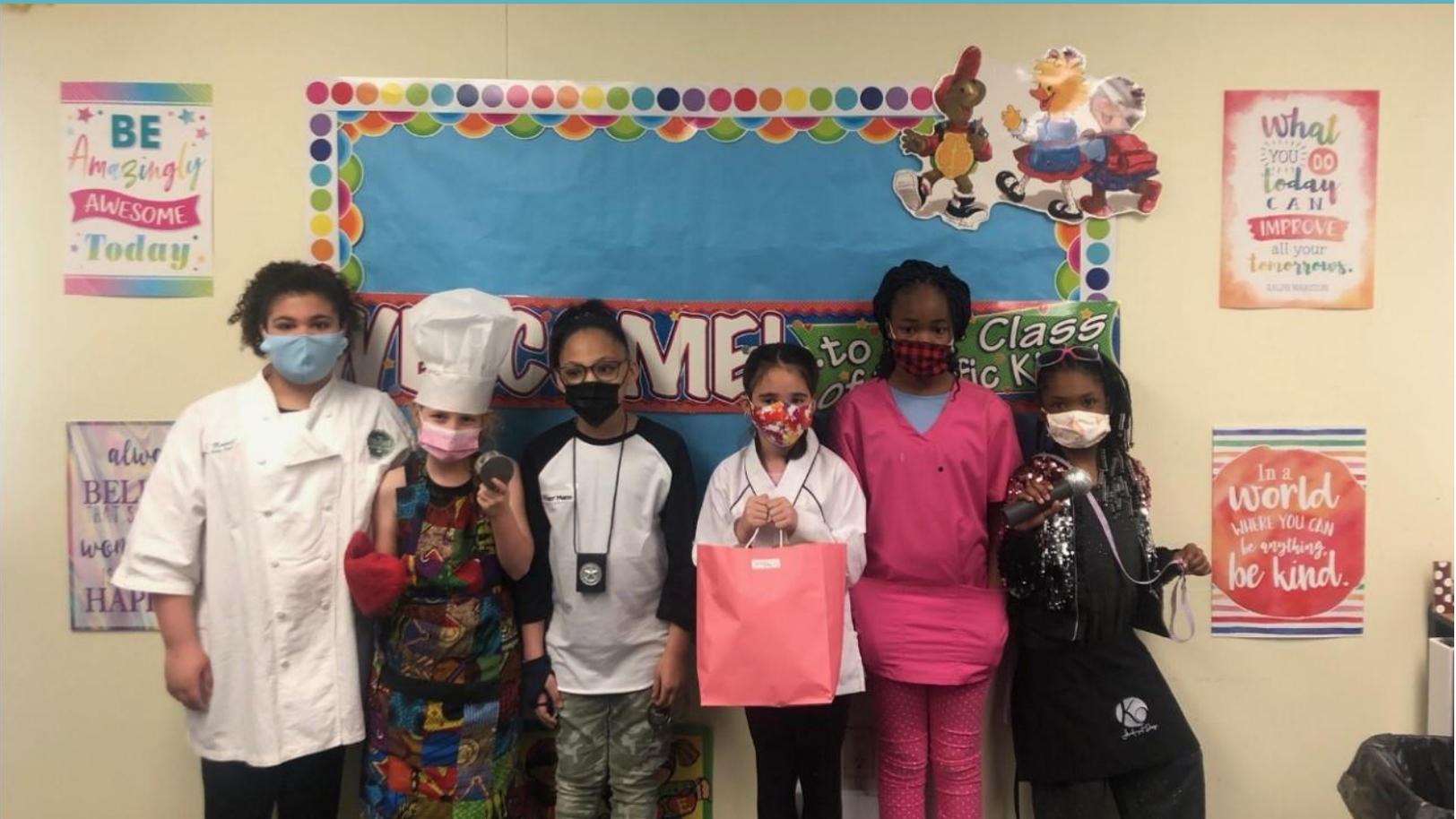




magnolia

speech school

2021-2022 School Year
Covid Guidelines



Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year

Magnolia Speech School constantly strives to enable children with communicative disorders to reach their full potential through spoken language and literacy. The tremendous support, flexibility, perseverance, and patience exhibited by our students, families, and staff during this global pandemic have been inspiring and encouraging. And, while we cannot predict how the pandemic landscape will develop, we can prepare by providing the structure necessary for students to continue their learning in the best possible way.

Our absolute priority is to safeguard the health and well being of our students and staff. To that end we will be closely monitoring recommendations of public health officials, as well as local, state, and federal requirements related to mitigation of COVID-19 in our Magnolia Speech School community. Should public health mandates or concerns require campus closure during the school year, Magnolia Speech School will provide instruction to our students via virtual learning.

This packet will provide information on how we will address the changes that COVID-19 has imposed on the usual method of instruction at Magnolia Speech School.

We are all in this together.

We are depending on you to help us keep our campus open by following our health and safety practices and keeping your child at home as needed.

Your support in implementing these guidelines make a huge difference in our ability keep our campus open to best serve all our families.

We appreciate your commitment to our Magnolia Speech School Community!

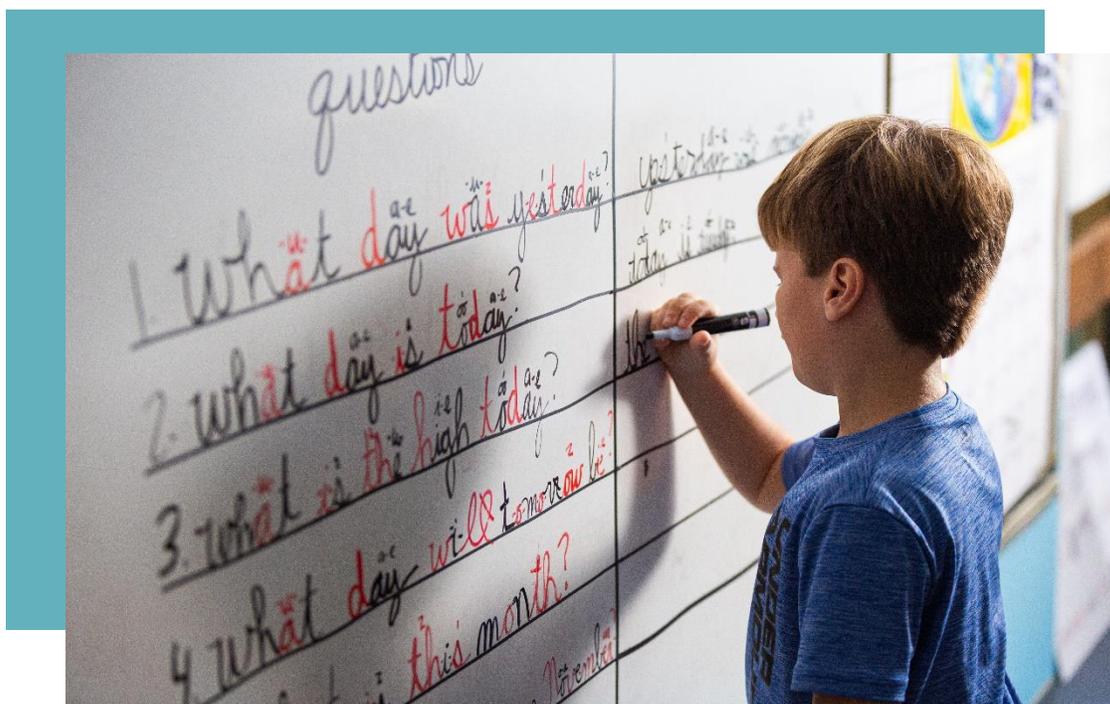
On-Campus Learning/Distance Learning

Magnolia Speech School is committed to maintaining a regular in-person, full-day school schedule for students, including early morning care, lunch, and after school care.

Specific decisions and plans regarding on-campus procedures will align with public health guidelines and may be revised as health and safety practices evolve.

All learning, whether it be on-campus or distance learning, will offer the same evidence-based instruction, including:

- Individualized learning, focused on the needs of each child
- Relationship-building interactions with classmates
- Live-streamed and recorded instruction
- Expertise on building biliterate brains
- Independent activities
- Progress monitoring
- Parent coaching and support



On-Campus Procedures

Current procedures include but may not be limited to



Protocols for screening, monitoring and reporting, and responding to illness for students, faculty, staff, and vendors.



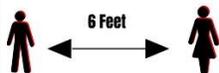
Enhanced sanitation and cleaning procedures throughout the building and campus.



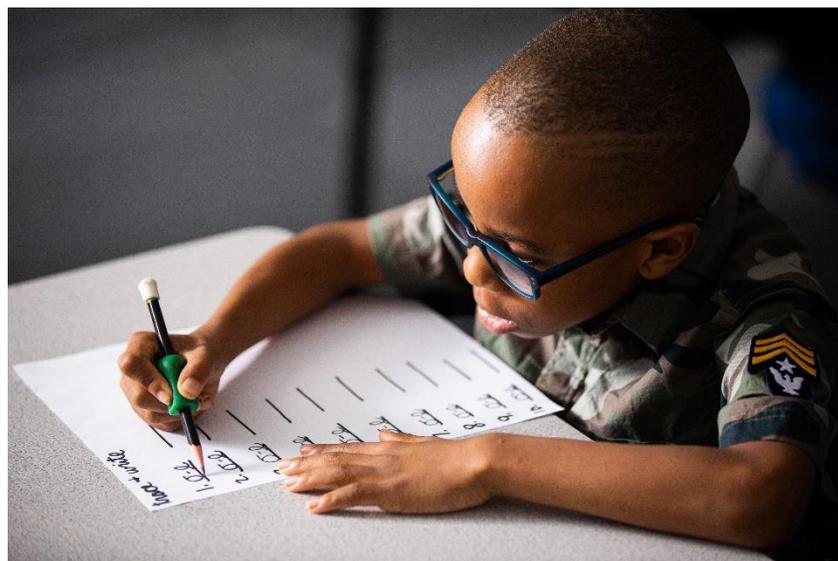
Required face coverings for children over the age of 2 in settings recommended by CDC guidelines.



Modification of lunchroom practices.



Modification of programs and events to comply with crowd sizes and physical distancing measures.



General Principles & Assumptions

- Our first priority is to protect the health and safety of students and staff, and families at Magnolia Speech School.
- We will deliver the highest quality educational services to our students and clients, whether it takes place on-campus or through virtual learning.
- We will follow Mississippi Department of Health, Mississippi Department of Education, and CDC guidelines.
- We will provide clear expectations for staff, students, and families.
- We recommend that anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms be seen by their health care provider.
- We encourage, but do not require, the choice of vaccinations for eligible people to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Before Arriving On Campus

- Anyone who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or knows that they have COVID-19 should remain at home.
- Staff and families of students should communicate with the administrative staff at Magnolia Speech School if anyone in their home tests positive for COVID-19, experiences symptoms, or is exposed to someone who is positive or symptomatic.
- Staff who become sick or experience symptoms while on campus should notify their supervisor and leave campus immediately or report to a designated isolation room until able to leave campus.
- Students who become sick while on campus will be escorted to and monitored in an designated isolation room until they are able to leave campus.

- There will be only one entry into the building.
- Anyone who comes into the school building must complete a temperature check, wear a face covering and maintain physical distancing.

Morning Arrival & Screening Process

- Students will be screened upon arrival in the drop-off car line.
- Late arrivals will be screened in the lobby areas.
- Screening questions include:
 - Does your child have a temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit or above?
 - Has your child been exposed to someone with symptoms of COVID-19?
 - Has your child been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19?
 - Does your child have any two of the following symptoms: chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, or sore throat?
- Students will have their temperature checked in the drop-off car line by staff members. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit or above must immediately leave campus.
- If the screening reveals any COVID-19 symptoms, the student must immediately leave campus.

Handwashing

- Staff, students, and visitors should wash or sanitize their hands after entering the building and throughout the day for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or with hand sanitizer containing an alcohol content of more than 60 percent.
- Staff and students will receive instruction and reminders on hand hygiene and proper coughing and sneezing protocol to limit the spread of infectious disease. Magnolia Speech School will provide soap and sanitizer.

- Magnolia Speech School will provide and maintain appropriate hand soap and hand sanitizer supplies throughout campus, including hand sanitizer dispensers.

Face Coverings/Face Shields

- All visitors must wear a face covering and maintain three to six feet distance while on campus. CDC exceptions may be followed for specific medical reasons or age.
- CDC guidelines note that face coverings are not feasible for certain situations that apply to the populations of students we serve such as certain preschool children, early elementary aged children, and children with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, or sensory sensitivities. In these cases, other precautions will be made such as physical distancing and/or use of face shields.
- Per CDC guidelines, face coverings will not be placed on young children under the age of two, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Staff and visitors must wear cloth face coverings or face shields when:
 - traveling throughout the building where physical distancing is not feasible
 - in confined spaces such as workrooms and breakrooms
 - in any common area
 - in gathering spaces such as hallways and lobby areas where others are present
 - Magnolia Speech School will provide face shields for teachers and assistants.
 - Magnolia Speech School will provide a face covering for visitors as needed.
- Face coverings do not have to be worn by staff when they are alone in their classroom or office, but Magnolia Speech School recommends wearing one whenever safely possible to limit the respiratory spread of infectious disease.

- Face coverings are not required by staff or students outside.
- The number of visitors to the school at any given time will be limited.

Cleaning & Sanitation Practices

In addition to rigorous hygiene, sanitation, and disinfection procedures already in place, special attention will be paid to the following:

- Overall sanitization and cleaning of the building prior to the start of the school year.
- Surfaces and objects that are frequently touched will be sanitized several times daily on a schedule. Those items may include but may not be limited to toys, games, manipulative objects, or common area surfaces.
- Toys and games that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be used. Toys that children have placed in their mouths and that are otherwise contaminated by bodily secretions will be set aside until they can be cleaned thoroughly.
- Machine-washable cloth toys will not be used at all and may not be brought to the school.
- Toys used by children in any given classroom will be washed and/or sanitized at least daily.
- Toys or other items that need to be washed or sanitized will be set aside in a tub or separate container marked for cleaning.
- Washable bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets) may be used for classes that nap. Extra care will go into ensuring that no child's bedding will touch another child's bedding. Each child's bedding will be stored separately in labeled bins, cubbies,

or bags. Cots and mats will be labeled for each child. All bedding will be sent home at least weekly for cleaning.

Physical Distancing & Group Gatherings

- All students and staff will remain mindful of safe physical distance practices, maintaining physical distances of at least three feet when masked. Floor markings will assist with this practice.
- Group sizes will be limited to a maximum of 10 people per classroom, including teachers.
- Class group size will be determined by the ability to maintain physical distancing in the designated indoor classroom space.
- Students will remain in the same classroom group throughout the day.
- Mixing of student classrooms is not allowed with the exception of Morning Care and After Care programs which will observe physical distancing and masking.
- All large events such as student assemblies, special performances, Back-To-School night, and school-wide events will be held virtually or otherwise modified.
- All individuals should wear masks and maintain six feet of distance from others in common areas, and are discouraged from gathering in groups in confined areas.
- Signage and physical markers will be placed throughout Magnolia Speech School to reinforce physical distancing.
- During student drop-off and pickup, staff will wear face coverings and maintain six feet of physical distance as much as possible.
- Students will eat lunch in their classroom.

- All students and staff must wash their hands before and after eating and frequently throughout the day.
- Staff will use provided gloves, disinfectant, and paper towels to thoroughly clean areas where children have eaten or common areas.
- Hand sanitizing dispensers will be provided in dining areas, front lobby, and hallway.
- Individual water bottles may be brought from home.

Shared Materials

- All classroom toys, supplies, materials, and manipulatives will remain in their designated classroom. Materials will not be shared between classrooms.
- Each student should use pens, pencils, scissors, and other supplies designated for their sole use. Ziploc bags or pencil boxes with name labels will be available for each child's individual use.
- Staff will wash classroom materials with soap and water or in the kitchen dishwasher. Classroom materials will be sanitized regularly or as needed using provided spray bottles, cloths and EPA-approved wipes.
- Toys and manipulatives will be washed or sanitized daily.
- Nap items and student belongings will be sent home if the child goes home ill.
- Whiteboards and markers will be wiped down at the end of the day and between classes.
- No playdough, plasticine, or clay will be allowed in classrooms.
- Only manipulatives that can be easily washed or disinfected will be used.
- Textbooks will be assigned to specific students only.

Exposure to COVID-19

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period.
- Students and staff should not come to school and should contact the school immediately if they feel sick, or test positive for COVID-19.
- The school administration may be asked to notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately if a student or staff member is sick with COVID-19.
- Families will be notified of confirmed illnesses occurring within the classroom. Patient confidentiality will be maintained.
- If a student or staff member is confirmed to have been exposed or is highly likely to have been exposed to COVID-19, they should contact the school.
- Anyone exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be immediately placed in a designated isolation room until they can be safely transported to their home or to a healthcare provider.

Who Needs to Quarantine

- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms.
- People who develop symptoms again within 3 months of their first bout of COVID-19 may need to be tested again if there is no other cause identified for their symptoms.
- People who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they have been fully vaccinated within the last 3 months and show no symptoms.

- Fully Vaccinated adults or students who have been exposed to or in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID do NOT need to quarantine unless they have symptoms. However, masks are required indoors for fourteen days. They should also be tested three to five days after exposure, even if they don't have symptoms.
- Unvaccinated students or adults who have been exposed to or in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID must quarantine at home. Students or unvaccinated adults may return to school if they are asymptomatic with a negative test after ten days of quarantine.
- Sick staff and students should not return until they have met the CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation.
- Families may choose to keep their children at home until or after a quarantine period has passed. Virtual learning will be implemented.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 are required to bring a medical note from their physician upon return to school/work.
- Students and staff who are presumed to have COVID-19, but have not been tested or have been exposed to another student in their classroom who has tested positive for COVID-19, may return to campus if they have had no fever for at least three days, their symptoms are improving, and at least 10 days have passed since their symptoms first appeared.

Contact Tracing

- Contact tracing will be required to mitigate the spread of infection.
- The school administration will work with public health officials if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.
- If necessary, local public health officials will work with the infected person to identify close contacts and will notify community members who may have been in close contact with the infected person.

Protecting Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable populations include elderly individuals and/or individuals with serious underlying health conditions are immunocompromised will observe additional layers of protection (double-masking) and physical distancing.

- Families may be surveyed anonymously and periodically to gauge comfort with school guidelines related to COVID-19.
- In addition to our typical on-campus learning, distance learning will be provided for vulnerable students.
- At all times, Magnolia Speech School will adhere to FERPA and HIPAA requirements.

Extended Day Programs

Extended Day Programs, such as Morning Care and After School Care carry some degree of increased risk as typical classroom groups intermix. To better protect our students who participate in these programs, as well as the rest of our community, we will implement the following practices:

- Outside activities will be held as often as weather permits. (three to six feet with masks)
- Physical distancing will be implemented.
- Students will wear face coverings (with noted CDC guidelines).
- Students and staff will wash or sanitize hands before entering and leaving Extended Day Programs.
- Temperature screenings will be conducted before students enter extended day programs, regardless of whether or not their temperature has been taken prior in the day.

Preparing for Interruptions

Preparing for Interruptions

Following the recommendations of public health officials, state, and federal requirements, and changing trends regarding COVID-19, Magnolia Speech School is prepared for potential interruptions to our typical on-campus instructional delivery. As conditions relative to the pandemic change and if certain guidelines are issued, it may become necessary to suspend on-campus learning and institute virtual learning for some period of time.

In virtual learning, students will follow a developmentally appropriate schedule and will interact with teachers and classmates through a mix of live and recorded content. We will continue to educate the whole child, encourage play as a foundation of learning, and provide multisensory learning experiences.