

FAIR ACRES COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL REOPENING APPROACH

September, 2020

The Fair Acres reopening approach adheres to the requirements and guidance outlined in the **MASSACHUSETTS CHILD AND YOUTH SERVING PROGRAMS REOPEN APPROACH: [Minimum Requirements for Health and Safety](#)**

The updated MA State guidance can be found online, here:
https://eelead.force.com/resource/1592325278000/Min_Req

The Fair Acres reopening approach includes the following components:

A. Preparedness and Planning

Planning: Programs must develop plans prior to reopening (and maintain them once reopened) to address how they will meet the new health and safety requirements. Programs must identify all the ways reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic might affect the program and develop a plan of action. Programs must prepare the program environment to promote the new health and safety requirements and to facilitate infection control activities.

- Our policies for preventing and responding to COVID-19 and the steps we are taking to ensure the health and well-being of our students and staff come directly from the aforementioned MA state *Minimum Requirements for Health and Safety* referenced above.
- The *Minimum Requirements for Health and Safety* will be referenced daily via the MA State website to ensure compliance with any and all updates on requirements and guidance.

B. Staffing and Operations

Programs must make the changes to their operations as noted in the guidelines.

- Our COVID-19 point person will be our co-director, Shannon Nasuti.
- Co-directors Shannon Nasuti and Jodi Larson will be able to enter the classrooms to help if needed and will have face coverings on.
- Co-directors Shannon Nasuti and Jodi Larson will be the designated health care supervisors at Fair Acres.
- The school has set a procedure in place for when a staff member is out sick and the classroom requires coverage.

C. Group Sizes and Ratios

Group sizes must be restricted to a maximum of 10 children. If additional adults are required to support supervision of children during breaks, they must be assigned to only one cohort of children and not between cohorts.

- The teacher-child ration will be 1:10 except for Kindergarten, which will be 1:12.
- School classes will have no more than 10 children in them with exception of the Kindergarten class which will have 12 children.
- The same teacher and children will be assigned to the same group for the entire year.
- Staff will not float between groups.

D. Screening and Monitoring of Children and Staff

Programs must screen all staff and children before they are permitted to enter the school space following the requirements below.

- If a staff member shows any symptoms of COVID-19, their teaching responsibilities will cease immediately.
- Health checks will be conducted both verbally and visually every morning for each child, before entering the buildings, by designated staff persons.
- At drop off, the children will be dropped off at their designated school building.
- At pick up, the children will be picked up at designated outdoor areas. When weather is inclement, children will be picked up at the entrance of the buildings.
- The children will be escorted from their cars and brought into the classroom by an appointed staff member, who will have a face covering on at all times. The child will be then be brought to their classroom where they will go directly to the bathroom to wash their hands.

E. Isolation and Discharge of Sick Children and Staff

Programs must take actions to prepare for a potential exposure.

- A plan is set for isolating any child or staff member, who becomes sick or has developed symptoms of COVID-19 throughout the day until they can be picked up by responsible person or drive themselves home.
- We have designated the Fair building office and the Sanborn building office as our isolation rooms for children and/or staff who have potential COVID-19 symptoms, so they can socially distance from the rest of the school.
- If a child or staff member becomes sick at any time during the day they will immediately be removed from the classroom and brought to one of the designated isolation rooms. Staff members will if possible, drive themselves home. The child's parent will be called

and then emailed letting them know that their child will need to be picked up immediately.

- Staff have been instructed to remain at home if they are not feeling well. Our sick leave policy will be flexible in allowing this to happen.

F. Hygiene and Health Practice

Plan ahead to ensure that the program has adequate supplies to promote frequent and effective hygiene behaviors.

- Soft toys and other items that cannot be easily cleaned after each use will not be allowed in the classrooms.
- All communal water, sand and sensory tables will be not accessible inside the classrooms.
- Handwashing signs will be visible for both children and staff to refer to at each sink.

G. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Face Masks and Covering

Programs should encourage the wearing of masks or cloth face coverings during the program day. Whenever 6 feet of physical distancing is not possible, masks must be worn.

- Children are not required, but are encouraged to wear face coverings when they are not able to maintain 6 feet of social distancing.
- All staff members are REQUIRED to have face coverings on at all times throughout the day, with the exception of eating/drinking and outdoor time, when they can socially distance at a minimum of 6 feet apart.

H. Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting

Information about what supplies must be used for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting can be found in the guidelines.

- Staff will clean the areas their group has used before going onto the next area.
- Cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing will be done frequently throughout the day. This will include all materials, furniture and equipment found in the classrooms, school and bathrooms.
- Hands will also be washed when a child moves to a different area in the classroom, after touching any materials in the classroom, after using the bathroom, after sneezing, coughing or touching any bodily fluids, before eating or drinking, when coming in from outside, and prior to leaving for the day.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the classrooms and campus for when sinks are not available for washing.

- Each classroom will have a bucket with cleaning supplies that will be utilized by each classroom teacher on a daily basis. These buckets will not be accessible to students at any time.
- Classrooms will have proper ventilation and windows and doors will be open whenever possible.
- Cleaning will be done throughout the day by all staff. A professional cleaning company will clean nightly, adhering to MA guidelines for sanitation and disinfection.

I. Strategies to Reduce the Risk of Transmission

Programs must attempt to maintain at least 6 feet of distance at all times and limit contact between individuals and groups, whenever possible. When 6 feet is not possible, individuals should wear masks or cloth face coverings.

- Staff will limit their contact with one another.
- Classroom spaces have been arranged to accommodate only 10 children and to promote social distancing.
- A schedule will be established for the use of communal outdoor spaces to ensure no intermingling occurs between groups.
- Co-directors Shannon and Jodi will monitor the staff and groups throughout the day to ensure there is no contact.
- Teachers and their groups will maintain social/physical distance between all school groups and within their own groups.
- Parents and visitors are not allowed in the school.
- Materials in the classroom are NOT to be shared amongst the children. Materials in the classrooms have been set up for individual play. Once the materials have been used by an individual child these materials will be placed in a bucket outside the classroom to be washed, sanitized and disinfected.
- Pencil boxes will be provided to each child with all of the necessary materials in them. These will only be used by the individual child every day.
- In the case of a positive COVID-19 test by a student or staff Shannon will contact the parents from that specific class via email and or telephone. Shannon will also contact EEC and the Board of Health for guidance.
- The school has all the parents' home numbers, work numbers and email addresses for contacting them.
- All staff members have been trained to respond and follow safety protocol regarding COVID-19 symptoms, transmission, and prevention.
- All families will be made aware of the COVID-19 procedures and policies. They will be sent a copy and the procedures and policies will be available on our website.
- All children will have their own cubbies to store all their items in. They will also have their own individual bins to store any papers and work to go home.

- Fair Acres will utilize their 7 entire acre campus while taking advantage of our multiple playgrounds, outdoor classrooms, field, and wooded areas.

J. Food Safety

Programs must follow the food safety guidelines outlined in the MA State guidance.

- Snacks will be provided by Fair Acres. When snack is prepared, the staff member will put it in individual cups minimizing handling. All staff members preparing snacks will wear gloves and face coverings at all times.
- There will be no refrigeration, so children will need to have ice packs in their lunch boxes that will be stored in their cubbies.

K. Children with Special Needs, Vulnerable Children, and Infants and Toddlers

To ensure that programs are adequately prepared to provide safe and appropriate services to children with special needs and vulnerable children, the MA State guidance must be followed.