



BHPCNS Infectious Disease Prevention Protocols*

August 26, 2022

*subject to change

Introduction

BHPCNS is committed to providing in-person programming throughout the 2022-2023 school year. As Covid-19 continues to evolve, so too will the protocols implemented by BHPCNS. The protocols outlined in this document supersede the protocols in the 2022-2023 Parent Handbook.

BHPCNS, utilizing the most recent infectious disease guidance, distributed to child care facilities in MD on July 22, 2022 by the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland State Department of Education and CDC guidance, has developed the following set of protocols to protect the BHPCNS community. These protocols include a core set of infectious disease prevention strategies and include the addition and layering of specific Covid-19 guidance. These protocols will be tied to [Covid-19 Community Levels](#) and other local factors.

Strategies for Every Day Operations

1. Staying Up- To-Date on Vaccinations

Staying up-to-date on routine vaccinations is essential to prevent illness from many different infections. For Covid-19, vaccination is the leading health strategy to prevent severe disease. BHPCNS encourages all eligible school members to receive the recommended doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.

- Staff Members: BHPCNS staff members are required to be vaccinated against Covid-19.
- Students: While not required, BHPCNS strongly encourages all eligible students to get fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

When there are individual Covid-19 cases or should there be a Covid-19 outbreak, having the most up-to-date Covid-19 vaccination information for all school members will be vital to share with the Montgomery County Health Department when determining next steps to stop the spread of the virus and avoiding school or classroom closures.

2. Staying Home When Sick

- Staff and students who have symptoms of an infectious illness, such as Covid-19, influenza, respiratory virus (RSV), and gastrointestinal infections are not to work in or attend school, and should be tested for Covid-19, if appropriate.
- Staff and families are required to contact BHPCNS to report all infectious diseases, including a positive test for Covid-19, as soon as possible.
- BHPCNS is required to follow existing procedures for reporting certain diseases, including Covid-19 to the Montgomery County health department and the MSDE Office of Child Care.

3. Becoming Ill at BHCNS

- Staff and children who become ill while at BHCNS, will be moved to our infirmary room which allows separation from well-persons. Placement of a well-fitting mask on a person with symptoms of an infectious respiratory illness may be considered. Parents and caregivers will be notified and it is expected the child will be picked within an hour.
- It is recommended that persons with symptoms of Covid-19 should be tested. If the test is negative they may return to school when symptoms are improved, they have had no fever for 24 hours without medication, and the applicable criteria in the [Communicable Diseases Summary](#) have been met.

All persons who test positive for Covid-19 or have suspected Covid-19 are to stay at home regardless of vaccination status, and complete isolation as outlined in **Appendix A: MDH/MSDE Guidance for Covid-19 Symptoms, Isolation, and Quarantine.**

4. Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Washing hands can prevent the spread of infectious diseases. BHCNS teaches and reinforces [proper handwashing](#) to lower the risk of spreading viruses. Handwashing occurs regularly throughout the school day, as well as prior to snack, lunch, and after using the bathroom.

Morning Drop-off: Parents or care givers are required to wash children's hands upon entering school each morning.

Coughs and Sneezes: BHCNS will continue to teach and reinforce [covering coughs and sneezes](#) to help keep everyone from getting and spreading infectious diseases, including Covid-19.

5. Covid-19 Community Levels and Associated Prevention Strategies

BHCNS will consider adding layered prevention strategies, described below, to support safe, in-person learning and to keep classrooms and the school open. In consultation with the Montgomery County Health Department, and using the CDC's [Covid-19 Community Levels](#), BHCNS will look at local conditions when deciding to implement prevention strategies. For example, indicators such as the level of student and staff absenteeism, or student and staff vaccination rates will aid with the decision making process to add or remove layered prevention strategies.

Contact Tracing and Quarantine of Close Contacts

When a Covid-19 case has been identified in a staff member or child, regardless of the Community Covid-19 Level:

- The staff member or parents of the child with Covid-19 are to notify BHP CNS and should notify their own or their child's [close contacts](#).
 - Following contact tracing guidelines, BHP CNS will notify the cohort(s), including supplemental programs, e.g. Stay and Play, of the positive Covid-19 case as necessary. Staff and students who may be close contacts, regardless of their vaccination status, may continue to attend BHP CNS as long as they remain asymptomatic. Exposed persons should wear a mask, if they are able to, for 10 days (day 0 is the last date of exposure)
- It is strongly recommended for exposed persons to have a Covid-19 test 3-5 days after exposure, especially for those who cannot wear a mask.

Based on conditions, BHP CNS may elect to perform universal or targeted contact tracing and quarantine close contacts per [CDC quarantine guidance](#) to provide an additional layer of protection.

Mask Use

Wearing a mask at BHP CNS is optional, except when completing isolation and quarantine as outlined in Appendix A.

Should masking be required or it is your preference to have your child wear a mask during the school day, please send your child to school with at least one extra mask. All masks are to be labeled with your child's first and last names and be worn on a breakaway lanyard.

Parents are required to complete Appendix B – Acceptance of BHP CNS Infectious Diseases Protocols on page 5 of this document, and return the form to school by September 2, 2022.

Completing this form will provide written protocols for BHP CNS to follow regarding your child's mask wearing while at school. For example, *my child is to wear a mask both indoors and outdoors, except while eating; or my child is to wear a mask indoors only; or I prefer my child not wear a mask either indoors or outdoors.* (Mask wearing protocols may be updated throughout the school year, by submitting your request to your child's classroom teachers.)

It is possible that due to federal, state or local government regulations or as required by the local health department because of Covid-19 exposures or high transmission rates within a classroom or the school, BHP CNS will require masks be worn until mandated mask requirements are lifted.

Appendix A: MDH*/MSDE Guidance for COVID-19 Symptoms, Isolation, and Quarantine**

Staff or Student/Child with	Guidance for Management
COVID-19 symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff or student/child should not attend or work in a school or child care setting ● COVID-19 testing is recommended ● If test is negative, may return when symptoms have improved, no fever for 24 hours without medication, and applicable criteria in the Communicable Diseases Summary have been met
Positive test for COVID-19, regardless of symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff or student/child must stay home for at least 5 full days from the start of symptoms or from the date of the positive test if no symptoms ● After day 5, may return if symptoms have improved and no fever for at least 24 hours without medication ● Upon return, must wear a well-fitting mask for 5 additional days (except while eating, drinking, sleeping, or outside) ● If unable to wear a mask, may return if they have a negative test at day 5 or later; otherwise, they should remain at home for days 6 -10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A negative test at day 10 is <u>not</u> required to return to school
Close contact with someone with known or suspected COVID19 but no symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff or student/child may continue to work in or attend school and child care regardless of vaccination status ● Those who can mask should do so for 10 days from the last day of exposure ● A test at 3-5 days after exposure is recommended, especially for those who cannot mask (ex. children under 2 years of age)

*Maryland Department of Health

** Maryland State Department of Education

For positive Covid -19 cases: **Day 0** is considered the day symptoms started in symptomatic person or the day of a positive test (based on date of testing) if asymptomatic.



Appendix B:
**Parental Acceptance of BHCNS
Infectious Diseases Protocols**

By signing this document, the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) of the BHCNS student(s) listed below agree to:

1. Submit updated vaccination records for their child upon receipt of any new vaccine, including Covid-19 vaccinations and boosters.
2. Wash their child's hands and if possible, their hands, upon entering the school building each morning.
3. When sick, keep their child at home until they are well enough to return to school without any medications in the past 24 hours. For the well-being of their child's classmates and teachers, err on the side of caution when their child isn't feeling well, is excessively tired, or doesn't seem like themselves.
4. Report if their child has ANY infectious disease, including Covid-19 to the school office as soon as possible, ideally within 24 hours of the child becoming ill.
5. Notify the school of any school absence, regardless of the reason (e.g. sick, travel, doctor's appointments, etc.)
6. Arrange to have their child picked up from BHCNS within 60 minutes upon being notified that their child took ill at school.

We the parents/ legal guardians of:

Child 1: _____ Child 2, (if applicable): _____
agree to follow BHCNS' Infectious Disease Protocols.

Signature one: _____ Printed Name: _____

Signature two, (if applicable): _____ Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

My mask preference for my child is (please check one):

- No mask necessary during the school day
- Wear mask while inside the building except when eating or drinking
- Wear a mask inside and outside, except when eating or drinking

When Masking: If it is your preference to have your child mask up during the school day, please send your child to school with at least one extra mask. All masks should be labeled with your child's first and last names and be worn on a breakaway lanyard.