 **®July 12, 2022/Effective August 22, 2022~Updates/Clarifications Highlighted8/22/22**

**Dear Small World Preschool Families:**

**We would like to inform you of the following ~~requirements~~ UPDATES with regards to the ongoing Covid-19 situation as we feel the importance that we continue to remain vigilant.**

* **We will continue with *weekly* rapid testing through the month of September\*\*. As such, your child will be REQUIRED to perform a test every Monday morning prior to entering school. A photo of the result should be emailed to us as early as possible. If we do not receive an email from you, please be prepared to show us a photo from your phone, which we will then forward to our printer for our records. We urge you all to take advantage of the free test kits currently provided by the government; please let us know if you are having trouble obtaining kits.**
* **The preschool’s mask wearing policy remains intact. Masks should always be worn whenever on school property, regardless of vaccination status.** **We expect our families to have their masks on prior to walking on to the gravel parking area, cement walkway, ramp, and porch. Being that we are not aware of the vaccination status of our families, (along with enacting policy that would require parents to be vaccinated) we know that there are families that will still adhere to the mask wearing policy not only as their choice but for the continued safety and health of themselves and the families that are waiting their turn to bring their child up to the entryway. (Please let any/all other family members that may call for your child) Not only is this our policy, but it is just out of common courtesy to others.** **Children are still required to mask up during the school day.**
* **Regarding illness in school/child gets sent home:**
* **The child must perform a rapid test once at home and/or at the onset of symptoms. For the child to return to school, he/she must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of any fever-reducer and not exhibiting any symptoms (no matter how minor). The child must repeat a rapid test taken the morning of his/her return, and results shall be clear and legible. We ask that you keep your child home if they are not feeling well.**
* **~~Per DHS licensing requirements, a child that tests positive for Covid-19 shall be required to isolate for 10 days.~~**
* **Effective August 22, 2022, children and staff who test positive or develop Covid-19 symptoms, regardless of their vaccination status must abide by the following with regards to ISOLATION:**
* **Isolate at home for 5 days.**
* **The child/staff member may return on the 6th day if they do not have fever in a 24- hour period without the use of fever-reducing medication, other symptoms of Covid-19 have improved, and shall wear a well-fitting mask from Day 6 to 10 after symptom onset or the date of testing positive. The preschool shall have jurisdiction on the determination of Day 0.**
* **This amended isolation period will apply to keiki that are consistent with their mask wearing in school. The youngest group (ages 2-3) often have difficulty keeping their masks on consistently, whereas we would not feel comfortable with the shortened isolation period. This is also subject to our jurisdiction should an occurrence happen within our youngest group at this time. It may change as the school year progresses and these keiki become accustomed to keeping their masks on consistently.**

***\*\*\*Please note and refer to the following clarifications to Page 2 of the Updated Covid Guidelines that was jest sent home. (info is highlighted)***

* **QUARANTINE protocols previously enacted to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 by keeping people in close contact with someone diagnosed with Covid-19 apart from others for IN SCHOOL exposures have changed. Closing classrooms (by age groups) and implementing quarantine for in-school exposures are no longer necessary when universal indoor masking is implemented and enforced.**
* **When a child or staff member is identified as being positive for Covid-19, notification shall be provided to all staff and parents of the age group involved that were exposed to the positive individual.**
* **The exposed children and staff will have the option to quarantine by remaining home for 5 DAYS, OR if they choose to return to school, only children over the age of 3.5 years, that can and have correctly and consistently worn masks will be allowed to return; then continue to wear their masks properly for a minimum of 10 days. However, the preschool has FINAL DETERMINATION as to how long the child and which children will inevitably have to quarantine. We will require that a supplementary Covid-19 test is taken by all exposed individuals before returning to school.**

**~~The child can return on the 11~~~~th~~ ~~day if they fulfil the requirements listed above. Other children enrolled in that positive child’s specific age group will then be considered as “close contacts” and shall quarantine for 5 days at home. The child can return on the 6~~~~th~~ ~~day thereafter; but we will require a negative rapid test prior to returning to school. (The child should be monitored for any symptoms that may arise during the 5-day quarantine period) The preschool will inform families of the procedure thereafter.~~**

* **Should a child encounter someone outside of the school environment that tests positive, he/she shall perform a rapid test, quarantine for 5 days as a precaution, monitor for symptoms, and continue to properly wear their mask. The family is required to inform the school as a courtesy.**
* **PHYSICAL DISTANCING:**
* **Children are grouped based on the child’s age to the extent possible. They are kept in “OHANA” bubbles throughout the day with the same childcare providers. Cross deployment of staff across the center is limited within our means. Meal and playtime outdoors are staggered, and each group has access and are allotted their own play and eating areas accordingly.**
* **VISITORS/ ACCESS IN TO THE FACILITY:**
* **Entering the facility is still not permitted at this time. However, the ONLY exception is a pre-approved individual(s) that may perform a professional service of function. (For instance, our school photographer must present us with proof of vaccination and/or the result of a Covid test prior to the date of their service) Temperatures are also taken upon entry and masks are required even if outdoors.**
* **The Covid-19 Questionnaire and Disclosure document that was part of the registration paperwork has been updated. Any future updates, guidelines, and revisions on any other Covid-related and/or preschool policy will also be sent home as they occur.**
* **Regarding TRAVEL (Domestic only; Foreign/Overseas will be determined accordingly per our discretion.) ~ NO CHANGES AT THIS TIME ~**
1. **A vaccinated child will only have to submit the results of a rapid test upon return from their destination.**
2. **For our keiki that have not been vaccinated, he/she must do a rapid test prior to his/her return flight and then once again upon their return home; prior to re-entering school. If you choose not to get them tested; the child is required to quarantine at home for 5 days. In either situation, test results (photos sent via email) shall be documented accordingly.**
3. **Parents that travelled shall also be required to follow the 2 policies listed above as indicated.**
4. **In the event of a visitor(s) to the child’s home, they must be able to provide us with proof of vaccination. However, since a vaccinated individual can still carry the virus, we are asking that you keep the child out from school and isolated away from that person for a minimum of 3 days. You many then choose to have either the child or the visitor(s) take a rapid test and provide us with their results. Once the negative results are acknowledged, only then will the child be able to return to school.**

**In closing, it is our continued practice to do what we feel is necessary to keep everyone safe and healthy. Our policies may seem a bit extreme, but as a private entity, not only do we reference guidelines set in place by the CDC and the State Dept. of Health, but we are required to follow regulations as set in place by the State Dept. of Human Services which oversees all licensed childcare facilities in the State of Hawaii. (As of today, the DHS has made a few changes)However, because we deal with children under the age of 5, we enacted a few additions to their updated guidelines to further prevent transmission.**

**\*\*\*Please note: This document overrides any previous correspondence from the preschool regarding our Covid policies. With that said, your signatures on the Covid-19 School & Community Commitment Agreement forms on file will apply towards these policies listed as acknowledged. Your thorough cooperation and adherence to this and all other school policy is greatly appreciated!!**

**MAHALO!!**

 **~~CovidUpdates.doc/7-2022~~**

**Covid Policy Updates.doc/8.15.2022**

**\*\*Supplementary Clarification-8/22/2022**