

Dear Kingwood Montessori Families,

Happy New Year to you and your loved ones. KMS looks forward to welcoming you back to school. Monday, January 3, is a staff workday. Classes for the students begin on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

Omicron is prevailing throughout the Houston area. The surge is expected to continue for several weeks in January before subsiding. As this continues to be a time of patience, hope, and unity, we are updating our school COVID-19 Protocols moving forward.

Our COVID-19 protocol will be as follows:

1. Parents must ensure they do not send a child to school if the child has COVID 19 symptoms or is test-confirmed with COVID-19, until the conditions for **re-entry** are met:
 - **Option 1:** Student has met all **3 Re-Entry Criteria**:
 - i. 24 hours since recovery (for example-no fever without use of medications; no diarrhea without medications, etc.); AND
 - ii. Symptoms have significantly improved; AND
 - iii. 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first started; or if asymptomatic, 10 calendar days from the date of the test.
 - **Option 2:** Student is cleared by a medical professional with an alternate diagnosis (ex. Asthma, some other illness, etc.)
 - **Option 3:** Student tests negative for COVID-19 (copy of a PCR Test is submitted at the office)
2. The school will send an email to the parents of the affected classroom
3. The school will determine close contacts and will notify respective parents
4. Parents of students who are determined to be close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 may opt to keep their students at home during the recommended stay-at home period.
 - a. Parents of Toddler and Early Childhood classrooms will have the option of sending their children to school; ***Classrooms will not be closed.***
 - b. Parents of Elementary classrooms are exempt from classroom closures if both the infected student and the exposed students consistently wore well-fitting masks; ***Classrooms will not be closed.***

We will ask people who are sick, for any reason, to remain at home. Anyone with cold-like symptoms needs to stay home to help keep our school safe and healthy.

KMS will maximize exposure to fresh air and sunlight through additional outdoor playground areas. Classrooms use UV light after school to clean the air. We also continue with enhanced cleaning protocols. Students are encouraged to bring their own bottled water or a bottle to refill. Our teachers emphasize frequent hand washing and hygiene. **Masks are available at the entrance and are strongly encouraged.**

We thank you all for keeping our families safe!

Additional information and testing sites can be obtained at:

https://houstonemergency.org/covid-19-testing/?fbclid=IwAR0dpmfwnuu8Xogx2uerWHGZVUI0coAsw-Y5rWq7C4cbBNoJ_gebaQG2nIU

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/omicron-variant.html>

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fif-you-are-sick%2Fquarantine.html