

**FIELD STATION COOPERATIVE
COVID-19 SAFE OPERATING PLAN
FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE 2020/2021 SCHOOL YEAR
(Procedures will be re-analyzed and adjusted on an on-going basis)**

As with the school calendar and weather closings, the Field Station will generally follow Duneland School District's lead in best practices for keeping our families safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. We will use their phases as a guide, but will have our own specific procedures and processes. Shifts between Phase 2 (yellow) and phase 3 (orange) in Duneland's plan will not change protocols at the Field Station. For reference, here is their plan: [Duneland's One Page Summary](#)

• **Start times will be delayed 30 minutes from our traditional schedule: Morning Classes: 9:00-11:30. Afternoon Classes: 1:00-3:30.** Part of Duneland's plan is having later start times to allow the teachers more time to clean, disinfect, and prepare in-between classes. For this reason, and also because many of our families have students in both Duneland and the FS, we will follow this as well.

• **Students will be outside the entire day, every day, with very limited exceptions. All instruction, art, playtime and snacks will be outside.** We plan to only be inside to hang up bags, use the bathroom, and wash hands, and this will be done in either individually or in small groups. This is the best way to keep the students safe. We will be setting up additional outside classroom areas, hand washing stations, more play spaces, adding tarps for shade and protection from rain, moving many of our tables and toys outside, and we will be going on more hikes and exploring even more than before.

• **It will be very important for parents to stay informed regarding weather and dress students appropriately as we will be outside unless it is storming or dangerously cold.** We will not be outside if the "real feel" is below 20 degrees. There will also be no loaning or sharing of cold weather gear. We are taking this month by month and realize we may need to readdress this once the weather turns cold.

• **We will begin the school year with no parent volunteers.** We feel it is safest to keep the number of people in the buildings to a minimum. We may consider adding immediate family members for volunteering if the number of COVID-19 cases in our area is stabilized.

• **Parents will not be allowed in the school buildings at any time, including at drop-off or at all during the school day.** The teachers will go to the cars and get the students. We encourage parents to wear masks while teachers are getting the students from the cars. Pick-up procedures will remain the same; teachers

will bring the students to cars or to parents waiting outside. We encourage parents that wait outside to wear a mask and stay 6 ft. apart.

• **If students will be more than 20 minutes late, we ask that you keep your student home for the day.** It will be very important that students are on-time for class since there will be no parent volunteers to come out to the cars and since parents will not be allowed in the buildings. The same thing goes for leaving early. Since we will be outside much more on hikes and since the day will not be as predictable, we will not be able to accommodate early dismissals.

• **All students will receive a health evaluation before joining the school each morning, generally while still in their car seats.** We will check student's temperatures and also give them a quick evaluation to make sure there are no signs of illness before being dropped off. Signs of illness include but are not limited to: fever (100.4 F or above), runny nose/congestion, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, watery eyes, cough, lethargy, loss of taste or smell, headache, chills and sore throat.

• **Students will be sent home immediately if they show any symptoms whatsoever.** If a student shows signs of illness, they will be isolated from other students until their parents come to get them. Parents must be ready to answer the phone and able to immediately pick up their child at all times during the school day. Keeping a student separate from the class will take away a teacher from the rest of the class, so it will be imperative that sick students are picked up as soon as possible, always in less than 30 minutes.

• **If a student or teacher is excluded from the school because of a positive test, symptoms, or exposure, the following will apply:**

-UNTESTED WITH SYMPTOMS: if not tested but experiencing symptoms, student or teacher may return if the following three conditions are ALL met:

-At least 10 calendar days have passed since the symptoms first appeared; and

-All symptoms are completely gone (for example, when cough or shortness of breath is gone); and

-The individual has not had a fever (100.4 F or above) for at least 72 hours (without the use of medication)

-POSITIVE TEST: If a student or teacher tests positive, they may return only once the following four conditions are ALL met:

-Retest and have a negative result, and

-At least 14 calendar days have passed since the symptoms first appeared; and

- All symptoms are completely gone; and
- The individual has not had a fever (100.4 F or above) for at least 72 hours (without the use of medication)

-If one of our teachers or students test positive for COVID-19, we will have to shut down for at least 14 days and will ask families to self-quarantine.

-EXPOSURE (Direct contact; within 6 feet for a period of longer than 15 minutes with a person with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis): May return to school after 14 days.

- We will stay in the smaller groups (11 for 3-day and 9 for 2-day) as much as possible.
- All students and teachers will wash hands or use hand sanitizer at every transition.
- Bathrooms will be cleaned every hour.
- Teachers will do a thorough disinfecting in between morning and afternoon classes.
- Toys that are not easily cleaned and disinfected will not be put out.
- We will not require students to wear masks. They can if they choose, and the teachers will help accommodate this, but our concern is that they will cause more issues than they will solve with children taking them on and off, touching their faces, etc... If you do want your child to wear a mask, please have a lanyard with the mask attached that they can wear around their neck to help with keeping track and others touching it. Also please work with your child so they can take it on and off by themselves.
- Teachers will also not wear masks during learning times, as it is very important for students to be able to see the teachers' facial expressions and intonations. Masks will be worn by teachers when preparing and distributing snacks to students, while taking children to and from cars, if they feel a child has symptoms and need to isolate them, etc....
- Parents will sign a release that states the Field Station is not responsible if their child catches the virus.
- Parents will sign a commitment letter saying they will not send their children to school if they have any signs of illness, that they will take precautions outside of school, and that they will practice safe hygiene.

- We are investigating HVAC filtration/disinfection systems.
- We will need to develop a significant list of substitute teachers. Our teachers will not be able to teach if they have any signs of illness at all. If you or someone you know are interested in being on our sub list, please let us know.
- **Outside-of-classroom volunteer hours will still be required and the minimum will actually be increased by two hours, requiring a total of 14 hours per family for the year.** Because thorough cleanings will be so important, we will need more people to help clean and we will also need extra help with getting the outside set up and then maintained for this new situation. Fundraising will also be even more important and difficult this year.
- If classes are forced to go to remote learning, we will be providing a combination of online resources and videos, along with take-home packets for the students.