



August 2020

Dear BCPS Parents (and prospective parents),

While we will do our utmost to ensure our school is properly equipped and cleaned to help combat the spread of Covid-19, we must rely on our parents to help do their part.

Our protocols to keep BCPS healthy include:

- **Prevention:** Starting with the first day of the school year, if a child or staff member is feeling sick, they are required to stay home. Additionally, if their symptoms are consistent with COVID-19, they will be asked to get tested. **It is essential that parents conduct a daily health check of their child and of themselves.** Call your doctor if your child has a fever (100.4 or higher), cough, trouble breathing, sore throat, belly pain, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, dizziness, or just doesn't feel well. If your child has been near someone with coronavirus or been in an area where lots of people have coronavirus, tell the doctor. Talk about whether your child needs a test for coronavirus.
- **Feeling Sick in School:** If a child begins experiencing symptoms in school, they will be isolated and monitored by a school staff member until they are picked up by their parent or guardian. Staff members who become symptomatic at school must notify administration and immediately leave the building.
- **Testing:** All school staff members are asked to get tested for COVID-19 in the days leading up to the beginning of school and will be prioritized for expedited results at the 34 City-run testing sites. All school staff are also asked to get tested monthly during the school year. This free testing is also available for families citywide.
- **Tracing:** In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case, the school must immediately notify the NYC DOH-MH who will investigate to determine close contacts within the school. All children and teachers in the classroom with the confirmed case are assumed close contacts and will be instructed to self-quarantine for 14 days since their last exposure to that case.

If there's more than one case in the school, and it's not in the same classroom, the school building will close for at least 24 hours while NYC DOH-MH investigates. Depending on the outcome of the investigation, affected classrooms or the whole building may need to remain closed for 14 days for quarantine.

- **Communication:** Whether symptoms begin at home or in school, there will be a clear flow of information to facilitate fast action and prevent spread. If a COVID-19 case is confirmed, we will communicate to all families at school keeping the name of the child/person confidential.

Below are guidelines currently mandated by NY State and NYC DOH-MH for when a child should or should not attend school:

If a parent/guardian of a child must be isolated because they have tested positive for, or exhibited symptoms of, COVID 19:

- the parent/guardian must be advised that they cannot enter the site for any reason, including picking up their child.
- Have an emergency contact authorized by the parent pick up the child.
- As a close contact, the child must not return to the child-care for 14 days from last time they were in close contact with the person with COVID 19 (if in same household or is otherwise a close contact).

If the parent/guardian who is a member of the same household as the child is being quarantined as a precautionary measure, without symptoms or a positive test:

- staff should walk out or drop off the child to the parent/guardian at the boundary of, or outside, the premises.
- As a “contact of a contact,” the child may return to the childcare program during the duration of the quarantine.

If a child has symptoms of COVID 19 or has a positive diagnostic test, the child must isolate and may not attend the childcare until:

- It has been at least 10 days from symptom onset, with the last three days fever free (without use of fever reducing medicine) and an overall reduction in symptoms.
- If no symptoms, 10 days from the date they were tested.

And please:

- **Stay home if sick:** Only leave for essential medical care and or other essential errands.
- **Keep physical distance:** Stay at least 6 feet away from other people.
- **Keep your hands clean:** Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- **Adults must wear a face covering:** You can be contagious without symptoms. Protect those around you by wearing a face covering.

While we cannot guarantee that Covid-19 will never cross our school’s doorsteps, with your help, it is achievable that we can reduce the possibility.

*Cindy Palicka & Jackie Meltzer*

Co-Directors