



**TOTH**  
MONTESSORI  
NAVY YARD, WASHINGTON, DC



August 25, 2020

Dear parents,

Attached you will find the results from our anonymous COVID-19 risk assessment survey, which was completed in mid-August 2020. We are encouraged by the high response rate to our survey – we had up to 90% of our currently enrolled families respond. This demonstrates a high level of community engagement and it gives us a snapshot in time of our community’s risk profile and preferences.

First, the good news:

- The vast majority of our community is moderately, very, or extremely concerned about the virus and routinely taking measures – such as masking – to reduce their family’s potential exposure.
- There are significant numbers of parents who are prepared to take additional protective steps such as testing or class-wide quarantining in the event of a COVID-19 case at ToTH.
- A large majority of families are open to communicating with others in their classroom about how to further reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure.

These are encouraging findings. Yet, due to the nature of infectious disease transmission, a community’s risk profile is largely determined by the members with the highest risk characteristics. Thus, below are points that may pose more of an outbreak threat.

- Nearly one-quarter of households contain high-risk individuals, including a number of pregnancies (a group that could increase). More information on COVID-19 risks for pregnant women and neonates [here](#)). These results mean that the likelihood of your child interacting with someone from one of these households is high and underscores the importance of not introducing the virus into our community. These individuals are at higher risk of critical illness, or worse, were they to contract the disease.
- It is encouraging that nearly two-thirds of our currently enrolled families are able to work exclusively from home. However, 10% of the parents who responded were front-line workers and more than a third work outside of the home in an indoor setting. Like our high-risk households, their public exposure reminds us that keeping COVID out of TOTH protects not only ourselves, but shields the larger Washington, DC community from disease by extension.
- Two households reported having already contracted COVID-19, but nearly half of our respondents do not know anyone personally who has contracted the virus. Though this is a happy finding for those of us who have not been affected by the disease, we hope it will not

create a false sense of security, especially in the fall when numbers are expected to rise and we *will all need to be vigilant about prevention measures.*

- Though the vast majority of our community reports consistently masking in both outdoor and indoor spaces, a small minority of our respondents reported ‘rarely’ or ‘never’ wearing masks outside and only ‘sometimes’ when inside public spaces. We note this not to shame anyone for their personal decisions (which is another reason this survey is strictly anonymous), but to gently remind parents that a stipulation of your child’s enrollment at TOTH this year is to follow the COVID code of conduct, which includes masking (the policy can be reviewed here).
- A significant minority of our TOTH students (or their siblings) will participate in group sports or activities, congregate childcare settings with other children, and/or ‘learning pods’ or other school/learning arrangements with children from other households. These are all opportunities for the virus to be introduced into our student population, and we hope that these families will be vigilant about taking the maximum precautions when in these settings.

It is worth noting that this assessment, as valuable as it is, only gives us a snapshot of our community’s perspective and behaviors between mid-March and mid-August 2020. The best way to understand our community’s risk profile going forward will be for parents to maintain communication with other parents in your classrooms, which we strongly encourage families to do. Thank you to all our survey participants. We look forward to seeing your children in the classroom this fall.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Sarvana, *Administrative Director, COVID-19 Point of Contact*

Anya Landau French, *Co-founder and Board Chair, Finance Director*