



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 students before entering the classroom area. Anyone who does not pass the screening will be excluded from school.
- **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.

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.

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.

Attendance Policies for Children and Staff

Illness Onset During the School Day

If a staff member or child develops symptoms of COVID -19 (or other illnesses) while at school:

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

Attendance Policy for People with COVID-19 Symptoms

- The [MDH Decision Tree for Schools and Childcare](#) (updated 10/18/21) will guide parents and staff in school attendance.
- **All illnesses and/or symptoms associated with COVID-19 must be reported to The Berry Patch before attending.**
 - **Calvary Families:**
Contact Assistant Director, Cara Terwilliger (c.terwilliger@berrypatchschool.com)
 - **Colonial Families:**
Contact Assistant Director, Jenny Miller (j.miller@berrypatchschool.com)
- **Please monitor any of these symptoms at home for 24 hours and report to The Berry Patch. If the symptom resolves and no other symptoms develop your child may return to school.**
 - Runny Nose/Congestion (okay if clear)
 - Sore Throat
 - Stomach Ache, Nausea
 - New Headache or Muscle Aches/Chills
 - Unexplained fatigue
- **Proof of Negative PCR Test/Alternative Diagnosis from Pediatrician (with symptom improvement) OR 10-day Quarantine are required for the following symptoms:**
 - Two or more of above symptoms
 - 100.4 or higher Fever
 - Any new cough
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Difficulty breathing

Attendance Policy for Staff or Students Who Test Positive for COVID-19

- **All positive COVID tests results must be reported as soon as possible to ensure proper contact tracing.**
- Asymptomatic: 10-day Quarantine *from date of positive test*
- Symptomatic: 10-day Quarantine *from date of symptom onset*

Updated Attendance Policy for People who are Close Contacts of a positive COVID case

- **Definition:**
A Close Contact is anyone who is within 6 feet of a person (for 15 minutes or more in a 24 hour period) who tests positive for COVID. Close Contact includes exposure to a positive person in the *48 hours prior to symptom onset*.
- **All close contact exposures of staff or students MUST be reported as soon as possible.**
- **Student Close Contact** (all students unvaccinated)
 - Household Close Contact
 - **14 day Quarantine is required**
 - Quarantine begins the date of the LAST exposure

Student Close Contact Policies continued...

- If a positive household member is NOT able to be isolated, Quarantine will begin on day 10 of the positive household member's infectious period.
- Negative PCR test at least 5 days after last exposure in the home required.
- Non-Household Close Contact
 - **10-Day Quarantine** (without testing) if no symptoms during Quarantine
 - Quarantine begins from last date of exposure (Day 0) return to school on Day 11
 - If symptoms develop, get tested and report to The Berry Patch for return to school plan
 - **7-Day Quarantine** (with negative PCR test at Day 5 or later) if no symptoms during Quarantine
 - Quarantine begins from last date of exposure (Day 0) return to school on Day 8
 - If symptoms develop, get tested and report to The Berry Patch for return to school plan
- **Staff Close Contact** (all staff are fully vaccinated)
 - If notified of close contact exposure outside household staff will remain home until receiving a negative test. If household close contact, the following is true as long as a positive household member is isolated.
 - **Staff will get a PCR test 3 days following exposure or as soon as symptoms develop, whichever comes first.** The Berry Patch pays for Rapid PCR testing for staff when necessary for classroom schedule.
 - If a staff person tests negative they will return to work wearing a mask at all times for 2 weeks following exposure.

Communication of Covid Exposure in Classroom

- Families will be emailed if someone in their child's class has tested positive for COVID-19 and we will require the above procedures for that class.
- Student Tuition will be reduced 50% for time of closure.

Travel

- In keeping with the opening up of events and mobility during this ongoing Pandemic, The Berry Patch will no longer presume close contact exposure with travel.
- **As always while your child is attending The Berry Patch, please report any symptoms that develop or close contact notification** whether you are traveling, attending birthday parties, enjoying outings with your family, etc.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Berry Patch staff will practice the standard [cleaning and sanitizing procedures](#) as noted in the Operations, Policies, Procedures & Practices. Highlights include:

- Sanitizing (Toys and Food Surfaces) and Disinfecting (Diapering Areas and Bathrooms) Bleach will be made daily and all classrooms, bathrooms, and diapering areas will be equipped with the 3 step cleaning method as outlined by NAEYC.
- Before school Toys are sprayed with Step 3 sanitizing solution, tables are cleaned with all 3 steps.
- During the School day, table surfaces are cleaned with all three steps before and after eating.

Cleaning and Disinfecting continued...

- When leaving the bathroom high touch areas will be sanitized with Clorox wipes or bleach solution - door handles, toilets, sink area.
- Diapering areas are disinfected between every child and after the last child.
- Mouthed toys are removed whenever possible during the day and placed in the mouthed toys bin.
- All used toys are sanitized at the end of the day by being laid out and sprayed with sanitizer and air-dried for at least 5 minutes. Surfaces and containers are sanitized.
- After-Hours Building Cleaning Procedures done by Landlord (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.

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.