



Tamarack Waldorf School

Dear Tamarack Waldorf School Community,

On Thursday Gov. Tony Evers directed Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Andrea Palm to extend the Safer at Home order from April 24, 2020 to 8 a.m. Tuesday, May 26, 2020, or until a superseding order is issued. The order is available [here](#).

The Gov. stated the following in his press conference: *“A few weeks ago, we had a pretty grim outlook for what COVID-19 could mean for our state, but because of the efforts of all of you, Safer at Home is working. That said, we aren't out of the woods just yet. As I've said all along, we are going to rely on the science and public health experts to guide us through this challenge. So, as we extend Safer at Home, I need all of you to continue doing the good work you've been doing so we can keep our families, our neighbors, and our communities safe, and get through this storm together.”*

Secretary-designee Palm stated: *“Before we lift Safer at Home, the steps of testing and more robust public health measures must be in place. These steps will help us reduce the risk of a second wave of the virus. If we open up too soon, we risk overwhelming our hospitals and requiring more drastic physical distancing measures again.”*

As part of this new order Gov. Evers directed the following regarding public and private schools: *Public and private K-12 schools shall remain closed for pupil instruction and extracurricular activities for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Schools may continue to facilitate distance learning or virtual learning.*

This news is difficult for all of us, as we had hoped to have the opportunity to come together in our school building as a community before the school year ended. While we unable gather in our building and classrooms, we will continue together as a strong vibrant community in other ways.

Tuesday's Distance Learning Packet pick up day once again showed the support and determination our families have in wanting their student's Waldorf education to continue even under these unprecedented conditions. Our faculty is committed to continuing their work with students through the delivery Waldorf curriculum though our Distance Learning Program, through the end of the school year. Further details on future learning packets, pick-up of student items from classrooms, and the calendar for next school year will be communicated in the weeks to come.

As we move into the start of week four of our Distance Learning Program, we felt it was necessary to address some questions and issues that have arisen regarding financial matters.

Even though the school building is closed, our school year continues. I know that our new normal is a lot for us all to process, as families and as a school community. Not surprisingly, our school has rallied, and it is inspiring to see our students, parents, teachers, and staff each doing their part to keep us moving forward.

As learning continues, so do the financial operations of the school. Our incredible faculty and staff have been agile and open minded in adapting to the many challenges this crisis has presented and we are committed to providing wages for all employees, both full and part time, as they work remotely. Consequently, during the time that Tamarack provides distance learning, regular tuition, supply fees, and extended care rendered service amounts from before closure, will continue as scheduled.

We recognize the sudden and unforeseen financial impact COVID-19 has had on some of our families. As we have said from the beginning of this crisis, our top priority is to sustain our vibrant community through this tumultuous time.

We do not want to lose a single family to financial hardship caused by this pandemic. If you are experiencing a loss of income making it difficult to continue your payments to Tamarack, please contact me at lora.poulos@tamarackwaldorf.org to discuss options for temporary payment obligation relief. As such, I ask that you do not simply stop your committed payments without contacting me first.

On Friday the faculty and I gathered in a zoom call to check in and share how things are going from our remote locations. Everyone shared how much they miss being with their students and the activity in the school building, but that connecting remotely with students and families continues to bring warmth and joy. Even at a distance there is beauty and inspiration in knowing we are all in this together, and together we are strong.

Wishing you all good health and comfort of family,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lora Poulos".

Lora Poulos
Administrative Director