

# Maintaining a Healthy School Environment at The Berry Patch

## Keeping Your Child Up to Date on Immunizations

- The Berry Patch requires students to be fully immunized according to the State of MN Health Department schedule; Immunization Records are required to be on file
- COVID-19 vaccines are now available for all of our students (ages 18 mos.-5 years); this vaccine is encouraged but not required

## Washing Hands Often

- Please wash your child's hands before dropping your child off at his/her classroom
- Before and after snack and/or lunch
- Upon returning from outdoor play and learning
- Hand Sanitizer used when soap and water are not readily available

## If a child becomes ill at school

- We will remove any ill child from their classroom and will call parents to pick up their ill child.

## Staying Home When Sick

- Children who have symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections– such as cough, fever (100 degrees or higher), sore throat, yellow/green/thick runny nose, vomiting, diarrhea, etc. should stay home, as per our Sick Policy in our Parent Handbook. Staying home when sick can lower the risk of spreading all infectious diseases such as strep throat, pink eye, hand/foot/mouth disease as well as COVID-19.
- All infectious illness exposures are reported to affected families and information from the Hennepin County Infectious Diseases Manual for Child Care Centers will be sent home.
- If your child is positive for COVID-19 please notify us and have your child stay home for 5 days from test (or symptom onset), returning to school after 5 days if fever-free and symptoms (if any) have improved and able to wear a mask properly for days 6 & 7. If unable to wear a mask, return to school after Day 7.

## Monitoring For Symptoms if Exposed to COVID-19

- COVID-19 Testing is recommended for people with [symptoms of COVID-19](#) or who have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Masking is recommended for children (not younger than 2) or staff who are exposed to COVID-19.
- If there is a COVID-19 exposure in the home, please notify us. Closely monitor all family members for symptoms of illness. Daily testing is recommended for Days 1-5 after exposure.

## Ventilation

All of our classrooms are equipped with Honeywell HEPA Air Filters.

## Cleaning

The Berry Patch follows a thorough cleaning schedule for surfaces and classroom items in accordance with NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) standards.

## Annual Health Policies Consultation/Licensing Reviews

The Berry Patch has an annual Licensing Visit where all Licensing requirements are reviewed, including (but not limited to) Health and Safety Guidelines. The Berry Patch also maintains an annual schedule with a Public Health Nurse to review and update our Health Policies. Health guidelines may be revised throughout the school year in accordance with school and/or community situations.

## Reporting Illness/Absence - call or text; let us know your child's name, teacher, and reason for absence

- Berry Patch West Attendance/Emergency Phone: 952-221-9073
- Berry Patch East Attendance/Emergency Phone: 952-232-9443