

The Berry Patch School COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Arrival and Departure

- **Start/Ending times will be staggered** to accommodate arrival and departure procedures.
- Drop off/pick up will be done at a table outside of the classroom area.
- We will conduct daily health screening and temperature checks of staff and students before entering the classroom area. Anyone who does not pass the screening will be excluded from school.
- Parents will answer daily health screening questions *to confirm that the child does not have any of the following symptoms:* cough, shortness of breath, fever of 100.4⁰ or above, or any two of the following: new runny/stuffy nose, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of sense of smell or taste, and gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea.
- Staff will make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.
- Items brought from home will be limited to the following:
Change of clothes; Lunchbox; Full Day Only: Small blanket or stuffed animal for quiet time (stored in Ziploc) and sent home each day; Diapers/wipes, as needed; No "Show & Tell" items.
- Location Specific Arrival and Departure logistics details will be communicated before the start of the school year. Any changes made to the arrival and departure procedures will be communicated to families throughout the school year.

Plans for sick children, staff, and volunteers

Illness at School

If a staff member or child becomes sick with an illness that could be COVID -19 while at school:

- The sick staff member or child will be isolated while supervision is maintained.
- [CDC guidance](#) on how to disinfect our facility will be followed.

Decision Tree for Attendance for People with COVID-19 Symptoms

- This document will guide our decision making with school attendance during the COVID-19 Pandemic: [MDH Decision Tree for Schools and Childcare](#) ; PLEASE READ. Includes information on:
 - When to keep your child home
 - When to keep your child's siblings home
 - What to do if your child is a close contact of someone with COVID-19
- If a staff member or student has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (see list below) the family or staff member are **required** to let the school know.
- **If symptoms consistent with COVID-19 occur, staff or student will be asked to remain at home and will be guided by the Berry Patch Leadership Team on return to school plan in**

accordance with the MDH Decision Tree. The Berry Patch requires a copy of a negative COVID test (with resolution of symptoms), 10-Day Quarantine without test (and resolution of symptoms), OR a Doctor's note with alternative diagnosis for return to school.

- Symptoms of COVID-19 include
 - One (or more) 'more common' symptoms:
Fever of 100.4 or greater; cough; Difficulty breathing; Loss of taste/ smell
 - And/or**
 - Two (or more) 'less common' symptoms:
Sore Throat; Nausea; Vomiting; Diarrhea; Chills; Muscle pain; Excessive fatigue;
Severe headache; Nasal congestion or runny nose
- If a student is a close-contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 it is **required** that this is reported immediately to The Berry Patch and the student must remain out of school for the full 14-day quarantine period.
- All student absences (illness and otherwise) AND household members under quarantine must be reported by emailing or texting/calling your school location Assistant Director.
 - **Colonial: Jenny Miller** j.miller@berrypatchschool.com or **952.232.9443**
 - **Calvary: Cara Terwilliger** c.terwilliger@berrypatchschool.com or **952.221.9073**
 - **Staff: Molly Dykstra, Director** m.dykstra@berrypatchschool.com or **952.221.8739**
- We will communicate with families if someone in their child's class has tested positive to COVID-19 and will follow the recommendations of the MDH for quarantine procedures.

Vaccination

- All staff are required to be fully vaccinated.
- It is recommended by the CDC/MDH that anyone 12 years of age and older be vaccinated.

Classroom Cohorts

- Classroom Groups will remain below approved group sizes (20 children for 3-5 year olds and 14 children for 2 and under.) **Children will remain with only their class throughout the day.**
 - Blueberries and Strawberries: max group size 2 teachers & 16 children OR 1 teacher & 10 children
 - Huckleberries: max group size 2 teachers & 12 children
 - Raspberries: max group size 2 teachers & 10 children
- **Lunch Bunch** will be offered in classrooms where 3 or more children pre-register.
- **PM Playmates** may be offered if/when cohorting guidance is adjusted by MDH/CDC or where pre-registration shows enough interest AND adequate staffing is available.

Specialists, Field trips and Family Events

- Music classes will occur weekly via video with our Music Specialist, Kristin Seager, beginning in September.

- Spanish classes will occur in person monthly with our Spanish Specialist, Zara Guevara, doing Spanish classes in individual classrooms, beginning in October.
- Field Trips will be replaced this year for Blueberries and Strawberries with additional outdoor experiences, including more frequent trips to Arden/Countryside parks.
- As of the date on this COVID Plan we will NOT have any indoor, in-person family events this school year. We hope to be able to host our families this spring!
- Parent Conferences will be held in November and April. In-person or virtual meetings will be determined at least two weeks in advance.

Travel

- All travel out-of-state or abroad must be reported to The Berry Patch. Students are required to follow the [CDC travel guidelines](#) for unvaccinated travelers, which includes a 7-day Quarantine upon return (with test @ 3-5 days after return and negative result) **OR** 10-day Quarantine with no COVID-19 symptoms.

Face Masks

- Staff will wear face masks at all times students are in the building, except:
 - When eating or drinking
 - When outside
 - When a teacher's facial expressions or articulation are important for the situation/activity (face shield will be worn)
- Parents, Siblings, and Visitors will wear face masks when inside the building
- Masks are highly recommended for all students age 2 and up who are able to wear them correctly and consistently.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Berry Patch staff will practice the [cleaning and sanitizing procedures](#) as noted in the Operations, Policies, Procedures & Practices with these additions:

General Guidelines

- Gloves will be worn as toys and equipment are cleaned; Hands washed after removing gloves.
- When leaving bathroom high touch areas will be sanitized with Clorox wipes or bleach solution - door handles, toilets, sink area
- Used toys will be sanitized at the end of the day
- [MDH Cleaning Guidelines](#) will be followed

Before the day begins

- Bleach solution will be prepared by staff for use in individual classroom and bathroom/diapering areas
- Spray Sanitizer (step 3) on all surfaces and mist over toys (unless visibly dirty)
- Tables and countertops cleaned with all three steps

At the End of the Day

- Used toys will be cleaned and surfaces sanitized.

Landlord Responsibilities with Cleaning end of day:

- After-Hours Building Cleaning Procedures (what is cleaned, who is cleaning, what products are being used) approved by Director prior to the start of the school year

Ventilation

- Ventilation systems at both Berry Patch locations are maintained on a quarterly or semi-annual basis
- Windows will be kept open as much as possible.
- Ceiling fan and air conditioner use is permitted.
- All classrooms and offices have been equipped with individual HEPA-Filter Air Purifiers.
- All children will spend as much time outside each day as possible, weather permitting.

Policies for Temporary Classroom or Building Closure due to COVID-19

- If recommended by Minnesota Department of Health
- Student Tuition will be reduced 50% for time of closure
- The Berry Patch will provide ideas for home learning during closure

Policy for Program Closure due to Mandated Stay-At-Home Order

- The Berry Patch will work with the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Human Services (Licensing) to determine operations should a Stay-At-Home Order be issued for Hennepin County or the State of Minnesota.

Communications and Training

- This Covid-19 Preparedness Plan will be available to the Commissioner and offered to our families.
- The staff will be trained on this plan before beginning the school year and will be informed of any changes to the plan. Volunteers, substitutes and any other caregivers will be trained in this plan prior to being in the classroom with children.
- This plan will be posted in the office for staff and all other caregivers to review.

Parent Review

- Parents will receive an electronic copy of this plan before their child's first day of school.
- Parents will be asked to review and sign that they have read and agree to comply with this plan and with any revised versions, should that occur.