

Autism Society of Minnesota
COVID-19 Pandemic Safety Plan and Liability Waiver
(updated Sept. 1, 2021)

AuSM 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-19 Pandemic Safety Plan and Liability Waiver when registering for a class or activity.
- In alignment with the State of Minnesota guidelines, AuSM is not requiring participants of social skills programming to wear a mask or face covering while outdoors. With this said, AuSM is adhering to the rules set forth by all locations our program visits.
- AuSM encourages participants to bring a mask or face covering that is conducive to their preferences in the event our community partners require participants to wear a mask or face covering while visiting their site. AuSM will provide one disposable mask per participant as needed per session.
- 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 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.
- 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
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- 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.

As with the transmission of any communicable disease like a cold or the flu, you may be exposed to COVID-19, also known as "Coronavirus," at any time or in any place, including through participation in this Autism Society of Minnesota social skills class. The Autism Society of Minnesota follows state and federal regulations and recommended universal personal protection and disinfection protocols to limit transmission of all diseases and will continue to do so.

Despite our careful attention to social distancing, disinfecting, hand washing, and requiring participants be healthy when attending classes or activities (absence of fever, chills, sore throat, etc.), there is still a chance that the participant could be exposed to an illness, including COVID-19, during this class.

I have reviewed AuSM's safety plan and acknowledge that the signature of this waiver as a class or activity participant or as the parent/guardian of a class or activity participant is a prerequisite to participating in the activity, but that it is my choice, made freely and voluntarily, to indicate my agreement online/sign this legally binding document.

Although exposure to illness, including COVID-19, is unlikely, do you accept the risk and consent to participate in this Autism Society of Minnesota class or activity?

_____ Yes _____ No

Participant Name

Signature

Date