

December 1, 2020

Dear Parents,

In keeping with Desert Garden Montessori's practices to respond to COVID-19, we are notifying all student families, and the community, that a staff member has tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member was last present on campus today, December 1. The staff member was not exhibiting symptoms; they tested for precautionary measures.

DGM on-site/campus contact tracing has been completed. Fortunately, we believe community exposure has been greatly reduced due to efficient communication, and wearing of masks, as well as all of our hygiene and safety practices throughout the classrooms and campus. Should you or your child/children begin exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms, please:

- Remain home
- Contact your primary care physician
- Contact the school via support@desertgardenmontessori.org so that we may continue our internal contact tracing

Please review our community response plan:

HOME QUARANTINE / ONLINE LEARNING

- The following students and staff members will begin home quarantine effective **Wednesday, December 2, 2020**.
 - All students in Classrooms 5, 6, and 8
 - All siblings of students in Classrooms 5, 6, and 8
 - All staff directly related to Classrooms 5, 6, and 8
 - Classroom 5: Ms. Janelle, Ms. Darian
 - Classroom 6: Ms. Maria, Ms. Braelynn
 - Classroom 8: Ms. Majo, Mr. Freddy, Ms. Monique
 - All parents of Classroom 5, 6, and 8 students who are on-site DGM staff:
 - Ms. Arleth
 - **All students entering into home quarantine may begin their online learning programs on Thursday, December 3, 2020.** Your student's teacher(s) will contact you via Transparent Classroom with details to begin their online program tomorrow morning. Please be patient with us as we transition students to the online platform. There may be some adjustments to the schedule as we transition.
- If no additional COVID-19 symptoms or illnesses are reported from this grouping of students and staff prior to Tuesday, December 15, all affected students and staff may return to school on Wednesday, December 16.

- Should you desire for your child to remain in the online program after Wednesday, December 16, you may do so. Please use the same [Mode of Instruction Change Form](#) for communication, but know we will grant your request to stay online. The two-week advance notice requirement is waived in this instance.

PROVIDER SERVICES

- All provider services will continue online for affected students. Please make sure your student has access to a computer during this time. Providers will be in touch directly. If you have any questions, please email support@desertgardenmontessori.org.

FACILITIES

- Barefoot Organic Cleaners will be on site to perform a [UV-C sanitizing service](#) of the affected classrooms, materials, and restrooms.
 - Classrooms 5, 6, and 8 be off-limits to staff until Wednesday, December 16.
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ALL SCHOOL

- Due to the staffing and resources implications of closing multiple environments, should we need to quarantine another classroom between now and December 18 (last day of school prior to holiday break), we may need the entire campus to switch to their online modules.

PHONE NUMBERS & SUPPORT

- **Main Office / Front Desk (live attendant):** (480) 496-9833
- **Attendance Line (24/7 voicemail):** (480) 893-6516
- **Email:** support@desertgardenmontessori.org

If you have any questions or concerns, please email support@desertgardenmontessori.org.

I personally want to thank each and every one of you for your support. Your continued communication, awareness, and dedication to our safety guidelines and community pledge are very much appreciated.

In times like these, it's truly not what happens, but how we react. Here at DGM, we are very fortunate in that we have amazing families, students, and staff who have proven, time and time again, we weather every storm **together**.

In wellness,



Shetal Walters
Executive Director