

# CENTRAL BRANCH COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS (3/3/23)

*(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 both inside and outside the school. Use these to check your child in.
- Complete health screening questions via the **brightwheel App**. 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.

## **B. Mask Use**

- All children and staff/admin are welcome to wear a mask while inside of school building. Masks are optional.

## **C. Hand Hygiene**

- Upon arrival and leaving for the day, children will wash their hands at classroom sinks.
- Children, staff/admin and families should practice not touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

## **D. 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.
- Any shared materials used by a class will be cleaned at the end of the day.
- School premises will be cleaned and sanitized and at the end of each school day.

## **D. Air Quality Control**

- 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.
- Unless fully vaccinated, get tested (with a viral test) 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for 5 days after travel.

### **III. 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.

### **VI. 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 isolate for a full 10 days or follow the test-based strategy listed below-

\*If individuals have access to antigen tests, they can further decrease their risk of infecting others by taking a test when they plan to leave isolation, no sooner than day 6. They should only test if they are fever-free for 24 hours

without using fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved. Loss of taste or smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and should not delay the end of isolation. When testing to potentially end isolation,

\*If the test is positive, the individual may still be infectious. They should continue to isolate and wear a well-fitting and high-quality mask and wait 24-48 hours to test again.

\*If the test is negative on two sequential tests each performed 24-48 hours apart, they can end isolation and stop wearing a mask before day 10.

- Central Branch will immediately notify the King County Dept. of Public Health if there are two or more positive COVID cases 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 5 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.