

CENTRAL BRANCH COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS (5/1/2024)

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

OVERVIEW

Welcome 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)

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).
- 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.

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 24-48 hours.

- It is advised that you call your child's health care provider to get tested for COVID-19 if ill via home test. 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.
- 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.
- Please do stay home if cold symptoms persist to lessen the transmission to others.

VI. CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES

The CDC has changed its recommendations for isolation that was created during the public health emergency, with lower population immunity, fewer tools to combat respiratory viruses, and higher rates of severe illness, including hospitalizations and deaths. We have kept a five-day isolation for children. Our firsthand experience throughout the past 4 years has shown us that children are unable to mask like adults consistently and effectively, thus the difference in policy.

- If a child is confirmed with COVID-19, they must stay home for a full 5 days. They can return to school after the 5 days (they must be symptom free and 24 hours fever free without using fever reducing medicine) and wear a mask while at school for a further 5 days.
- If a staff member is confirmed with COVID they can return to school when symptoms have resolved and are 24 hours fever free without using fever reducing medicine. They must mask until a 10-day period has passed.
- 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. They should only test if they are fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved.

