

# CENTRAL BRANCH COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS (8/11/22)

*(This is a living document and subject to change regularly as we update recommendations)*

## OVERVIEW

Welcome back to school! Our community's safety, health and well-being are of the utmost importance. It was informed by federal, state, and local regulations, and practices that have worked for us. We encourage and welcome your on-going feedback as this document evolves.

While we are committed to ensuring that Central Branch is a safe and healthy space for our children and staff, we recognize that it is impossible to create a zero risk environment. We can, however, reduce the risk of infection through droplet-based transmission as much as we are able. Every decision we make has the potential to affect our loved ones and other families profoundly. We hope that everyone will assume positive intent and will treat each other with as much compassion and kindness as possible.

Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic and keep our community healthy. Please get vaccinated if medically eligible.

## **I. PRE-ARRIVAL**

There are many things we can do at home to help mitigate the possible spread of COVID-19. By working together, we can help keep each other healthy, safe and in school!

### **A. Check for Symptoms**

- Before leaving home each morning, it is important to assess your child's health to see if they are exhibiting any new signs or symptoms that could be related to COVID-19, which may include:

\*fever or chills

\*cough

\*shortness of breath

- \*fatigue
- \*muscle or body aches
- \*headache
- \*new loss of taste or smell
- \*sore throat
- \*congestion or runny nose
- \*nausea or vomiting
- \*diarrhea
- \*or other signs of new illness excluding preexisting condition (such as seasonal allergy)

- We understand that having any one of these symptoms does not necessarily mean your child has contracted COVID-19. However in accordance with recommendations from King County Public Health, if your child or any other household family member has developed any of the above, we ask you keep your child home and **contact the school**.

#### **B. Doctor's Note**

- If your child has a preexisting condition which typically results in the ongoing presentation of any of the above symptoms, we must have a doctor's note stating as such in order for your child to attend.

## **II. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE**

#### **A. Drop off/Check in Procedures**

We use an App called “**Brightwheel**”, designed to make check in fast, contactless, safe and effective! It is free to download to your phone and helps us tremendously in our efforts to help mitigate risks to our families and staff.

- QR codes are located outside the school. Use these to check your child in.
- Grown-ups and children must be wearing masks covering mouth AND nose, upon arrival and during entire drop off procedure.
- Complete health screening questions via the **brightwheel App**. **All staff/admin will also complete a daily health pre-screening**. If the answer is yes to any of the pre-screening questions, or you or your child exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms, you will not be permitted to stay (unless cleared by Wendy or Lesli). We will complete an illness log to document any symptoms.

- After screening, please walk your child to class.
- All grown-ups entering the school building must be fully vaccinated and have shown the staff their vaccination cards.

### **B. Pick Up Procedures**

- Grown-ups and children must be wearing masks covering mouth AND nose, for entire pick-up procedure if pick up is inside.
- Your child's teacher or a staff member will brightwheel you the location of pick up.

## **III. CLASSTIME SAFETY STRATEGIES**

### **A. In the classrooms**

- We have air purifiers for each classroom, the office, climbing room and bathroom/kitchen hallway to improve air quality. Windows will also be open at all times. Masks will be worn at all times while inside. Snack and lunch will be eaten outside. PLEASE make sure your child eats breakfast before arriving to school.
- Though we will play in our classrooms, we will try to spend much of each day outside. Please make sure your child has the appropriate gear for any weather. If you need help with gear, we are happy to help. Talk with Wendy or Lesli.

### **B. Bathroom Breaks**

- Classes will use the bathroom one at a time.
- If a child needs to use the bathroom independent of scheduled bathroom breaks, Wendy or Lesli will assist.

### **C. Outdoor Play**

- Classes will bring hand washing stations when venturing off-site, and wash hands after play.

#### **IV. SNACKS AND LUNCH**

- Snacks and/or lunch will be eaten outside. (We have tented areas available for each class while eating during inclement weather.)
- Children and staff will wash hands before and immediately after eating.
- Children and staff will eat own food brought from home, with the exception of class cooking projects and snacks provided by the school. We will always check allergies before serving your child any snacks not provided from home.
- Children should be able to open, seal and dispose of compost/garbage by themselves. Practicing this with your children before the start of school would be helpful.

#### **V. EMERGENCIES**

##### **A. Extreme Weather**

- If the temperature is 31 degrees or below, the class will remain inside, or if playing outdoors, come in to warm up every 20-30 minutes (this includes wind chill). If the temperature is below 27 degrees (this includes wind chill) we will remain inside for the day.
- Air Quality. If it is Good (green) or Moderate (yellow) we spend time outdoors. If it is Unhealthy For Sensitive Groups (orange), Unhealthy (red), or Very Unhealthy (purple) we will remain inside. We will message all families via brightwheel to let you know if we will be indoors for the day. You may also check for yourselves at [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov).

##### **B. Lockdown**

- Lockdown's occasionally occur in the event of a potential threat in the surrounding area. Each class will go into their designated rooms (unless the threat is such it is not possible). The teacher will facilitate an indoor activity until it is safe to return outside, or if necessary, until a parent/guardian can pick up.

## **VI. SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND PREVENTATIVE MEASURES**

### **A. Mask Use**

- All children and staff/admin are required to always wear a mask while inside of school building.
- Wearing masks outside is optional.
- Masks must have at least two (2) protective layers. Masks with exhalation valves release unfiltered droplets and are NOT permissible.
- All adults and children present for drop off/pick up **MUST** always wear masks while inside.
- Central Branch will have extra masks available in case they are needed.

### **B. Hand Hygiene**

- Upon arrival and leaving for the day, children will wash their hands at the hand washing stations or classroom sinks.
- Children, staff/admin and families should practice not touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Children and staff/admin while indoors for bathroom breaks will wash their hands, and use paper towels to flush and turn on water faucets. Teachers will sanitize toilets after each class use.

### **C. Sanitation**

All cleaning and sanitation will be in accordance to King County Public Health guidelines.

- Bathroom surfaces will be immediately cleaned and sanitized in between each class use, and after staff/admin use.

- Surfaces in entry points, hallways, designated seating spots or any other affected areas shall be cleaned and sanitized immediately after each class contact.
- Any shared materials used by a class will be cleaned and sanitized after use.
- School premises will be cleaned and sanitized in between classes and at the end of each school day.

#### **D. Air Quality Control**

- Windows shall be open inside of the school building at all times during school hours.
- Blueair Blue Pure Air Purifiers will be used in each classroom, the office, climbing room bathroom/kitchen hallway at all times during school hours.

#### **F. Travel Precautions**

- Before travel, please check CDC's Travel Alerts and Tips for Covid-19.
- If anyone in your "bubble" outside of your household has traveled recently, please notify the school so that we are able to look out for development of symptoms.
- Unless fully vaccinated, get tested (with a viral test) 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for 7 days after travel. If you don't get tested stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel. Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.

### **VII. ILLNESS AND COVID-19 SYMPTOMS**

#### **A. Illness**

- If your child is not acting like usual, please keep them home regardless.
- Please notify us if your child develops any symptoms outside of school. Please do not send your child to school if they have to take medicine for a fever or aches in the last 48-72 hours.

- It is advised that you call your child's health care provider to get tested for COVID-19 if ill via home test. (For PCR test, we can provide you with information for free testing sites.) If you think symptoms are due to a chronic or preexisting condition, please consult your child's doctor and have them provide a note stating as such, and that they are not suspected having COVID-19.
- Children exhibiting ANY of the pre-screening symptoms during the school day will be sent home immediately.
- While waiting to be picked up, they will wait with a member of administration.
- Any surfaces, materials and/or rooms the child has come in contact with will be cleaned and sanitized.
- Children and staff who develop symptoms will be required to stay home until symptoms have resolved. Please do stay home if cold symptoms persist to lessen the transmission to others.
- If a teacher develops symptoms, they will get tested for COVID-19 and stay home until they have tested negative, and symptoms have resolved.

### **VIII. SUSPECTED (due to likely exposure) OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES**

- If a child or staff/admin person is suspected or confirmed with COVID-19, the person must stay home, and may only return when it has been:
  - \*10 days since symptoms began or person tested positive  
**AND**
  - \*at least 24 hours since fever has resolved (WITHOUT fever-reducing medication)  
**AND**
  - \*symptoms have improved
- Central Branch will immediately notify the King County Dept. of Public Health and follow any other school closure guidelines as deemed necessary.
- Central Branch will work with King County Dept. of Health to identify other grown-ups and children who may have had contact within six feet of the

individual for more than 15 minutes during the 48 hours prior to when the individual's symptoms appeared and the last time the individual attended school.

- **Unvaccinated and not fully vaccinated children** that have had direct contact with the positive COVID case will be asked to stay home for 7 days and monitor for symptoms.
- **All children and staff** who have had direct contact (those vaccinated/partially vaccinated and unvaccinated) will be asked to get a PCR test 3-5 days after exposure.
- **Children who are fully vaccinated** can return to school after direct exposure but need to test with a home test each morning before coming to school. Once, they receive a negative PCR test they can stop testing each morning. If you need tests, please let us know.

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