

We are closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 and are following the recommendations of the local public health authorities in the [Commonwealth of Virginia](#) as well as the [CDC guidelines for schools](#).

At Heartmoor we are taking very seriously the global health crisis caused by Covid-19. All participants in programs at Heartmoor are asked to commit to a Health and Safety discussion and agreement whereby all in the learning environment can feel as safe as possible. For every visit to Heartmoor, a health questionnaire will need to be submitted before arriving at the Education Centre including the reading and recording of one's temperature.

If a participant is not feeling well, in the slightest, we expect that person not to attend the workshop or day's class. We will work with you to reschedule what you miss. Clearly, the safety of each person in a community is directly proportional to the attentiveness each member of that community practices toward their own safety and exposure which includes who each participant lives with as well as where they go and how they conduct themselves.

In part, the Open Air School is our response to the global health crisis.

Open air schools or schools of the woods were purpose-built educational institutions for children, that were designed to prevent and combat the widespread rise of [tuberculosis](#) that occurred in the period leading up to the [Second World War](#). The schools were built to provide [open-air therapy](#) so that fresh air, good ventilation and exposure to the outside would improve the children's health. The schools were mostly built in areas away from city centers, sometimes in rural locations, to provide a space free from pollution and overcrowding. The creation and design of the schools paralleled that of the tuberculosis [sanatoriums](#), in that hygiene and exposure to fresh air were paramount. (Wikipedia)

Due to the large amount of maintained outdoor spaces on the farm, we are able to bring students 'together' to study while maintaining at least eight feet distance from one another. When we move class inside the well-ventilated 4000 sq foot barn and if/when students are less than eight feet from one another, masks will be required. A dedicated handwashing sink in addition to two other sinks are located on the community floor of the Ash Barn. At Heartmoor, thorough hand washing is taught and expected. Personal and community hygiene has, and always will be, a fundamental component of our Montessori practice.

During this time of heightened watchful health practices, we will not be preparing or sharing prepared food at Heartmoor. Daily students are expected to bring water bottles as well as snacks and lunch. Whenever possible, meals will be taken outside. In addition to a new screened-in pavilion for class, there is a large back porch so that even in rainy weather, we can enjoy being outside.