RETURN TO CAMPUS PLAN
(Updated 05/02/22)

2021- 2022 SCHOOL YEAR
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DISCLOSURE:

The policies, procedures, and information contained in this Return to Campus Plan are subject to immediate alteration with notice provided in accordance with the changes in the Covid-19 situation in the community of Maui. Roots Inc. reserves the immediate right to make any updates and amendments to this Campus Plan that are necessary to continue to protect our Roots community and the community of Maui.
Introduction

We all know and studies show that face-to-face instruction is best for our keiki socially, emotionally and academically. In order to offer an on-campus learning option, we all need to do our very best to protect our `Ohana. For the health of our keiki and our community, Roots School, Inc. ("Roots School") will be making additional changes to our daily procedures. Please note the changes in this “Return to Campus Plan”, take into consideration the recommendations of the World Health Organization ("WHO"), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"), and the Hawaii Department of Health ("HDOH"). It is imperative that every family be reminded that every protocol and procedure implemented is subject to immediate change, as dictated by the constantly changing situation in the pandemic.

Updates:

- **Travel requirements**
  We no longer require notification of travel or submission of a negative Covid-19 test for travel within the state and out of state.

- **Close Contact Policy**
  If anyone in your household has been notified by the Department of Health that they were in contact with a SARS-CoV-2 infected individual, or if anyone in your household tested positive for Covid-19, notify the school office immediately. We continue to follow the guidelines of the Hawai’i Department of Health outlined below.

  - Per the Hawai’i Department of Health, all students that mask correctly and consistently while indoors (regardless of vaccination status) will be permitted to remain in school in the event of a positive COVID-19 case in a classroom. A five-day isolation is only necessary for the Covid-positive student.
The quarantine of in-school exposures is **no longer recommended** for K-12 schools when universal indoor **masking** is implemented, and will therefore be optional. **Families of students that have been exposed will be notified via email.**

- Students and Staff should test immediately **if** symptomatic, or **five days after exposure if asymptomatic. Tests need to be signed and dated and sent to the office directly.**
- Per the Department of Human Services, which licenses our **Preschool**, we are **required to maintain quarantine and testing procedures** for children who are direct close contacts in the case of a Covid case in our Preschool classroom. Please continue to follow our testing policy outlined below for this age group:
  - Individuals that are **boosted, or fully vaccinated** within past six months (or within past 2 months if J&J)
    - Do **not need** to quarantine
      - Are asked to wear a mask for ten days
      - Are asked to get tested **5-7 days after exposure.**
  - Individuals that are **neither boosted nor fully vaccinated**
    - Are **required to quarantine for five days**
    - Wear a mask for five days after quarantine
    - Get **tested on day five and submit test to the office**
  - Individuals that **have recently recovered from Covid (Within last 90 days)**, in which case their positive test result had been submitted to the office at the time
    - Do **not need to quarantine or get tested** as long as symptom-free
    - Need to watch closely for symptoms for 10 days
    - Are asked to self-isolate as soon as symptoms show
• **Daily Covid Regiment.** The daily policies and procedures are **subject to change at any time** and are based on the ever changing COVID-19 situation. When changes must be implemented, parents will be notified via email. If the health situation in our community changes, and we are **required** to move to a hybrid model or distance learning during the 2021/2022 school year, no refunds will be issued and tuition costs cannot be altered.

• **Vaccinations.** On Maui, vaccinations are widely available to adults and children ages 5 years and older. The **majority of the Roots, Inc. staff and teachers are fully vaccinated.** However, Roots, Inc. has not mandated vaccines for its employees. This is a decision formulated in the complex landscape surrounding the vaccine and our Roots School community. Roots School is aware that studies and statistics, both locally and nationally, support the vaccine has certain benefits that protect individuals and combat the pandemic on a broader level. Although Roots School does not mandate vaccines, it certainly encourages it, as it seems to not only offer individual protections, but it also is a way for each of us to contribute to the greater good of protecting our island community with its fragile healthcare system in tandem with our education system.

The best internet source for **factual** information on COVID in Hawaii can be found here:
https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/

Specific Information on the recently authorized Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 **Vaccine for children 5 through 11 years of age** can be found here:

Updated information on available vaccines within the State of Hawaii can be found here:
https://hawaiicovid19.com/vaccine
2021-2022 Campus Goals

The health and safety of Roots School students, faculty, and staff is our top priority. Our priority, second to that important goal, is to keep our children coming to school in person. We are committed to protecting the physical and emotional health and well-being of our `Ohana. We will work to maintain a safe space where students and teachers thrive and engage with one another while following the ever changing DOH guidelines for stopping the spread of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) and mitigating the sickness that an infected adult or child may face.

**Learning Together**
Our campus plans prioritize on-campus instruction for our entire school community. Our goal is to keep students together in the safest environment possible, to allow for in person collaboration and communication. We will make every effort to facilitate this kind of learning by adjusting class schedules to protect the health and safety of Roots School students, faculty and staff. Please maintain a realistic perspective. There is risk in every situation we face, our job is to mitigate risk and move forward with educating the children.

**Inspiring a Love of Learning**
We realize that distance learning is difficult for so many reasons. When we reopen, we will strive to continue to inspire a love of learning in your child that can continue to be nurtured during any distance learning periods. Whether classes are delivered in person or virtually due to any future mandatory stay-at-home orders, we are committed to delivering inspiring learning experiences.

**Flexibility**
We will use flexibility, adaptability and understanding to ensure a safe and engaging learning environment. We recognize there may be times when students need to work remotely, when teachers must work remotely, when some students will be on campus and others are learning from home. We will continue to expand our outdoor classroom spaces. When needed, we will create hands-on projects to be done at home to continue to inspire childrens’ natural curiosity.

**Social and Emotional Learning**
We are fortunate to have a small school community and we want to continue to support all our families. Open communication will help us to take care of the social and emotional needs of our students throughout this time of change.
Family Expectations

Part of the Roots School mission is to help our students develop integrity and compassion. We ask you to join us in taking care of each other and the health of our community by taking the necessary measures to stay safe. It is all of our responsibilities to help stop the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 and the variants that are developing and engage in the most responsible course of behavior known and available to reach our goals.

As we return to campus, each of us knowingly accepts the risks associated with being together. After what has occurred around the country and the world over the past months and year, we know and understand that being at school may result in exposure or infection by the virus. Although we individually assume that risk, we agree as members of the Roots community, to uphold the Family Expectations outlined below. Our undertaking of the Family Expectations is based on our commitment to protect the health and safety of our entire community, that includes our families and household members. Each family warrants and commits to uphold these Family Expectations, as we commit to doing our part to care for others and ourselves as we enter the 2021-2022 school year.

1. **Report any COVID-19 positive test**
   
   If your child, someone in your household, tests positive for COVID-19, please notify the school office immediately (at-home tests accepted, as long as they’re dated and signed). In the event of a positive test result in our school community, we will actively work with the Department of Health to implement a contact tracing protocol to limit the spread of the virus.

   **If COVID-19 positive (regardless of vaccination status):**
   
   - Isolate for at least 5 full days and until symptoms are gone

   **Students and staff can return to school when all the following conditions are met:**
   
   - 5 full days have passed since symptoms first appeared or 5 days after the test was collected, if asymptomatic and
   - 24 hours with no fever without use of fever-reducing medications; and
   - Symptom-free
2. Close Contact Policy
If anyone in your household has been notified by the Department of Health that they were in contact with a SARS-CoV-2 infected individual, or if anyone in your household tested positive for Covid-19, notify the school office immediately. If there has been an exposure at school, the office will send out an email notifying all close contacts.
We continue to follow the guidelines of the Hawai’i Department of Health outlined below.

Updates regarding Covid exposures:
- Per the Hawai’i Department of Health, students that mask correctly and consistently while indoors (regardless of vaccination status) will be permitted to remain in school in the event of a positive COVID-19 case in a classroom. A five-day isolation is only necessary for the Covid-positive student.
- The quarantine of in-school exposures is no longer recommended for K-12 schools when universal indoor masking is implemented, and will therefore be optional. Families of students that have been exposed will be notified via email.
- Students and Staff should test immediately if symptomatic, or five days after exposure if asymptomatic. Tests need to be signed and dated and sent to the office directly.
- Per the Department of Human Services, which licenses our Preschool, we are required to maintain quarantine and testing procedures for children who are direct close contacts in the case of a Covid case in our Preschool classroom. Please continue to follow our testing policy outlined below for this age group:
  - Individuals that are boosted, or fully vaccinated within past six months (or within past 2 months if J&J)
    - Do not need to quarantine
    - Are asked to wear a mask for ten days
    - Are asked to get tested 5-7 days after exposure.
  - Individuals that are neither boosted nor fully vaccinated
    - Are required to quarantine for five days
    - Wear a mask for five days after quarantine
Get tested on day five and submit test to the office

- Individuals that have recently recovered from Covid (Within last 90 days), in which case their positive test result had been submitted to the office at the time
  - Do not need to quarantine or get tested as long as symptom-free
  - Need to watch closely for symptoms for 10 days
  - Are asked to self-isolate as soon as symptoms show

Note on quarantine / isolation per CDC: Day 0 is your first day of symptoms or a positive viral test. Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected. If you have COVID-19 or have symptoms, isolate for at least 5 full days.

Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms, even mild symptoms, should stay home from work, school and other activities. Those with symptoms who have not been tested should be tested as soon as possible.

3. Please stay home if sick.

Preschool or unvaccinated students:
If your child is home sick, please contact his/her doctor and based on the child's symptoms, the doctor can determine if the sick child needs a COVID test. If not, a doctor’s note indicating that your child can return to school is required. If they do need a COVID test, you will need to wait for negative results before returning (At-Home tests accepted, as long as they are dated & signed).

Once the student is symptom-free and documentation clearing them through either a doctor’s note or negative COVID test (Dated and signed at-home Covid-19 antigen test accepted) has been submitted to the office, they can return to school.

Fully vaccinated students:
Fully vaccinated students are not required to submit clearance through a negative Covid test or doctor’s note to the office, however they do need to be completely symptom-free before returning to school. Students that return to school after illness and are still symptomatic will be sent home immediately and will not be allowed back to school for at least (1) full day.

4. Out of State Travel
We **no longer** require notification of travel or submission of a negative Covid-19 test for **out of state travel**.

5. **Travel within the state**
We **no longer** require notification of travel or submission of a negative Covid-19 test for **travel within the state**.

6. **Bubble Up**. Roots School strongly encourages families to limit social engagements in accordance with current county guidelines and make an effort to group together students in the same classes for out of school recreation. The formation of "social bubbles" has proven effective on teams at the college, professional, and Olympic level.

7. **Practice good hygiene**
Practicing good hygiene in accordance with CDC guidelines is critical to preventing and stopping the spread of all illnesses. Frequent and thorough hand-washing should be practiced at home and will be practiced at school.

8. **Talk to your children**
Please talk to your children in a safe and positive way about SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, model safe and healthy practices, and discuss why we need to care about our personal health and the health of others. Include the importance of not sharing items like food at school, and why they will need to wear a mask.

9. **Vaccinations**
According to the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Hawaii Department of Health ("DOH"), we understand that getting vaccinated is the best way to avoid the spread of SARS-CoV-2, and we encourage everyone who is eligible to get a vaccine, to get vaccinated.

Parents’ Initials: _________________
Safety Measures

1. **Masks:** Students grade K and above, parents, visitors, enrichment teachers, administrative staff and any other adults on campus will **be required to wear a mask.** Masks must always be worn correctly and **consistently by all K-6 students and staff when indoors.** Outdoors, masks are optional. **Masking up in the parking lot during drop-off and pick-up is no longer required.** Masks are optional for Preschool students. According to the Hawai‘i Department of Health and their recently updated guidelines specifically for schools, masks must always be worn correctly and consistently by all students and staff when indoors. The CDC also recommends universal indoor masking by all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. **Acceptable masks** are face masks with no vents or openings that fully cover nose and mouth. A face shield alone does not count as a face covering and bandanas, netted, or mesh masks are also not permitted. This is a basic requirement that cannot be excused or exempted. **Please follow the links below to review CDC and HDOH guidelines on masks:**

2. **Hand washing:** We will continue to have regular hand washing (and/or sanitizing) incorporated into transitions throughout the day.

3. **Closed Campus:** In an effort to be extremely cautious, we are limiting parents and families on campus to the preschool parents, who must enter our campus to drop off and pick up their preschoolers. At this time, any parent or guardian who requires a meeting with a teacher or staff, should contact the office or teacher directly and make an appointment.

4. **Physical distancing:** Recess times for K-6 students will be staggered and take place outside whenever the weather allows. Pick up and drop off will be staggered for each class to maintain the greatest amount of physical distancing from those in other classes. Please make sure you are **on time.**
Pick up and drop off times:

Drop off:
- 8:30 - 8:45 am: Preschool & 4th - 6th graders
- 8:45 - 9:00 am: Kinder through 3rd grade

Pick Up:
- 2:45 - 3:00 pm: Preschool & 4th - 6th graders
- 3:00 pm: Kinder through 3rd grade

Pick-Up times ON WEDNESDAYS ONLY:
- 2:15 pm: Preschool & 4th - 6th graders
- 2:30 pm: Kinder through 3rd grade

Siblings arrive at the earlier time and are picked up at the later time.

5. Mitigation Policy: Roots School has created an additional mitigation policy in an effort to accommodate the heightened risks of non-vaccinated staff. Any Roots School employee who is not vaccinated will be required to partake in a weekly testing protocol. Any non-vaccinated employee shall submit a negative covid test (accepted by the Roots School administration) by 5:00pm every Sunday, until fully vaccinated or the incidents of COVID-19 on Maui significantly decrease.

6. Field trips: Roots teachers are excited to provide as many outdoor learning experiences as possible. We will be going to various outdoor locations throughout the year. When your child is being transported with other children, they will be required to wear a mask in a vehicle.

7. If A Child Becomes Sick at School: They will be immediately sent/taken to the office and will be closely monitored. Parents will be called and sick children must be picked up within the hour of the office calling home. If we cannot contact parents, we will start calling people on the emergency contact list. Please check in with the office to ensure that your emergency contact list is updated.
Additional Resources and Acknowledgement

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:


U.S. Food and Drug Administration:


Hawaii Data Collaborative: https://www.hawaiidata.org/covid19
I acknowledge receipt of a copy of the Roots School Return to Campus Plan and agree to abide by these policies. I understand that inability to follow the Family Expectations and New Safety Measures as specifically outlined above may result in harming the health of the Roots School Community and therefore the Maui community at large. I understand that inability to follow these policies may result in the dismissal of my child from Roots School:

__________________________________________________
Name of Child

__________________________________________________
Parent Signature

__________________________________________________
Date