



ROCHESTER MONTESSORI SCHOOL

COVID-19 OPERATING PLAN 2020-2021

After considerable planning and deliberation, Rochester Montessori School will reopen its campus to children on August 31st, 2020. Reopening RMS entails some increased risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus for all concerned because attending school involves daily human contact among children and staff, who will then be in contact with others in their own homes. Our decision to reopen recognizes that (1) for RMS families and staff, that risk is balanced against the educational, social, economic and other costs of remaining closed, (2) our school must reopen with many new health and safety protocols to do everything we can to responsibly mitigate that risk to the extent possible, and (3) each family and staff member must decide how to balance those risks, and whether to return to school.

Our classroom environments are designed to harness the developmental forces of each plane of a child's development for the child's own optimal self-construction through experiential interactions with the environment. Our ability to guide that development is diminished in the absence of a face-to-face learning environment. By reopening our school we are aiming to fulfill the mission of Rochester Montessori School, which is to guide the child through a prepared environment to become an independent thinker who is responsible, respectful, and compassionate to self, community, and the world.

This document explains the policies and procedures being employed to mitigate COVID-related risks at school. This approach is built around health monitoring protocols, reducing the number of contacts during the school day, and new cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Adults and children will be wearing face masks indoors (age 3 and older) and practice distancing based on the expectations at each developmental level. We believe reopening with these new protocols represents an important first step in responsibly living with this virus.

RMS has limited enrollment this year based on recommendations for distancing and to create cohorts of children and staff that do not mix. All of our classrooms will operate at 50% capacity to increase physical distance as close to 6' as possible between children. In order to best accomplish

this distancing, we have made considerable alterations to our facility and programing. This summer the wall between two classrooms was removed to provide much needed space for our middle school program. We have also created a 5th Children's House room, Aspens, utilizing the Dayhouse space! We are preparing the environments with individual work areas and students will have their own supply of commonly used materials to prevent sharing of these items. Our heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) and plumbing systems have been cleaned and checked by professionals this summer to ensure they are in proper working condition given the facility was closed for several months. We have encouraged all staff to include additional time outdoors into their daily programming as well as increased unstructured outdoor time for children to connect with their classmates upon the return to school.

We recognize our safety measures are diminished by what happens outside of school. Families are encouraged to do everything possible to sensibly limit activities where additional exposure can be avoided. Reducing overall risk to our community will require parents to err on the side of caution and keep their children home if symptomatic. Parents must also have a backup plan in place should their child(ren) need to be home if quarantine or isolation is required pursuant to guidelines or a public health agency. Please familiarize yourself with the protocols in this document for keeping children at home.

This plan was a joint collaboration with administration, staff, Board of Trustees, and our Covid Health Advisory Team consisting of Mayo Clinic physicians. We sincerely thank all who have been involved and the extra effort put in this summer to make returning to school possible for our children and families. Our policies will be flexible and nimble as new information is released and may be altered or refined based on the level of viral transmission in the community.

In sum, RMS has concluded that reopening our campus under these conditions is in the best interest of the community and that each RMS family will make its own decision about the balance of risk, and what is best for their children. The information in this document will provide clarity around the practices and procedures RMS has established to minimize exposure to our community but in no way warrants that COVID-19 or other communicable disease infection will not occur through participation in our programs.

We are committed to providing the best Montessori and International Baccalaureate educational experience to our children while maintaining a safe environment. We sincerely appreciate you partnering with us for your child(ren)'s education.

Sincerely,

Deborah Summerson, Interim Head of School

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Program Summary

Hours of Operation

We have extended our drop off time in the morning to accommodate a more spread out arrival of students into the building. Pick up times will vary based on program level and classroom.

School Day:

Before School Care: 7:30am-8:30am

Arrival: 8:10-8:40am

Pick up: varies by program level and classroom

After School Care 1: after school to 4:30

After School Care 2: after school to 5:30

Arrival and Departure

The following arrival and departure processes will be adhered to in order to meet the state guidelines for distancing and limited contact. Our dropoff process will be very familiar to returning families and students.

ARRIVAL REQUIREMENTS/PROCEDURES:

EARLY DROP OFF

- Students attending early drop off must be pre-registered with the school for these services
- Early drop off starts at 7:30am
- Parents and caregivers are required to wear a mask and walk their children to the vestibule area. A staff member will be present just inside the doors to greet each student and guide them to their classroom.
- Children age 3 and older must wear a face mask during arrival.
- Students will report directly to their classroom (RMS will not mix cohorts for before and after school programs)
- Children will have a non-contact temperature check in the vestibule. If febrile, the parent will be called to pick up the child immediately. Parents should self screen their child(ren) each morning for symptoms before coming to school.

REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS DROP OFF

- Drop off is from 8:10am-8:40am. We have extended this time period for the 2020-21 school year to help space out student arrival into the building.
- Walk-up arrivals cannot be facilitated during this time, with the exception of Toddlers.
- Parents and students (3 and older) must wear a face mask during arrival.
- Drive your vehicle parallel to the curb, pulling in as close as you can get.

- Staff will greet your child(ren) at the car and assist as needed.
- As soon as your car door closes and your child is safely away from the curb, you may proceed toward the exit.
- A member of our staff will greet children upon entrance to the building
- Children will have a non-contact temperature check just inside the doors. If febrile the parent will be called and need to take the child home immediately. Parents should self screen their child(ren) each morning for symptoms including a temperature check.
- All toddlers will enter at the gate by their outdoor environment. If inclement weather, the gate will be open and parents can walk their child to the first exterior door that enters the toddler classroom. All parents and caregivers must wear face masks. A non-contact temperature check will be performed upon arrival. Toddler families are welcome to utilize curbside dropoff if their child is able to do so.

LATE ARRIVAL - Late arrival must be scheduled in advance through SchoolCues or with the main office. Please follow this procedure:

- Complete the Gold Communication permission form in SchoolCues OR contact the Main Office and indicate the exact time of your child’s late arrival.
- Office Staff will notify the classroom community to make arrangements for receiving the child at the pre-arranged late arrival time.
- At the pre-arranged late arrival time, please pull up to the curb and walk your child to the vestibule area and ring the bell (please wear a mask). Office staff will proceed to assist the child to their classroom.

DEPARTURE PROCEDURES: Student dismissal will happen as outlined below.

- Walk-up departures cannot be facilitated during this time, except toddlers.
- Parents and caregivers must wear a face mask during pick up.
- Please pull up and park at the designated arrival/departure location for your community.
- Wait in your car and your child will be walked to you and helped inside the car.
- Once your child is in the car, pull up to the driveway to finalize buckling your child in their car seat.
- Student dismissal times and locations are outlined below.

| Program | Time | Exit Point |
|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Toddler ½ Day | 11:30-11:45am | Playground gate |
| Toddler | 3:00-3:15pm | Playground, east side door |
| Redwoods ½ Day | 11:45-12pm | Front Door |
| Redwoods | 2:45-3:00pm* | Front Door |

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Birches ½ Day | 11:45-12pm | Gate on west side |
| Birches | 2:45-3:00pm* | Gate on west side |
| Cypress ½ Day | 12-12:15pm | Front Door |
| Cypress | 3:00-3:15pm* | Front Door |
| Willows ½ Day | 12-12:15pm | Gate on west side |
| Willows | 3:00-3:15pm* | Gate on west side |
| Aspens ½ Day | 11:45-12pm | Front Door |
| Aspens | 3:00-3:15pm* | Front Door |
| E1 East | 3:15-3:30pm | West Gate |
| E1 West | 3:15-3:30pm | Front Door |
| E2 | 3:30-3:45pm | West Gate |
| Middle School | 3:30-3:45pm | Front Door |

*Children’s House pick up times will rotate half way through the school year to balance out the instructional time between classrooms. Redwoods and Birches will start the year with the 2:45pm pick up time and starting in 3rd Quarter will switch to 3pm pick up time. Cypress, Willows and Aspens will start the year with 3pm pick up and move to 2:45pm pick up starting 3rd quarter (January 25th).

AFTER SCHOOL CARE - 1 (4:30pm)

- Parents or caregivers must come to the vestibule area and ring the bell. Staff will acknowledge your presence and request after school staff to send the child(ren) to the vestibule area to be picked up.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE - 2 (5:30pm)

- ASC-2 will have curbside pickup from 5:15-5:30pm. Students from all program levels will be expected to maintain distance from one another during this time.
- Parents arriving before 5:15pm should come to the vestibule area and ring the doorbell. Staff will acknowledge your presence and make a call to after school staff to send children to the vestibule area to be picked up.

EARLY DEPARTURE - Early departure must be scheduled in advance through SchoolCues and the main office. Please follow this procedure:

- Complete necessary permissions form in SchoolCues and contact the main office to schedule your early pick up time.
- Office staff will work with the classroom community to make arrangements for assisting the child with departure at the pre-arranged early departure time.
- At the pre-arranged early departure time, please pull up to the curb and wait.
- Office staff will observe the departure area at the pre-arranged early departure time and proceed to assist the child with departure following the regular departure procedures.
- Parents and caregivers are required to wear masks.

Parent Contact, Communication and Conferences

Each guide has a school email address for parent communications. Guides will generally respond to emails within 24 hours during the week but it is difficult for guides to respond to phone messages during the day. Time-sensitive contact should be facilitated by calling the main office and/or emailing reception@rmschool.org

Conferences will be held by the program guide via zoom during normal conference time frames as scheduled on our [school calendar](#). Parents are encouraged to ask questions or raise concerns as they arise and the guide will facilitate a meeting, as necessary.

Parent observations of the classrooms are suspended at this time. We hope to offer observations, with masks on and from outside the classroom, as the school year progresses.

Parent gatherings will occur via zoom and will be communicated to families at least one week in advance.

Children's Meals and Snacks

All daily classroom snacks must be provided by parents. Family style snack offerings have been suspended. RMS will provide a pre-packaged snack to children enrolled in before and after school care services.

Children will continue to enjoy their lunches in their own classroom environment. To limit possible contamination, all lunches will be handled by children, when possible. Our typical Children's House lunch drop in the large blue bin will be suspended and children will carry their lunches to their classroom to be placed in their bin area. Parents will need to provide cold packs in the lunches that require refrigeration. Students of all ages should provide their own utensils which will be sent home daily cleaning. RMS will continue to provide individual milk service during lunch. Children should also bring their own water bottle to school.

Strategies for Reducing Virus Spread

Rochester Montessori School has and will continue to collaborate, share information and review plans with local health officials and our Health Advisory Committee to help protect the whole school community. School plans are designed to complement other community mitigation strategies to protect high-risk populations and the healthcare system and minimize disruption to teaching and learning.

This document was compiled using the COVID-19 guidelines and recommendations for schools and childcare programs published by the CDC and Minnesota Department Health. RMS operating procedures meet or exceed the minimum standards of care and will be updated as new information or additional guidelines are made available.

[CDC Guidance for Schools and Child Care](#)

[CDC Considerations for Schools](#)

[Minnesota Department of Health Planning Guide for Schools](#)

Training

Staff must be familiar with and receive ongoing training regarding State, CDC and City of Rochester recommendations and requirements. Staff training sessions for the 20-21 school year will occur during our pre-programming which is two weeks before school starts and will cover all topics in this COVID-19 Operating Plan. Additional training may be provided/required as the CDC or State of Minnesota deems necessary.

Face Coverings

RMS will require adults and students ages 3 and older to wear a face covering while in the building. Our Montessori guides are already working on child friendly strategies to address wearing a mask when children come back to school. Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. Masks are considered critical to controlling the spread of coronavirus. Face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment. Please note that due to the nature of some of the presentations given in our early childhood programs, staff may remove their mask and wear a face shield for presentations. While masks will always be required indoors, they will also be required outdoors if 6' of distancing cannot be maintained or 12' of distancing cannot be maintained during strenuous activities that cause heavy breathing.

Please help to make sure your child(s) face mask fits properly and is as comfortable as possible. It is expected adults and children will wear a clean face mask each day. Parents should practice mask

wearing with their child prior to school starting. This link has helpful tips for getting children comfortable wearing masks. Please avoid facemasks that have distracting or inappropriate graphics.

[30-Day Plan to Help Kids Mask](#)
[CDC Guidance of Face Coverings](#)

Face coverings will not be worn or placed on someone:

- Who has trouble breathing
- Who is napping
- Who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance
- Who cannot tolerate a face covering due to developmental, medical, or behavior health needs.

Physical Distancing Strategies

Rochester Montessori School does not expect that young children (Toddler and Children's House) will consistently distance themselves from other children or adults while at school. Young children learn by engaging with their environment, which includes the other people in it. However, RMS will employ the following strategies for limiting the spread of COVID-19 in all of our classrooms regardless of age:

- RMS will remind students and staff of physical distancing and develop child friendly techniques to help children maintain distance, including creating individualized work areas.
- Communities will consist of stable groups. Stable means that the same children and their consistent guides and assistants are in the same group each day with no mingling of other student cohorts or staff.
- Rochester Montessori will not exceed 50% of building occupancy in any classroom.
- Children shall not change from one group to another during the day.
- Program cohorts may be outdoors at the same time but distancing will be enforced.
- The guide and assistant will remain with a single group each day.
- Enrichment specialists will provide learning opportunities outdoors or via zoom as we return this fall. Specialists working with multiple cohorts throughout the day will be required to wear a mask outdoors. We will evaluate how things are going and explore whether we can make use of our music room, gymnasium and art studio during the winter months. If so, we will communicate this with families.
- Each child will have their own designated work space and supplies to increase physical distancing and reduce shared use of commonly used items.
- We will utilize our outdoor space as much as possible. Please send your children to school with clothes that are appropriate for the weather.
- Plexiglass will be utilized to limit spread when possible, for example, on larger round or rectangle tables that are used by two or more children.

- The physical distance between children will be increased in daily work locations, group gatherings, meals, and snacks.
- At nap time, children's cots will be spaced out as much as possible, with alternating head to toe arrangements to reduce the distance between children. Full day 3 year olds will nap in their classroom, something that RMS has done in the past before the introduction of Dayhouse. A clean, flat sheet will be provided by RMS to cover your child's cot and be washed daily.

Hand Hygiene

Proper hand hygiene is a simple yet effective way to reduce the spread of the virus. RMS will continue to practice good hand hygiene throughout the day with its practical life lessons. At minimum, all children and staff will engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

- Upon arrival to the school
- Before and after eating or handling food
- After using the toilet or helping a child with toileting or diaper changes
- Prior to putting on a mask and after removing a mask
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid (gloves should be worn)
- After playing outdoors or in any activity that soils the hands such as sand

Follow Five Steps to Wash Your Hands the Right Way

(<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html>)

Follow these five steps every time.

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

After assisting children with handwashing, staff should also wash their own hands. Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs in most situations. RMS will also have hand sanitizer available throughout the building.

Health Screening

Daily employee and child health screenings are important to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19 at school. Parents should screen children each morning before arriving at school.

All children and staff who meet any of the criteria below will be denied entry:

- Temperature over 100.4°F without use of any temperature reducing medications.
- New onset of a cough or shortness of breath by themselves OR at least two of the following:

- Chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of sense of smell or taste , gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea, nausea, vomiting)
- In the previous 14 days has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19;
- Is under investigation for COVID-19;
- Traveling to another country in the previous 14 days. [CDC Returning from International Travel](#)
- **The MDH decision tree determines when you must stay home.**
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

COVID-19 Symptoms and Cases

Symptoms at School - Children

If COVID-19 symptoms begin while at school, the child must be sent home as soon as possible. Sick children will be kept separate from well children and staff contact will be limited as much as reasonably possible, while ensuring the safety and supervision of the child until they leave.

- Classroom staff will follow these isolation procedures:
 - Children age three and older who can safely wear a mask will continue to do so. Disposable masks will be provided if needed to replace a soiled mask.
 - Classroom staff will take the child to the Isolation location:
 - Isolation location #1: Resource Room
 - Isolation location #2: Main Office, separate room
 - The classroom staff will inform the office staff of symptoms exhibited.
 - Office staff will contact parents to come to school to pick up the child.
 - The child will be supervised until the parent arrives.
 - Parents will be provided the [Minnesota Department of Health Decision Tree for People with Covid Symptoms in Youth, Student and Childcare](#)
 - Once a parent has left with the ill child, the isolation area will be cleaned and sanitized.
- Materials, toys, and furniture touched by the child will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- Families are encouraged to coordinate decision-making around the child's care with the family health care provider if there are specific health concerns, chronic disease, or complex social or emotional dynamics in the home.
- In the case of a child who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the child is assumed to have COVID-19, and cannot return to the community until the child has met the criteria for return under Children or Staff with Positive Case of COVID-19

- A child who has exhibited symptoms that could be COVID-19 can return to school if the parent has obtained a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on a negative COVID19 test and an alternative diagnosis.

COVID-19 Symptoms at School - Staff

Staff is encouraged to monitor their health and required to perform daily health screenings for symptoms of COVID-19 including taking their temperature. Staff are required to stay home if they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or have a temperature of 100.4°F or higher, and to contact their healthcare provider.

- Staff exhibiting new or worsening symptoms of possible COVID-19 at school should:
 - Continue to wear their mask
 - Notify the office to ensure coverage is established
 - Leave the classroom
 - Obtain a COVID-19 test
 - Follow the recommendations of their healthcare provider
- In the case of a staff member who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and may not return to work until the individual has met the criteria for returning to work after a positive test.
- If the staff member has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for the return based on a negative COVID19 test and an alternative diagnosis.

COVID-19 Exposure

If a staff member or child has been identified as having close contact to someone outside the classroom community who is diagnosed with COVID-19, that staff member or child will be required to self-quarantine per the [CDC guidelines](#), currently 14 days. Close contact means being closer than 6 feet apart for more than 15 minutes with the person who was infectious.

Positive Case in Classroom Community

If a child or staff member contracts COVID-19, all siblings and household members should stay home for 14 days per MDH guidelines and RMS will comply with guidance from public health concerning whether all persons in that classroom community will be required to self-quarantine.

The following actions will be taken by school administration:

- Report the presence of COVID-19 at our school to appropriate state and local authorities
- Notify staff and parents/caregivers that a member of the classroom community has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Confidentiality will be maintained.

- Take steps to close the specific classroom community for 14 days to allow self-quarantine for all children and staff in the classroom community who have been in close contact with the person diagnosed with COVID-19 if advised by public health officials.
- Ensure appropriate cleaning and disinfecting protocols are followed.
- Each program level will have plans in place for a two week closure. Children in 1st through 8th grade will continue via distance learning through the use of Zoom, Google Classroom and other resources and materials.

Example of child testing positive at RMS Quarantine Protocol:

- All children and staff in that cohort will quarantine for 14 days. Any siblings or immediate family member should be tested and quarantined. If a sibling is in another RMS classroom that classroom will not quarantine unless that sibling also tests positive.

*Decisions about extending closure will be made in consultation with the MN Department of Health and Olmsted County Health Officials.

Return to School After Positive Test

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); AND
- The child or staff member has improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); AND
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, or negative COVID-19 test result

Quarantine and Isolation

[Quarantine](#) is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.

[Isolation](#)

Isolation is used to separate people infected with the virus (those who are sick with COVID-19 and those with no symptoms) from people who are not infected. People who are in isolation should stay home until it's safe for them to be around others. In the home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific "sick room" or area and using a separate bathroom (if available).

Contact tracing is a strategy used to determine the source of an infection and how it is spreading. 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. Those contacts might include family members, co-workers or health care providers. School staff are expected to maintain a daily list of people they are in close contact with and sign up at MN Health Trace if they have been in close contact with someone in the classroom community that has tested positive for COVID-19 OR if the staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19.

Communication

Rochester Montessori School will communicate (confidentiality will be maintained):

- With families, if their child has been in close contact with someone at school who has then tested positive for COVID-19.
- With staff, if they have been in close contact with someone at school who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- With the entire school community if a classroom community has been closed temporarily due to COVID-19 exposure.
- RMS will provide a weekly update to the community with confirmed tests and quarantine activity.

Monitoring Absenteeism

Rochester Montessori School administrative staff will monitor absenteeism among children and staff using SchoolCues. Any unusual patterns will be considered when evaluating the need for temporary or long-term building or campus closure. Decisions about extending closure will be made in consultation with the MN Department of Health and Olmsted County Health Officials.

Procedure for Recording Community Attendance

- Staff records attendance in SchoolCues, including any known reason for absence and may contact a parent if the child is not present.

Facility and Supplies

Masks

The RMS Office will have a supply of reusable and disposable masks should anyone need one. It is expected that students and staff will provide their own personal masks and we will have additional clean cloth masks to use should a child or staff's mask need to be replaced during the day. RMS simply cannot afford to provide disposable masks to every student and staff daily.

Hygiene Supplies

RMS will ensure availability of appropriate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors and place

them strategically in areas of the school where they may be frequently used.

- Supplies for students and staff:
 - Masks as listed above
 - Liquid soap, running water and paper towels are located in all classrooms and bathrooms other than the music room, gymnasium, classroom across from Redwoods, and the resource room. Children and staff may use these as frequently as needed throughout the day.
 - Tissue is provided in all classrooms and common areas.
 - RMS will provide hand sanitizer stations throughout the school.
 - RMS staff and janitorial services are responsible for replenishing or replacing all soap, paper towels and tissues with their classroom spaces, as needed.
- The RMS office will ensure adequate supply of these materials in the designated COVID area, health area and office:
 - Disposable gloves
 - Eye protection
 - Masks for students or staff, as back up or for illness, as needed
 - Thermometers (non-contact)
 - Cleaning rags
 - Cleaning and disinfecting products

Air Quality

This summer Tonna Mechanical serviced all of the furnaces and air conditioners in the building to ensure proper air flow and cleanliness after not being used for several months. The HVAC system at RMS is designed so that one furnace and AC unit services one classroom area (the classrooms are not all serviced by one central furnace). Nearly all classrooms have their own thermostat. Our system does bring in fresh air from the outdoors that is exchanged in the return air ducts. We will encourage the “fan” setting on the thermostats to run constantly to help circulate the air and bring in fresh air. Several rooms have doors that go directly outside and we will encourage them to be cracked open as much as possible for increased fresh air. To increase ventilation, other exterior doors may be open as weather permits to increase air flow throughout the school.

Water Quality

RMS will have the water system flushed and tested prior to student arrival due to the water being unused for several months. RMS is on city water (chlorinated) and the pipes in the school are new (2004).

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Cleaning Practices

Rochester Montessori School will follow a detailed cleaning and disinfecting plan for each classroom, common areas and the front office. These efforts include the following:

- Staff will routinely clean, sanitize, and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially materials.
- All bathrooms and high touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- Electrostatic Spraying Technology will be used to disinfect and sanitize our environments. The electrostatic charge ensures that even the hard to reach places are coated evenly and effectively.
- Materials that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will be removed from rotation.
- Materials will be cleaned and sanitized between each use.
- Materials that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions will be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. These materials will be sanitized prior to use by the next person.
- Machine washable cloth materials will be used by one individual at a time and will be laundered before being used by another child.
- Children's books and other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.

Bedding

Each child's personal napping items will be kept separate and stored in individually labeled bins. Cots and mats are labeled for each child. This year children who nap will not need to provide a fitted crib sheet for cots. RMS will provide a flat sheet to cover the cot that is washed daily.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Products

Rochester Montessori School uses disinfecting products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19.

[E22 Disinfectant used at RMS for surface cleaning, electrostatic cleaning, mopping floors, playground spraying](#)

[Sani-Q Disinfectant for Toddlers and Children's House food safe requirements](#)

[CDC ReOpening America Cleaning Disinfection Recommendations](#)

Student Accommodations

District Services

RMS has a limited number of students with IEP's, 504's, IHP's, etc. and will work to ensure any students that are at risk are provided accommodations to continue to be able to learn. RMS will also

work with Rochester Public Schools to ensure students that are receiving services from them are continued or accommodated to ensure decrease in risk to them and RMS, including virtual services when possible.

Distance Learning

For those individuals considered vulnerable or at high risk OR are otherwise unable to attend regular school due to COVID related experiences, RMS will offer distance learning. Distance learning will also be used should changes in the pandemic require decreased/no onsite classroom attendance. RMS is still finalizing our distance learning program for this school year.

Mental Health and Wellness

COVID-19 has caused tremendous stress, fear and anxiety for many people. RMS is providing staff, families, and students (age-appropriate) with the following information on how to access resources for mental health and wellness.

- www.health.state.mn.us/communities/mentalhealth/support.html
- www.mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/get-help/mental-health.jsp
- www.health.state.mn.us/communities/mentalhealth/children