to school. We request that employees and students (and their households) who are sick, have a temperature of 100°F, or who have recently been in close contact (<6 ft. from a case for >15 within a 24-hour period ) 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 will be picked up by a parent immediately. We will ask for immediate rapid testing. 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 follow the State and County after-travel guidelines (whichever is the more conservative approach) if they have traveled domestically or internationally for any length of time, before returning to school. If symptomatic, faculty,

staff and children will stay home for at least 10 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. We ask that parents and staff refer to the [CDC guidelines for travel](#), and consider quarantining for 14 days or getting tested at least a week after their 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) is 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. 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:**

Six staff members have completed the COVID-19 Contact Tracing online course offered by John Hopkins University and are prepared to conduct contact tracing as needed should the Public Health Nurse not be available to lead those efforts.

We will make every effort to communicate regularly with the Public Health Nurse and the County Health Department to work through their existing protocols, as needed, identifying whether quarantine of impacted students and staff is necessary.

If we are notified that a student, faculty or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, and they are on campus, we will immediately isolate the case and exclude them from school for a minimum of 10 days from the test date, or from the first day signs and symptoms first appeared. Our COVID-19 point of contact, Michelle Bovard, will initiate a list of close contacts of all the students and communicate possible exposure to teacher(s), staff, and parent(s), guardian(s), or caregiver(s) of a case. (A contact is

defined as a person who is less than 6 feet from a case for more than 15 minutes within a 24-hour period). An entire cohort, classroom, or other group may need to be considered exposed.). Michelle will immediately notify the Public Health Department Disease Control Nurse and begin contact tracing efforts if required. Close contacts will be notified, advised to stay home and quarantine for 14 days since last exposure, and to consult with their healthcare provider for evaluation and determination if testing is recommended. The case will be contacted to help make a list of any additional potential close contacts, to help identify a support network and plan to ensure that the case will be able to self-isolate. They will be called regularly to monitor their symptoms (if any) and will be informed of the emergency warning signs that would warrant immediate medical attention if they are symptomatic. Information will be provided to the households of the case with guidelines for how to care for a sick person and stay safe. Close contacts will be excluded for 14 days after the last date the case was present at school while infectious. Exposed areas, such as a classroom and primary spaces where the case spent significant time, will be closed off for up to 24 hours. The area will be cleaned and disinfected by the cleaning company that we have contracted with.

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.

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.

#### **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 more conservative requirements.*

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:**

Faculty and staff are tested weekly for COVID-19 by Curative, exceeding the recommendation of 25% per week. If symptomatic, faculty, staff and children will stay home for 10 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. 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, regular cleaning, 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 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:**

Aftercare is not offered this year. We will look into how to provide aftercare in the lower school within the protocols and cohorting requirements in the future.

**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](#)