



2020-2021 HANDBOOK FOR SANITARY PROTOCOL IN SCHOOL

As of January 20th, 2020

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Introduction

A close and trusting partnership between the school administration and community must be created in order to ensure understanding, cooperation, and support in COVID prevention and mitigation strategies. Clear and open communication is vital to overall success.

These presentations and information provide the best guidance based on what is known today; as we have seen, the information changes rapidly and, thus, so do the guidelines and considerations.

The purpose of this document is to inform our community of teachers, parents and students of the required guidelines provided by the CDC, the State of New Jersey, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and to answer any questions the guidelines may not address.

The French American Academy's task force composed of managers and medical experts have discussed and clarified all topics so that all members of the FAA have a clear view of the sanitary protocol in place. Nevertheless, these guidelines may not be exhaustive and we'll continue to update this document whenever needed.

Additionally, we cannot guarantee 100% safety. While infection control measures and personal discipline will help mitigate the risk of exposure and/or infection to COVID-19 and other communicable diseases, all risks cannot be eradicated by the school. Consequently, the FAA cannot guarantee that students and their families will not be exposed to or become infected with COVID-19, or communicable diseases, through attendance and participation in the school's program and activities. Students and parents acknowledge and agree that there are inherent risks that arise from enrollment, attendance and participation in the school's programs and activities. These risks include but are not limited to sickness, injury, harm, disability, and/or death. By participating in the school's programs and activities, students and parents accept and assume full responsibility for all such risks.

Parents, students, teachers, and staff further understand that there is a communal responsibility to these efforts as we strongly encourage parents and teachers to respect those guidelines outside of school.

1- Students and Staff Entrance

Screening

Until further notice, all staff and children will be screened at the door for fever upon entering the building. Parents must take students' temperatures at home, before the child leaves for school each day. If their child has a temperature of 100 Fahrenheit or above (37.8 Celsius), parents should not send their child to school.

Additionally, we may ask the following questions:

- Did you administer medication to reduce fever?
- Have you or your child been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Has your child exhibited one or more of these symptoms?
 - ❖ Cough
 - ❖ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - ❖ Fatigue
 - ❖ Repeated shaking with chills
 - ❖ Muscle or body aches
 - ❖ Headache
 - ❖ New loss of taste or smell
 - ❖ Sore throat
 - ❖ Congestion or runny nose
 - ❖ Nausea or vomiting
 - ❖ Diarrhea
- Has your child been in close contact with an individual that has exhibited one or more of these symptoms in the previous three (3) days?

We count on all families to keep everyone safe and not send a sick child to school. Children are genuine and innocent. If they've been sent to school with some medicine or experienced symptoms, they will tell us. Trust is key among our community to make our back to school experience a success.

Children and staff will use the provided hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol upon arrival on the campus.

Temperatures will be logged in, and transmitted to the Office of Licensing everyday by 11am at the latest. All logs will be kept confidential.

Persons with a fever of 100 Fahrenheit or above (37.8 Celsius) will be isolated and not be permitted into the building.

All staff and children exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms as listed above will not be admitted in the building.

Persons that have exposure to persons known to have COVID-19 during the preceding 14 days will not be admitted in the building.

Students will stay with their own class creating a cohort as in a family. Interactions with other students will be limited. Entrances and dismissals are planned so that we have the least amount of contacts.

Map and schedule for staggered entrances and dismissals are specific to each campus and will be communicated separately.

Lateness in Jersey City

We want to keep the cohorts together and share the use of the stairwell. We count on every parent to be extremely punctual and on time. If you missed your window of time for your child's class to come in, you'll have to wait for the next free space to enter the building. If you arrive while another group has started its screening process, you'll have to wait until the whole group's screening is done.

2- Temperature Check

Until further notice, temperatures will be checked by a FAA team member with a non-contact thermometer. Staff taking the temperature every morning will wear a mask or cloth covering, a face shield, and gloves.

The temperatures will be recorded daily on a log and may be shared with the DCF authorities, State authorities or health authorities as required under the law.

The FAA Team member will also make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.

Children will be required to wear a mask or cloth covering during temperature check.

3. Masks, Face Coverings and Face Shields

The definition of a face covering is a cloth, paper, or disposable face covering that covers the nose and mouth. This includes face coverings and masks. It may or may not be medical grade. Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut), and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose.

There are many cloth masks on the market that have a *plastic valve* in it. While they are designed to improve the level of comfort for the person wearing it by making it easier to

exhale, the air that escapes through the valve is not filtered. Therefore, the presence of the plastic valve *eliminates the protection* that the mask would offer to the people around the mask wearer. These masks **should NOT be used** in school. A recent study suggests that bandanas and neck gaiters increase aerosol and should not be used.

The definition of a face shield is a clear, plastic shield that covers the forehead, extends below the chin and wraps around the sides of the face, protecting the eyes, nose and mouth from contamination from respiratory droplets, along with masks or respirators. Face shields are not masks, and though they can be added if desired, they do not replace masks. It is not acceptable to wear a shield without a mask.

Students are required to wear face coverings, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. It is necessary to acknowledge that enforcing the use of face coverings may be impractical for young children or individuals with disabilities.

Exceptions:

- Doing so would inhibit the student's health.
- The student is in extreme heat outdoors.
- The student is in water.
- A student's documented medical condition, or disability as reflected in an Individualized Service Plan (ISP), precludes the use of face covering.
- The student is under the age of two (2), due to the risk of suffocation.
- During the period that a student is eating or drinking.
- Face coverings should not be placed on anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, or anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance (e.g. face coverings should not be worn by Pre-K students during nap time).
- The student is engaged in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities.
- Face coverings may be removed during gym and music classes when individuals are in a well-ventilated location and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet apart.
- When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.

We rely on parents to teach the children how to wear masks, and more importantly, practice building tolerance to wearing masks for longer periods of time, before school starts.

We will model and practice with our students how to safely take off the mask and put it back on without contaminating their desk or other people. Children will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer after taking off or putting on masks.



All teachers and staff are required to wear masks or cloth covering while working. Teachers may wear masks leaving a clear plastic space for the mouth to keep a visual support for pronunciation when speaking.

We encourage students, teachers and staff to use their own mask or face covering. However, the school will provide masks or face covering to any person allowed to enter the facility, if such person doesn't have their own.

Visitors shall be required to wear masks while visiting the center unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health. If a visitor refuses to wear a mask or face covering, the person will not be allowed in the building.

How do cloth masks help?

Cloth masks capture the droplets projected by the person wearing the mask, thus protecting others. Cloth masks offer limited protection from droplets projected into the air by other people not wearing masks. Thus, cloth masks are most effective if everyone in the community wears them to protect each other. When you wear a mask, you protect those in your community. When others wear a mask, they protect you.



4. Pick-up and Drop-off

At drop-off, parents should stay at the entrance door of the school, respecting social distancing and markings on the floor. Only on the two first days of school, PK2, PK3 and new students in PK4 only can be accompanied at the classroom door, respecting 6 feet social distancing, with a special schedule implemented for those days.

At pick-up, children will be walked to the exit door. Parents will wait on the sidewalk outside the building, respecting social distancing.

We will prevent crowding at pick up and drop off. Please refer to the maps and plans for staggered entrances and dismissals specific to each campus.

5. Visitors

Visitors shall not be permitted to enter the school during operating hours, including persons providing maintenance or repair services, prospective customers, prospective employees, entertainers or speakers.

Exceptions will be made for emergency or law enforcement personnel, and the Department of Children and Families. In case of a medical emergency, parents will be allowed in the building to be with their child.

Communication between the school (teachers and administrators) and the parents will be via emails, telephone or video calls.

Unless precluded by emergency circumstances, visitors to the facility shall be subject to the same screening procedures as children and staff, and shall be denied admission on the same basis unless the school is legally precluded from denying access (e.g. a law enforcement agent with an appropriate warrant).

To the greatest extent feasible, unless the purpose of the authorized outside visitor is to observe the care provided to children (e.g. a DCF licensing inspector), all reasonable efforts should be made to minimize visitor contact with children and staff.

Back to School evenings, parent-teacher conferences or parent meetings will be scheduled virtually until further notice.

6. Social Distancing

Classes will include the same group of children each day ; the same staff is assigned to care for each class. Classes will congregate not less than 10 feet in all directions from other groups or be separated by walls or other physical partitions. Combining or mixing groups will not be allowed.

Within a PK class, children will be encouraged to remain 6 feet away from each other, when feasible.

The square footage of the room determines the number of students in the classroom. Students should respect the social distance of 6 feet between each other. Desks will be placed 6 feet apart. Even when social distancing is in place, students are required to wear a mask or face covering, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health.

When moving around the building, spacing of groups within the facility will allow for ten feet of separation between groups.

Unnecessary close person to person contact will be discouraged. However, the FAA is committed to maintaining a kind and nurturing environment, and will go out of their way to relate to children in full kindness.

Clear signs and markers will be present throughout the building to help students, teachers and staff maintain social distances guidelines.

Bathrooms will be periodically monitored by staff to ensure social distancing, but also washing hands procedures.

7. Hygiene & Hand Washing

Teachers and staff will teach and reinforce healthy hygiene practices (washing hands, coughing and sneezing in elbow, etc.).

Hand washing:

Children and staff will practice frequent and scheduled hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Children and staff will use the provided hand sanitizer upon arrival on the campus. Children and staff will wash their hands before meals or snacks, after outside time, and after going to the bathroom. Children will be monitored to ensure proper technique.

Wall signs that promote hygiene and social distancing will be posted at the entry and exit doors and in the restrooms.

When children and staff are washing their hands, they will turn off the faucet with the paper towel used to dry their hands. Doors to bathrooms will remain open to avoid hands on it. Doors to stalls remain close for privacy.

Each classroom is provided with hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes.

Note on hand sanitizer:

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning to consumers and health care providers about hand sanitizer products that are labeled as containing ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) but that have tested positive for methanol contamination. Methanol (i.e., methyl alcohol or wood alcohol) is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested and can be life-threatening when ingested. As per the FDA news [update](#), “Methanol is not an acceptable active ingredient for hand sanitizers and must not be used due to its toxic effects.” The FAA is not using hand sanitizer containing methanol.

8. Classroom & Classroom Materials

Classrooms will be set up to promote social distancing of 6 ft in all directions. PK and K children will be encouraged to remain at a 6ft distance from each other. In upper grades, desks will be turned to face in the same direction to reduce transmission caused by virus-containing droplets.

In PK & K, toys and items that are not easily cleaned or disinfected (e.g., soft or plush toys, fabric cushions, etc.) will not be utilized in the classrooms.

In PK classes, some items such as “doudous” or blankies can be brought from home and will not be shared. They will return home with the child each day for washing. Sharing of supplies, food, toys and other high touch items (art supplies, school supplies, equipment etc.) will be strictly limited. The school will ensure an adequate supply of school, art and other material to preclude the need for sharing items. Children’s belongings will be kept separate in individual storage bins, or cubbies and sent home each day for washing. If items must be shared, they will be used by one group at a time and cleaned and disinfected between uses. Access to classrooms’ centers such as kitchen, construction games, etc. will be available to children on a rotating schedule and disinfected every day.

In K and up, we will provide an individual box or use a pencil case to store the class material used everyday. This method doesn’t follow the FAA philosophy which encourages the students to share and be responsible for the class material. But, due to Covid-19, we must stop sharing those supplies.

Games that cannot be fully disinfected such as wood puzzles or board games will be kept in bins for 7 days. After 7 days, these items can be used again.

There will be no library corner in classrooms. Children will have a safe access to books and will be allowed to borrow books for home (*literature and story reading will remain part of the curriculum*). Once the books are returned, they will be stored for 7 days without being touched until they can be borrowed again.

Ventilation:

The FAA has hired an Industrial Hygiene Consultant from New Jersey Work Environment Council (WEC) to evaluate each of our campus, and review building specifications (building history, room sizes, occupancy rates, etc.). We are implementing the necessary exhaust fans in each classroom and bathroom to ensure adequate ventilation in the facilities to be able to reopen.

Air quality principles are detailed in the appendix 2.

9. Outside the classroom

The use of shared spaces (entry ways, restrooms) will be carefully controlled to ensure that children and staff maintain at least six feet of separation from children or staff from other groups. Floor markings, physical partitions or other safeguards will be used as necessary.

To limit contact during transitions, students will eat lunch in the classroom. We'll encourage lunch outside weather permits, with safe circulation in the hallways.

We may use cafeterias only for one class one a given day to provide an enhanced learning environment.

Assemblies, performances, school-wide parent meetings will be held virtually until further notice.

10. Recess and Outdoor Play

The use of outdoor shared space (recess court yard) will be organized with six feet of separation between classes. Each class will have a designated space.

When weather doesn't permit recess outdoors, the students will remain in the classroom with free time. Indoor recess will consist of low respiratory activities.

Students must wear a mask or face covering during recess.

Off-site activities within walking distance of the school are permitted, with social distancing.

Activities may include, for example, hikes, or walks to nearby parks (Hamilton Park, Roberto Clemente, Warren Park).

In New Milford, the use of the private school playground is allowed. Staff must disinfect playground equipment between groups.

In Hamilton Park the use of the playground equipment will not be allowed.

Unnecessary close person to person contact (hugging, wrestling, games involving touching or tagging) will be discouraged. Games with a ball are acceptable if the ball remains with just one class. But no close contact with players can happen. The ball will be cleaned after each use and children will wash their hands after the ball games. Same for hula hoops.

Field trips and other off-site activities are temporarily canceled.

11. Nap time

In PK, naps will take place in the nap room or in the classroom. A six feet spacing between cots will be implemented.

Cots will be labeled with the child's name and will be positioned alternatively head-to-toe.

Child's bedding will be kept separate and stored in individually labeled bins, cubbies, or bags.

Sheets, soft or plush toys brought from home for nap time will return home to be washed weekly.

12. Physical Education

Physical Education involving high respiratory exchanges will only take place outdoors. Games and sports involving direct physical contact or shared equipment (e.g. football, baseball) will be replaced with no contact activities sports (e.g. track and field activities, fitness).

When the weather will not permit for PE class outdoor, the students will practice yoga or other quiet activities in the classroom.

In Middle School, students will be allowed to come in sports or comfort clothes on gym days since we won't allow the students to change from their uniforms.

A child who would have had Covid-19 will need a doctor's note before returning to the physical education class.

Asthma: A child who usually uses a nebulizer will need to change the nebulizer to a puffer +aerochamber/spacer as nebulizers can spread aerosols if one has Covid-19.

13. Music and drama

Chorus, drama or activities which enhance the dispersion of particles are temporarily canceled. However, music class may take place focusing on listening skills and instruments recognition.

14. Library

A selection of books will be available in the classrooms for circulation. There will be no visits in the library room until further notice. Returned books will be set aside for 7 days before they can be available for circulation again.

15. Art class

Art activities will be delivered in the classroom. There will be no class visits in the Art room until further notice.

16. Lockers in Middle School

Middle School students will not be allowed to use their locker, as social distancing cannot be maintained in this area.

17. Meals, Snacks and Water - Food Service

To limit contact during transitions, students will eat lunch in the classroom with 6 feet social distance. We'll encourage lunch outside weather permits, with safe circulation in the hallways. We may use cafeterias only for one class one a given day to provide an enhanced learning environment.

Staff will wear gloves to handle food when helping children.

Delivery of individual boxes through our current provider, Simply Gourmet, will be possible. Lunch and snacks cannot be shared between students.

To limit the exchanges of items, morning snacks cannot be provided by the school and each student shall bring their own every day.

Cooking activities will not be allowed until further notice.

When it is time to remove the mask for snack or lunch, children will be taught the following process:

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer
- Remove the mask, and fold it inside on inside or outside on outside
- Put it in a brown bag
- Enjoy your lunch or snack
- Put the mask back on the same way it was put on and enjoy a conversation with peers
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer

Water fountains are prohibited as respiratory particles will accumulate at the water fountain. Water coolers may be available when teachers or staff are available to disinfect the handles between each use. We count on each parent to send their child with a full large reusable water bottle. If we can't guarantee a controlled use we will close the water coolers.

18. Before and Aftercare

There is no aftercare during the Summer Program.

Online aftercare and online enrichments will be available starting in September. Each campus will communicate on the options offered.

19. Transportation

Students using the school bus (from and back to New Milford, from and back to Harlem) will be seated such that there is one student seated per row, skipping a row between each child, if possible.

Wearing a mask or face covering is required at all times during the bus ride.

20. Cleaning and Disinfection

The school will use Environmental Protection Agency approved disinfectants for use against COVID-19 More details on this [link](#).

At the FAA, we are using either “Clean & Shine” EPA 10324-154-32970 or “Spray 9”, EPA 6659-3 or “Force of Nature” 93040-1.

Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be made available at the building entrance, in the classrooms and throughout the building.

The FAA will increase the frequency of cleaning toys, equipment, and surfaces, especially doorknobs, light switches, sink handles, water coolers, countertops, desks and restrooms.

Cleaning/disinfecting during the day

Custodian will be cleaning/disinfecting high-touch surfaces during the day:

- High touch areas include light switches, doorknobs, handrails, door frames, bathroom fixtures, tables, chairs/stools, locker fronts.
- Water fountains.
- Bathrooms including faucets and toilets seats (both sides)
- Cafeteria, hallway, office, stairwells, and others will be policed for visible soil daily and vacuumed/mopped, cleaned and disinfected.

Mid-day cleaning and bathrooms cleanings/disinfecting will be recorded in a daily log.

Alcohol wipes will be used to clean keyboards and electronics.

In preschool, items that children have placed in their mouths or are contaminated by body secretion or excretion shall be set aside until they are disinfected by hand by a person wearing gloves, with an EPA-registered disinfectant and air-dry. The school may use UV lights as a way to disinfect as well.

Cleaning/disinfecting after school

1. Surface Cleaning: desks, light switches, doorknobs, and all high-touch surfaces
2. Hard surface floors will be vacuumed and mopped. Special attention will be given to PK & K areas where children are often using the floors.
3. Carpets and rugs will be vacuumed.
4. Wastepaper baskets will be emptied, including recycling bins as needed.
5. Water fountains will be washed.
6. A/C vents will be cleaned / dusted
7. Bathrooms will be washed and disinfected

Comprehensive cleaning

Comprehensive cleaning will take place any time a case of COVID-19 has been reported. Comprehensive cleaning will be performed by the Night Team. If an entire facility needs to be closed, both teams will perform the comprehensive cleaning 12 assignments. Cleaning will take place at least 24 hours after contact with a positive case of COVID-19 when feasible.

More information is available on the CDC website at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>

21. Live Streaming

The FAA may accommodate students who cannot attend school in-person through live streaming, from 1st to 8th grade only. Live streaming in PK and K has been recognized as inefficient for the young children.

A computer, ipad or camera will be set up in the class to live stream the teachers' lessons and questions from the students. The student at home can watch the class with a Zoom or Google Meet connection.

Assignments and resources will be available on the grade level online platforms. Parents are responsible for helping students to connect and access all documents.

The school cannot lend materials for students at home. Parents will be responsible for equipping the child, and printing the necessary materials when needed.

Live streaming is only available for students who are sick or exhibiting symptoms, or for safety reasons.

If your child is sick or exhibits symptoms, he/she will be allowed to join the live-streaming of his/her class on the **second school day**, as it requires some time for the teachers to set it up.

If, for safety reasons, you'd like to switch to live streaming, be aware that you can't come back to school in-person before 2 weeks of school (break not included) because for all types of

learning, whether it is at school or through live streaming, there is a learning curve and a few weeks of practice will be necessary to become comfortable.

Parents are required to come to school to pick up the notebook or workbook necessary to attend the live streaming sessions. The date and time to pick the materials need to be decided with the teachers or administration prior to coming to school.

Lastly, we would like to reinforce that when a student is out sick on the 3rd day, a doctor's note is necessary to clear up any covid's situation.

If the whole school has to close, the whole school (including PK and K) will switch to remote learning, and follow the new instruction model as described in our website.

22. Travel

The Task Force has reviewed the CDC and State of NJ guidelines and amended the FAA Handbook. Upon reviewing the medical literature on which these guidelines are based on, and applying them to the situation of the pandemic in most states and European countries which has a much higher rate than that on which the studies are based, the FAA Task Force has chosen to implement its own safer guidelines while giving a little more flexibility:

If you travel to any states outside of NJ, NY, PA, CT, DE or internationally (including the US territories) or meet with visitors from out of these 5 states, you have two options:

- You complete a 10-day quarantine if you show no symptoms and provide a negative PCR test done on the 7th or 8th day. You can then come back to school on the 11th day if you have isolated yourself.
- You complete a 14-day quarantine and don't need to provide a test result.

The school is recognized for the safety of its protocol, and we want to preserve this safe environment.

As we have already stated, keeping the school open is based on mutual trust between all members of the community and we count on everyone to respect self quarantine or self exclusion if needed.

Also to clarify, if a parent is traveling to a high-risk state or internationally, the child will need to be quarantined for 14 days, even if the child did not travel with the parent.

It is important to note that a negative COVID test does not obviate the need for quarantine. It is a very common misconception. Everyone wants a quick fix and false reassurance, but the truth is that, staying healthy in the pandemic requires clear understanding and a lot of grit.

23. Response to Students and Staff Presenting Symptoms

Teachers, staff or child's parents must inform the school immediately if they are diagnosed with COVID-19.

Symptoms related to COVID-19 include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Parents should not send students to school when sick. Students and staff with the following symptoms will be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

• At least **two** of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR

• At least **one** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

Parents will be called and the child must be picked up as soon as possible, in less than an hour.

If a child or staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at school (e.g. fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, shortness of breath, vomiting), he/she will immediately be separated from others and wear a mask or face covering until he/she can leave the school.

On each campus there is a designated room to isolate anyone with symptoms. This room is only used for sick students or staff and will be fully disinfected after each use. In Jersey City it will be the gross motor skills. In New Milford, it will be the cafeteria which is not used for its first purpose.

The person taking care of the sick child will remain as far away as safely possible from the child (preferably, 6 feet), and wear a mask, a face shield, a gown and gloves.

Parents will be asked to provide a negative test before the child is allowed to return to school. Staff will be asked as well to provide a negative test. The physician note is no longer sufficient, as per the State of NJ Department of Health on January 8th, 2021.

24 - Response Procedures for Covid-19's Exposure

All students and staff members who have been in close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID 19 **must inform the school immediately and remain in quarantine for 14 days.**

Since NJ is still on orange alert

(https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_19_Report_Week_53.pdf) the FAA keeps the quarantine for close contact to 14 days to maintain the safest environment.

Students in contact with siblings, other family members or acquaintances of a person diagnosed with Covid-19 will not need to be in quarantine as it is a secondary contact.

However, depending on the nature of the contact, the secondary contact may need to be in 14-days quarantine. For example, an event involving indoor close contact, without a mask is a high risk activity which will require quarantine (birthday party, sleepover, Halloween fiesta, etc.). Quarantine will start from the day of the exposure or the positive test.

Any confirmed exposure to COVID-19 occurring in the school will immediately be reported to both the local department of health and the DCF for guidance. Parents will also be informed, however the infected individual's identity will be kept confidential.

Health officials will provide direction on whether a center should cease operations following the identification of a positive case in the facility. However, the class with a confirmed case will be required to quarantine for 14 days. Remote learning will start for this class. The duration may be dependent on staffing levels, outbreak levels in the community and severity of illness in the infected individual. Symptom- free children and staff should not attend or work at another facility during the closure.

All rooms, classrooms and equipment used by the infected person, and persons potentially exposed to that person, will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with CDC guidelines.

25 - Response Procedures for Covid-19's Diagnosis

Children and staff who are COVID-19 positive must not return until they have met the criteria for discontinuing home isolation as below:

Individuals who:	Should stay home and away from others until:
Have symptoms of COVID-19 AND • have tested positive (by PCR, rapid	At least 14 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared AND

molecular or antigen testing) OR • have not been tested (i.e. monitoring for symptoms at home)	• They have had no fever for at least 24 hours (one full day without the use of medicine that reduces fever) AND • Symptoms have improved (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)
Have NO symptoms and have tested positive	• 10 days have passed from the collection date of their positive COVID-19 diagnostic test AND they have not developed symptoms.

26- Testing Responsibilities

The FAA strongly encourages all community members to be tested prior to the start of the school year. In the event that a student or staff member should present with symptoms at school, they will be isolated and sent home as soon as possible. If symptoms continue, individuals will be asked to seek the advice of a healthcare professional. In certain circumstances, community members may be referred to a healthcare provider or a testing site to get tested at the school’s request and report the results to the school.

To find a testing place, click on the link: <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing#test-sites>

27- Contract tracing

The FAA supports all contract tracing efforts by:

- Keeping accurate attendance records of students and staff members
- Ensuring students schedule are up to date
- Keeping a log of any allowed visitors which includes dates, time, and which part of the school they visited.

Finding people who are close contacts to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, and therefore at higher risk of becoming infected themselves, can help prevent further spread of the virus. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for at least 10 consecutive minutes.

28- High Risk Activities

It is essential that all community members maintain a high level of effort to prevent exposure and transmission. Everyone should be aware of the risk associated with various types of activities. Knowing what degree of risk is associated with particular activities will help everyone make the best decision for themselves and their family.

KNOW YOUR RISK DURING COVID-19

How risky is it?

LOW RISK

LOWEST

- Opening the mail
- Getting restaurant takeout
- Pumping gasoline
- Playing tennis
- Going camping

LOW

- Grocery shopping
- Riding bicycles with others
- Walking/running with others
- Playing golf

MEDIUM-LOW

- Staying at a hotel for 2 nights
- Waiting in a doctor's lobby
- Going to a library or museum
- Eating outside at a restaurant
- Walking in a busy downtown
- An hour at a playground

MEDIUM RISK

MEDIUM

- Going to the beach
- Shopping at a mall
- Having dinner at someone's house
- Attending a backyard barbecue

MEDIUM-HIGH

- Sending kids to school or daycare
- Sending kids to camp
- Working a week in an office bldg.
- Swimming in a public pool
- Visiting an elderly person's home

HIGH RISK

HIGH

- Going to a salon or barber shop
- Eating inside at a restaurant
- Attending a wedding or funeral
- Traveling by plane
- Playing basketball or football
- Hugging a friend
- Shaking hands with a friend

HIGHER

- Eating at a buffet
- Working out at a gym
- Going to an amusement park
- Going to a movie theater

HIGHEST

- Attending a large or crowded music concert
- Going to a sports stadium
- Going to a bar
- Attending a large or crowded religious service

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CORONAVIRUS RISK LEVELS BY ACTIVITY



29- Agreement of Trust

It is understood that all members of the community, parents, students, teachers and staff, are responsible for strictly following these guidelines in order to protect each other.

We trust that parents will report symptoms or won't send a sick child to school to ensure the well being of all. We trust that teachers and staff will also report any symptoms.

It is important that we all work together to maintain a safe environment.

We are still in a pandemic and have to consider ourselves as members of a family trying to prevent bringing the virus into the school. We count on your social engagement. Even out of school, parents, children and staff should maintain social distancing and other behaviors that may limit bringing the infection into the family and into the school, as much as feasible.

In the event school buildings are compelled to close, school will resume virtually. More details are available on our [website](#).

Annexe 1

Task Force Composition

The Task Force composed of three medical experts from our parent community from both campuses and managers from the FAA have been meeting regularly since June 1st, 2020 to review all sanitary guidelines.

Anna Jankowska is an anesthesiologist board certified in Anesthesiology, Pediatric Anesthesiology and Advanced Perioperative Echocardiography. Her main area of concentration is in caring for children with congenital heart disease. She is also a director of a fellowship that trains pediatric anesthesiologists. She has been in practice for 10 years since. Anna works at NYU School of Medicine and Bellevue Hospital.

Aime Dahan is a physician boarded in Family Medicine. He has been working as a family physician and ER physician for the last 25 years. He works at Bellevue Hospital as faculty for NYU Medical school as well as Manhattan VA Hospital and City MD Urgent Care. Lastly, he has an MSc in Microbiology and BSc in immunology.

Bradley Gray is a Phd Health Economist with a background in Public Health (was a professor at Tulane's and UIC's school of public health, and has been the lead author in articles published in JAMA, JAMA IM, American Journal of Public Health, Health Affairs....., his dissertation was on the health of the family). He works at the American Board of Internal Medicine and has connections with people with a background in infectious disease, most notably Dr. Denese Koo (internist and former director at the CDC and a classmate of his) and Dr. Richard Baren (Head of the American Board of Internal Medicine).

Isabelle Adamo, Preschool Director in Jersey City

Audrey Poirette, Elementary Director in Jersey City

Jeremie Peyre, Principal of New Milford Campus

Deborah Steenhout, Summer Camp Coordinator

Jean-François Gueguen, Business Manager

Anne-Sophie Gueguen, Head of School

Annexe 2

Controlling Virus Transmission Using Indoor Air Quality Principles at The French American Academy

How do you control virus transmission in a school building?

- **The most effective way to control the virus is to keep infected people out of the building.**
- This is done using screening and isolation policies.
- See the New Jersey Department of Health, "COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools," August 13, 2020. [pdf]
https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf

Why is indoor air quality (IAQ) a concern?

- The coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 is spread by airborne droplets.
- The coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 may be spread by aerosolized droplets.
- HVAC/Mechanical Ventilation can reduce risk of transmission by exhausting contaminated air.
- "Schools MUST ensure indoor facilities have adequate ventilation."
-New Jersey Department of Education "Critical Areas of Operation," June 2020
<https://www.nj.gov/education/reopening/NJDOETheRoadBack.pdf>

How much fresh air is enough?

- For buildings **with** centralized HVAC systems, maximize outdoor air intake to 15% or above, and use MERV 13 filters or higher.
- For buildings **without** centralized HVAC system, maximized outdoor air intake to achieve 6 - 12 air changes per hour.
- The California OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Disease Standard requires 12 ACH in high-risk areas (such as bathrooms or health offices). [link] <https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5199.html>

Perform the following calculation:

- An average classroom is 600 square feet, with approx. 15-ft ceilings, or 9,000 cubic feet.
- A typical 20" window fan can deliver approx. 1,500 cubic feet per minute on the middle setting.
- A room of 9,000 cu. ft. with a fan at 1,500 cfm can achieve 10 air changes per hour.
- **Ten air changes per hour can substantially reduce transmission risk in an average classroom.**

What are other best practices to prevent airborne transmission?

- Building owners can work with health and safety professionals to ensure adequate IAQ.
- Confirm bathrooms have dedicated exhaust and negative pressure.
- Avoid cross-contaminating different risk areas within the building.
- Consider source of make-up air when exhausting rooms.
- Isolate potentially infected individuals.

OTHER AUTHORITATIVE IAQ GUIDANCE:

American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) - Ventilation for Industrial Settings - August 2020

<https://www.acgih.org/forms/store/CommercePlusFormPublic/search?action=Feature>

American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) - Engineering Controls - Aug 2020

https://www.aiha.org/public-resources/consumer-resources/coronavirus_outbreak_resources

American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) - Reopening Schools - June 2020

<https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/reopening-of-schools-and-universities>

**Indoor air quality assessment for the French American Academy provided in August of 2020 by industrial hygienist Allen Barkkume.*

