



**Diablo Valley Montessori School**

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*January 28, 2022*

## **Headlines**

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## **Message from Jayne**

COVID continues to be a concern this week. As you heard on Monday, the Daisy class had a positive case. Thankfully, all of the other Daisy children and staff tested negative and were able to return to class on Tuesday, (day 6 after exposure).

This morning we were notified that a child in the Petunia class tested positive for COVID-19. All unvaccinated Petunia children are now in quarantine and will test on Tuesday, February 1. We hope that everyone will have a negative test result and return to Petunia on Wednesday, February 2.

Following up on last week's masking recommendations, a DVMS parent provided thorough FAQs to help make the right masking decision for your child:

### What's the difference between N95, KN95, or KF94 masks?

KN95s generally fold in two halves (left and right side) and are made to a Chinese standard though they are produced other places too. In some cases, the flat-folding shape can cause gaps on the sides or the nose bar gets bent in half repeatedly when the mask is not in use causing you to need to readjust it each time to ensure a proper fit. KF94s are made to a Korean FDA standard and are more cup or boat shaped and may fit the rounder face of a child better. They also fold almost flat without having to reshape the nose bar each time. In general, the consensus is the Korean FDA is quite rigorous in its testing and KF94s have gained popularity due to their high filtration, comfort, and general reliability with fewer counterfeits. There are no N95s made for kids as N95 is an occupational standard.

### Is a KN95 better because it filters 95% of small particles vs. a KF94 which filters 94% or a KF80 or a FFP2?

Not necessarily. A high-quality, well-fitting KF94 (or even some KF80s) will often filter up to 99% of small particles as do many KN95s. An FFP 2 is the European standard and must filter 94% or

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greater. Of course, the filter is only as good as the fit you achieve, so if the mask leaks around the nose, chin or edges the filter may not help trap the small particles.

#### How do I get a good face fit on my kid?

Mask sizes vary widely, so try out different ones to figure out sizing and look for gaps, especially around the nose. Good masks have a thick, sculpt-able metal nose bar(s) that contours the nose. Several good brands (like BOTN, Bluna and LG) even have adjustable (double) straps to pull the mask tighter to the child's face. You can also knot the ear loops to shorten/tighten the mask.

#### What about cloth masks or cloth with filters?

The issue is all cloth masks have loose fabric weaves and even ones with a filter pocket allows air to rush more easily around the edges potentially defeating the benefit of the filter. Also, medical-grade masks (like KF94s, KN95, N95 and surgical/procedure masks) all have an electrostatic charge that traps virus particles, which cloth masks can't do and is the reason why you shouldn't wash medical masks. If you're worried about the sanitary aspects of being able to wash a mask, focus instead on disposing a medical-grade mask more often.

#### How long can I reuse a mask?

They continue to filter very well over time and even old ones that are expired and tested can perform quite well; so once they are soiled, smelly, or fuzzy it's time to toss them.

#### Are there good cloth masks?

Even the best, multilayer cloth masks have issues with air going around the edges and lack of an electrostatic charge. They also lack the standard-setting rigors as they are not regulated by the government. Some of the better ones with several layers can get filtration of around ~70% if put it on really well, but many are far, far lower filtration down to almost nothing. For argument's sake, if your child wore an excellent KF94 or KN95 and achieved 99% filtration, which many do, then 1% of small particles are getting through. In this scenario, the high-quality cloth mask at 70% filtration is letting 30% of small particles through. So if you do the math, you're essentially getting 30 times the benefit and added length of exposure protection by wearing the KF94 in this scenario.

#### What about surgical masks?

Surgical masks have the benefit of the filter medium that has an electrostatic charge, so that's an advantage. The concern is that surgical masks are open at the sides, so you might have around 50% air leakage in and out of the sides as the path of least resistance for air to channel. They were not designed to filter air coming in to the wearer, only as source control to keep large droplets from coming out of the wearer, so consider upgrading to a tool that was designed to protect the wearer from harmful small particles like a KN95 or KF94, many of which are quite soft and comfortable.

#### How about double-masking?

The concern with double-masking is that a mask is intended to be used as a single item and to filter out small particles yet still allow air through. By adding another mask, the filter media (all the layers of the two masks) may be so thick that as you breath in, you may force air around the mask edges via the path of least resistance instead of through the filter which is there to trap the virus. A safer approach is to use a single mask that fits your child's face well without gaps and has a strong filtering mechanism like a good KF94 or KN95.

#### Where's a good place to buy kids masks?

Best to source from an authorized distributor or vetted third-party. Avoid Amazon, eBay, and Etsy if possible as they are essentially unregulated and counterfeits are rampant, especially the KN95s. In addition to the excellent list sent out on Friday 1/21/2021 newsletter from some other parents, a few

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other good reputable websites are <https://kollechteusa.com/>; <https://kmact.com/> and Project N95 - The National Clearinghouse for personal protective equipment and COVID-19 tests..

What are some good mask brands for kids?

BOTN, Blue, Dr. Puri, GoodDay HappyLife, Bluna, CocoMong, Posh, Lutema, Wellbefore Kids, and Powecom (if sold by Bonafidemasks.com)

Wishing you a fun and healthy weekend!  
Jayne

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## **Getting Ready for the 2022-23 School Year**

As we turn the calendar to February, planning for the 2022-23 school year is underway. On February 3, you will find the re-enrollment forms for your current DVMS student and siblings in the Parent Portal. Be sure to complete and submit before February 23! The 2022-23 DVMS school calendar is attached for your reference.

If you have any questions about what next year may hold for your child, please reach out to your classroom teachers, Yvette Lewis, Sharon Duarte or myself. We are always glad to speak with you!

For parents of two year old children, be sure to attend the information night, What's Next For My Two Year Old on Tuesday, February 1. This will be held at 7pm on Zoom. [click here](#)  
Meeting ID: 929 2285 9895  
Passcode: DVMS

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**Thank you Parents!**



Thank you to the amazing parents who stocked the snack shelf in the teacher's lounge this week! We really appreciate the treats!

## Important Dates!



February 1: "What's Next For My Two Year Old?" parent education evening. 7pm Zoom

February 3-23: Re-enrollment for current DVMS children and siblings

February 8: Parent Book Club 8pm Zoom

February 15: DVMS Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm Zoom

February 18-21: Presidents' Day Weekend - **DVMS Closed**

\*\*\*Virtual Classroom Observations. Check your email with information on the Zoom invite to your child's classroom. IT House Virtual Observations coming soon!

February 1: Lavender

February 2: Daisy

February 3: Petunia

February 8: Jasmin

February 9: Honeysuckle

March 26: DVMS Back to the 80's Auction

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