



**Parent/Caregiver COVID Checklist for 2022-23 School Year
Revised August 30, 2022**

- Sign the COVID Compact in the Family Portal.
- Charlotte Boulay is available to answer questions between the hours of 6:30 am and 7:30 am, and after school until 8pm (734-717-2672). Chris Richardson is your contact during normal business hours. She can be reached at chrisr@miquon.org.
- Attend the COVID Town Hall Zoom event on Wednesday, August 31 at 7:00 pm. Use this link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82944440556?pwd=UTRGVWZGV2RSWklwUIJrTmwXNkNZUT09#success>
- Check in with your child each morning for signs of illness. If your child has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, they should not go to school. Contact Sarah Smith-Centz at 610-828-1231 or frontdesk@miquon.org to report illness and absence.
- Although we are discontinuing the PikMyKid health survey this year, we ask that you ensure your child does not have a sore throat or other signs of illness like a cough, runny nose, diarrhea, headache, vomiting, or body aches. If you have a question about your child's symptoms, text or call Charlotte between 6:30 and 7:30 am (734-717-2672).
- If your child has had close contact with a COVID-19 case (unmasked indoors or very close contact outdoors), please reach out to Chris right away. We will make a rapid antigen test-to-stay plan. As long as your child is asymptomatic and has a negative rapid test, they can still come to school.
- Be familiar with local PCR testing sites. Montgomery County has an excellent network of free testing sites (<https://www.montcopa.org/3744/COVID-19-Testing>), and CHOP returns same-day test results (<https://www.chop.edu/covid-19-testing-kids>). Your local pharmacy or pediatrician's office may also be options.
- Make sure your child is up-to-date with all recommended vaccines, including influenza. Miquon is requiring parents to apply for an exemption if you don't want your child to be vaccinated against COVID. The CDC highly recommends that children aged 5-11 receive a COVID booster shot in addition to the 2-shot primary series, and that children aged 6 months to 4 years be vaccinated as well. After vaccination, please send a picture of your child's COVID vaccine card to Chris Richardson at chrisr@miquon.org.
- Talk to your child about precautions to take at school. Children will be advised to:
 - Wash and sanitize their hands more often.
 - Keep some physical distance from other students.
 - Avoid sharing objects with other students, especially water bottles and food.
 - See below for information about masking.
- Make sure your information is current at school, including emergency contacts and individuals authorized to pick up your child(ren) from school. You can update this info in the Family Portal.
- If your child rides a bus, plan for your child to wear a mask on the bus and talk to your child about the importance of following bus rules and staying in their seat. If carpooling, whether you mask in the car with

others outside your household is up to you. Be aware that if someone in the carpool tests positive, your child may need to be rapid tested daily.

- ❑ Have multiple masks, so you can bring at least two to school each day. Choose masks that:
 - ❑ Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
 - ❑ Surgical or KN94 quality masks.
 - ❑ Are secured with ties or ear loops (gaiter-style masks and bandanas are not allowed)
 - ❑ Contact Bree McNamara at breem@miquon.org if you'd like to inquire about financial assistance for the purchase of masks.

Masking, Testing, & Healthcare at Miquon

As the pandemic continues to evolve, our guidelines and resources will continue to change. We have successfully managed two years of in-person learning with no outbreaks at school.

- We will require indoor masking at the beginning of the school year, but will unmask when outdoors. Eventually, we hope to be able to unmask indoors but will have to make that decision periodically as the months progress. If we do have periods of unmasking indoors, we expect that we may need to periodically return to masking as case levels rise and fall in our community and our region.
- Though we highly recommend unmasking outdoors, it is optional. **If you want your child to mask outdoors (or indoors in times of unmasking), please let your child's teacher know.** Teachers can also work with children to help them take regular mask breaks outdoors. Note that, although COVID transmission is possible outdoors, it's much less likely and we are not aware of any cases of outdoor transmission at Miquon in the last two years.
- Federal Funding for the pooled PCR testing program we participated in last year has been renewed. For new families: our pooled testing partner is [Concentric by Ginkgo](#), a private company with a contract through the PA Department of Public Health. Pooled testing involves taking a shallow nasal swab that goes in a test tube with 5-10 other swabs. All the samples are tested once with a PCR test. If that test is negative, everyone in the pool is negative. If the pool tests positive, we follow-up by administering a rapid antigen test to everyone in the pool to discover the positive case.

Concentric sends two nurses to campus each week to help with pooled testing. Charlotte and Chris manage follow-up antigen testing. Most children swab their own noses. We have found that with a little help and practice, children as young as 3 are able to do this quickly and easily. All staff and students participated in weekly pooled testing last year.

- This year we hope to complete pooled testing on Mondays. During periods of medium to high transmission, we will require everyone to mask indoors on Mondays. When pooled results come back, if negative, everyone can take off masks indoors. We usually receive results in about 24 hours, though this can vary with lab capacity. If we start seeing many positive cases on campus, or find instances of transmission on campus, classrooms will return to masking indoors.
- We are fortunate to have access to free rapid antigen tests through Concentric, our pooled testing partner, and also through Project ACE-IT and CHOP (<https://policylab.chop.edu/project/assisting-childhood-education-through-increased-testing>). **If your child is experiencing cold symptoms, we can give them a rapid test when they arrive at school, or you can test them at home with your own test and email a photo of the negative test result to Chris before your child arrives at school. If your child takes the bus or van, we prefer that you test them before they board the bus or van.** If you need help with access to rapid tests for home use, please let Chris know.
- Our current quarantine policy and timeline for positive cases can be found at <https://miquon.org/covid-risk-mitigation/>.
- Miquon does not and has never had a school nurse. We have a county nurse who handles all required state tracking of health forms and annual vision and hearing exams. She visits campus for a few hours biweekly. In the event of any serious medical situation, all staff are empowered to call 911. Any non-COVID related health questions or concerns can be directed to Sarah Smith-Centz at frontdesk@miquon.org.

- Miquon's COVID mitigation policies and procedures are informed by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health. Their school exclusion guidelines (which change frequently) are available at montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/29760/COVID-19-School-Exclusion-Chart. We are also informed by the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Health. A committee of Miquon parents who are healthcare professionals meets periodically to discuss COVID-related questions and concerns. If you are a healthcare professional and would like to join this group, please contact Charlotte at charlotteb@miquon.org.