COVID-19 POLICIES

As of August 23, 2021, with the rapid onset of the Delta variant,Desert Marigold School requires all students and staff to wear masks while indoors. However when community members are outdoors, masks will be optional. These outdoor times include: drop off and pick up from the parking lot, during recess and break times, and when walking to and from classes. Because of the more frequent transitions of having masks on and off, we strongly recommend the use of a lanyard to assist with keeping masks on when necessary throughout the school day. Additionally, students are encouraged to bring at least two masks to change as needed. Desert Marigold School continues to further mitigate the spread of illness on campus by:
 ● sustaining several hand washing and sanitizing stations across campus

Sharing of high touch supplies should not be necessary in most classroom situations. DMS reserves the right to adjust protocols as a result of guidance from local, state, and national public health entities. At this time, after school activities will follow the same masking protocols on campus as all students and staff adhere to throughout the school day.

COVID COMMUNICATION
All communication related to COVID-19 matters should be directed to the DMS Mitigation Team:
Frank Mirizio (fmirizio@desertmarigold.org) or
Deborah Pawlo (dmsadmin@desertmarigold.org)

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR A POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST
At Home Daily Health Monitoring and Reporting
Students or staff should not come to school if they exhibit any of the following symptoms*:
● fever or chills;
● shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
● muscle or body aches;
● sore throat;
● headache;
● fatigue;
● change in congestion or runny nose not related to allergies*;
● cough;
● nausea or vomiting;
● diarrhea; or
● new loss of taste or smell.
 *This list may not include all possible symptoms. The CDC will continue to update this list as more is learned about COVID-19. An updated list can be found HERE For the health and safety of other students and of teachers and staff, parents/families are strongly urged to monitor daily health prior to sending their children to school. Students who are ill or have a household

member with COVID-19 will not be allowed to come to school. Parents/families are required to report a positive COVID-19 test for a student, or any person residing with a student.

 If a student or staff member has any COVID symptoms:

Students and staff members should stay home and they can return after having a negative test and being symptom free for 24 hours. Please note that you will be contacted to pick up your child if they have any COVID-19 symptoms while at school.

 In the event a staff member or student is exposed to COVID-19:

 If a parent believes their child has been exposed to COVID-19 but has not been tested or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they must inform Desert Marigold's Mitigation Team for further guidance. Parents and employees are required to report to the DMS's Covid Mitigation Team if they, or a person who resides with them, have tested positive for COVID-19. If the individual has been in close contact with someone in their household who has COVID-19 and the individual is not vaccinated and/or has not had COVID-19 within the last 3 months, the individual should quarantine for 10 days if they are not being tested. If the individual has been tested, they may return to school after day 7 of quarantine provided the test was negative and have no symptoms of COVID-19. Negative test results must be from day 5 or later and shared with a member of DMS's COVID Mitigation Team.

If the individual has been in close contact with someone in their household who has COVID-19 and the individual is fully vaccinated and/or has had COVID-19 within the last 3 months, it is not necessary for the individual to quarantine unless they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. If a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19: They will need to quarantine for 10 days.

 REPORTING PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR A POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST

The CDC's, State and County Health Departments' procedures for reporting COVID-19 symptoms or COVID-19 positive tests change periodically. The following procedures may be updated and staff members, parents and families will be notified of major changes to reporting procedures. The following procedures are part of the overall contact tracing efforts recommended by the CDC.

If a person reports a positive COVID-19 test, the procedures listed below should be followed:

 1. Immediately report the situation to a member of Desert Marigold School's Covid Mitigation Team. Our Mitigation Team will communicate necessary next steps to a student's teacher.

Please allow us to manage this communication to allow our staff to maintain focus on their instruction. Confidentiality must be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

2. If a staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms at work, that staff person will be separated from all other students, staff, or visitors, and sent home in a safe manner.

3. If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms at school, the student will be separated from all other students and staff, with the exception of one staff member to supervise the student. The school will immediately notify parents to pick up the student.

4. Areas that were exposed to the symptomatic staff member or student for a prolonged period of time will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected per CDC guidelines. Depending on the situation, the areas of exposure may need to be closed for a 24-hour period.

5. Desert Marigold School's Mitigation Team will determine whether other staff members or students may have been exposed to the symptomatic individual (within 6 feet and for a prolonged period of time, typically longer than 15 minutes). If it is determined that those who were potentially exposed should be notified, the notification will recommend that exposed individuals monitor their health closely, contact their health care provider if possible, and if symptoms develop, self quarantine. Staff or students who have developed COVID-19 symptoms or had a positive COVID-19 test may not return to the site until they have met the CDC or State/County Health department's guidelines at that moment in time. Because guidelines in this area change regularly, describing the steps that will be taken would not be prudent.

COMMUNICATING TO STAFF AND PARENTS/FAMILIES

In the event that a staff member or student has tested positive for COVID-19, Desert Marigold will notify all who were close contacts to the individual testing positive (within 6 feet and for a prolonged period of time, typically longer than 15 minutes, and/or in the same classroom). In the case of an outbreak, DMS will rely on guidance from MCDPH on next steps. Students and staff may be required to quarantine and will be urged to seek testing for COVID-19.

QUARANTINES

At this time, the MCDPH will work with Desert Marigold to provide guidance regarding the need to quarantine one or more individuals and to determine if an outbreak has occurred. Until further notice, DMS will follow the MCDPH Quarantine Guidance for Household and Close Contacts of a Person with COVID-19, found HERE.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES The Centers for Disease Control
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html Arizona Department of Health Services
https://www.azdhs.gov/ Maricopa County Public Health Department
https://www.maricopa.gov/5460/Coronavirus-Disease-2019 Find a COVID testing site:
https://www.maricopa.gov/5588/COVID-19-Testing