



2023-2024
Parent Guidelines
Covid-19

Beverly Montessori School (BMS) is a registered Illinois school and early learning center. Therefore, BMS must abide by all policies and regulations from the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). This document was created using those policies as guidance, along with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with the goal to provide in-school learning in the safest environment possible. Our plan requires all families to be vigilant and act as partners to keep the community safe.

Given the continuing uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, BMS must consider this plan fluid. The plan may be adjusted in order to address newly-developed information, and/or to comply with future regulations or guidelines, and to include information to address specific unforeseen scenarios in our school community.

This document supplements BMS's Parent Handbook. Please refer to the Parent Handbook for all other school policies and procedures, including sick policy unrelated to covid-19.

At-Home Health Screening Before Arrival

- Parents are encouraged to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick.

Illness – When Can You Return to School?

Fever of 100.4 or higher -- 24 hours fever free without medication

Vomiting or Diarrhea -- 24 hours symptom-free

Strep Throat -- 24 hours after the start of antibiotics

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease -- When all lesions are crusted over

Lice -- After treatment, all live lice and nits must be not present.

Pink Eye -- 24 hours after the start of antibiotics

Unknown Rash -- After treatment by a doctor

Chicken Pox -- When all lesions are crusted over

Impetigo -- 24 hours after the start of antibiotics and all lesions covered

Please note whenever a child needs antibiotics for anything, they should always on them 24 hours before they return to school.

Symptoms

Temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit or higher	Chills
Sore throat	Shortness of breath
Cough	Headache
Muscle aches	Diarrhea
Vomiting	New loss of taste or smell
Discolored discharge from nose or eyes	Difficulty breathing
Fatigue	

Carpool arrival and Dismissal

- Drop-off and pick-up times will be staggered to avoid congestion in the hallways and on Walden Parkway. Please make sure you know your child's drop-off and pick-up time and please arrive to the school at that scheduled time.

Exposure, Symptomatic Persons, Confirmed Case

EXPOSURE

- Any person who has been exposed is recommended to wear a mask at school for the next 5 days.

SYMPTOMATIC

If your child is sick, please notify the school of your child's symptoms.

- Any child or staff member that is sick (cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) must stay home for at least 24 hours and longer if symptoms have not cleared.
- If longer than 24 hours, they cannot return to school until ONE OF the following are met:
 1. The individual is COMPLETELY symptom-free OR
 2. Negative test for Covid-19 OR a note from a medical provider allowing them to return to school and documenting no clinical suspicion of Covid-19 infection. Please make sure these are on file when returning to school or please email to the office in advance.
- For congestion (runny nose), as long as it is a clear discharge from nose (no discoloration) and the child can control/manage it -- (does not have to blow nose very often, gets mucus on the works, or has to change mask often), the child can return to school
- If a child becomes symptomatic while at school, we will follow normal health procedure. The child will be isolated from other children. School will call parent(s) and the child is to be picked up within 30 minutes (please make sure someone is able to arrive within the 30 minute window). If a parent is unavailable, we will call others on the emergency contact list.

CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE

- If an individual is diagnosed with Covid-19, they should isolate for at least 5 days or until symptoms are COMPLETELY clear ("day zero" is the day of exposure or the day of the onset of symptoms). If the individual is asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving, the individual may return with recommended mask-wearing during days 6-10.
- If a child or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, the school administrator will notify the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) at 1-800-889-3931 or DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV and should follow any specific guidance given.
- If a school family knowingly sends their child to school who has tested positive or is presumed positive for Covid-19, this will result in immediate termination of enrollment.

Covid-19 Vaccination

- We follow Illinois regulations with all vaccination and immunization requirements for children and staff.

Face Coverings and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Beginning March 3, 2022 Beverly Montessori became a mask-optional facility for all staff and children in the classrooms. However, if conditions in our community change, Beverly Montessori School will follow the Department of Child and Family Services, the City of Chicago Department of Public Health, and the Illinois Health Department's guidelines. If the covid-19 community level in Chicago changes to high, Beverly Montessori School will re-implement a masking mandate.

Healthy Hand Hygiene

- Washing hands can keep a person healthy and prevent the spread of infections from one person to the next. All children and staff will engage in hand hygiene at the following times, at least. Hands will be washed for 20 seconds in proper way.
 - Arrival to the classroom
 - Before and after eating or handling food
 - After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
 - After coming in contact with bodily fluid
 - Before and after playing outdoors
 - Before and after touching eyes, nose, or mouth
- Hand sanitizer will be provided for staff and students (at level out of reach of children) to use as needed.

Cleaning Procedures

- Air cleaners (HEPA filters) with ultraviolet lights have been installed on our whole HVAC system to improve overall air quality and circulation in the school building.
- Each classroom is equipped with 2-3 air purifiers.
- BMS has devised rigid cleaning and sanitation procedures to implement throughout school day to alleviate the possibility of transmission.
 - All high-touch surfaces including, but not limited to, doorknobs, toilet flush handles and sink handles will be cleaned every two hours.
 - Computer components, teacher record-keeping iPad screens and staff telephones will be wiped down regularly.
 - Classroom materials will be sanitized continuously throughout the day.
 - Tables will be wiped down after each use.
 - Classrooms, office counters and bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized prior to afternoon sessions.
- At the end of the school day, a licensed cleaning company will disinfect the entire building as we prepare for next day's learning.

Safety Classroom Procedures

- As needed, proper protocol will be administered in classroom preparation to maintain safe and healthy classroom environments.
 - High touch point areas such as sinks, faucets, and countertops will be sanitized every two hours.
 - Each classroom will have its own bathroom.
 - Snack will be purchased by school.

From the CDC

Schools are encouraged to follow daily operational strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases, such as: keeping students and staff at home who are ill; maintaining clean, disinfected facilities; proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette; and improved ventilation systems. For more information, please visit the [Centers for Disease Control website](#).

Questions or Concerns

- Please contact the office with any questions or concerns about the Parent Guidelines for Covid-19 or any other processes or procedures.