

## **AuSM Social Skills Participant Safety Plan During COVID-19 Pandemic**

Per Minnesota state and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regulations, AuSM has developed plans and activities that allow for social distancing and proper health practices while still engaging with one another and having fun.

Below is a list of requirements designed for the safety of participants and staff:

- Participants/guardians will be required to sign AuSM's COVID Liability waiver.
- Participants and staff will not be using public transportation during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Participants and staff will be asked to wear masks or face coverings during in-person activities. We encourage participants to bring a mask or face covering that is conducive to their preferences, however one disposable mask will be provided per participant for each session if needed.
- Participants and staff will be asked to maintain a safe distance (6 feet) between one another as much as possible. AuSM will have visual tools and structured schedules present to assist participants in following these safety guidelines.
- AuSM will supply the following safety-focused sanitary products at each in-person session:
  - Hand sanitizer
  - Sanitizer wipes
  - Non-latex gloves

If participants have challenges complying with these requirements, AuSM is committed to working diligently to find a solution. Staff will work directly with any individuals experiencing difficulties adhering to the safety guidelines. While each situation will be navigated on an individual basis, these are some of the options that will be used:

- AuSM developed a social narrative to provide participants with a description of the requirements and a rationale for why they are needed.
- Maximization of the use of outdoor space when possible.
- Staff will model safe/expected behaviors.
- Staff will review requirements with participants and/or families to promote adherence and to collaborate in problem-solving such as:
  - Alternative PPE
  - Developing visual supports
  - Scheduled breaks to remove PPE
- If available options have been exhausted, and on-going challenges persist that are not conducive to the health and safety of participants and staff, AuSM reserves the right to have participants end a program early and receive a prorated refund.