



CHILDREN'S HOUSE OF BUCKS COUNTY COVID 19 POLICY

Children's House of Bucks County (CHBC) has updated our policies and procedures to prioritize the safety of our students, parents/guardians, teachers, staff, and their families to continue to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19. These policies are effective beginning on April 4, 2022.

Child & Family - Illness

If a child becomes ill while at school, they will be appropriately isolated until a parent/guardian can pick up the child. Any child who becomes ill while at CHBC must be picked up within 30 minutes of notification.

Parents/guardians will keep their child(ren) home if the child is ill. Please refer to chart below to determine if your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

Group A 1 or more symptoms	Group B 2 or more symptoms	Stay home if you or the student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have one or more symptoms in Group A OR • Have two or more symptoms in Group B OR • Are taking fever reducing medication.
Fever (100.4 or higher) Chills Shortness of breath Difficulty breathing Nausea or Vomiting	Sore throat Congestion Cough New lack of smell or taste Muscle pain Headache Diarrhea	

If a student is sick with minor symptoms not indicative of COVID-19, the child can return to CHBC after 24 hours of being fever-free without fever-reducing medications and if their symptoms have improved.

If the child is sick with symptoms of COVID-19, the child should isolate at home for 5 days. Children may return only after they have been fever-free for 24 hours, their symptoms have improved, and provide an acceptable negative test after Day 6 (CHBC accepts a PCR test or two verified and signed home tests taken 24 hours apart) or a note from a doctor. Please note that students must still be fever-free without the use of medication for 24 hours before returning to school, as stated in the parent handbook.

Child & Family – Known COVID-19 Exposure

Families are expected to report any known exposures to COVID-19 positive individuals to the school immediately. Children and household members should be tested after being in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case regardless of the presence of symptoms. "Close Contact" is defined as being within 6 feet of an individual with a confirmed COVID-19 infection for at least 15 minutes.

For Children 2 Years or Older

If the child remains symptom-free, they may stay in school provided they are able to wear a mask for 10 days from the date of exposure. If the child develops symptoms or tests positive see "Child & Family – Positive COVID-19 Test."



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For Children Under 2 Years or Unable to Consistently Mask

If the child is under 2 years old, or unable to wear a mask for other reasons, the child should quarantine until the end of Day 10, or return after Day 5 with an acceptable negative test (CHBC accepts a PCR test or two verified and signed home tests taken 24 hours apart) or a note from a doctor. If the child develops symptoms or tests positive see “Child & Family – Positive COVID-19 Test.”

Child & Family – Positive COVID-19 Test

If the child or someone living in the home has tested positive for COVID-19 or knowingly been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, parents/guardians will notify the school.

If the sick or positive family member is able to effectively quarantine within the home, then the “Child & Family – Known COVID-19 Exposure” policy above may be followed.

If the sick or positive family member is not able to effectively quarantine with the home, then the student should be assumed positive and follow the policy below:

For Children 2 Years or Older

If the child is sick with symptoms of COVID-19 and is 2 years or older, the child should isolate at home for 5 days. Children may return only after they have been fever-free for 24 hours and their symptoms have improved, or if they never experienced symptoms, on Day 6 after providing an acceptable negative test (CHBC accepts a PCR test or two verified and signed home tests taken 24 hours apart) or a note from a doctor. Upon the student's return to CHBC, they will wear a mask for the balance of 10 days from the start of symptoms. Please note that students must still be fever-free without the use of medication for 24 hours before returning to school, as stated in the parent handbook.

For Children Under 2 Years or Unable to Consistently Mask

If the child is under 2 years old, or unable to wear a mask for other reasons, the child should quarantine until the end of Day 10.

Staff Member & Teacher Illness

Current CDC recommendations regarding isolation/quarantine will be followed for all staff members per CDC.gov

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

These procedures will be followed daily:

- Drop-off and pick-up of children will take place at the classroom door.
 - Drop-off 8:45 am -9:00 am
 - Pick-up 11:45 am, 1:00 OR 3:00 (depends on child's program)
- The parent/guardian gets their child and lunchbox/backpack out of car.
- If applicable, the child must put on a face mask prior to entering the building.
- Parents/guardians will not enter the classroom at the time of Drop-Off and Pick-Up.
- If a child will be arriving outside of the designated hours, they will need to enter via the office. A staff member will escort the child to their classroom.



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Handwashing

CHBC handwashing procedures will be followed by anyone who enters the school building.

- Staff and children will be encouraged to wash their hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds throughout the day, especially after returning from the outdoors, after toileting/diaper changing, or before consuming food.
- Signs and posters will be posted to remind children of the steps for washing hands and when to wash their hands:
 - Before and after eating
 - Sneezing, blowing nose, and coughing
 - After outside play
 - After bathroom use
 - After a cut or scrape
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will also be applied throughout the day if soap and water are not available (this will always be supervised by an adult).
- Staff will remind children to avoid touching their eyes or face throughout the day.

Face Masks

If a student or staff member are required to wear a face mask as per a policy mentioned above, they must do so consistently unless

- eating and drinking when spaced six feet apart
 - seated at tables or workspaces at least six feet apart
 - engaged in any activity at least 6 feet apart (e.g. face covering breaks, recess, etc.)
 - when spending time outdoors
- Face masks must be washed daily. A spare face mask should be sent to school just like spare clothes. In the event a child needs to borrow a mask, the school will have spare cloth face masks for use while at school.
 - The CDC no longer recommends using a face shield as a substitute for a face mask as it is primarily used to protect the eyes of the person wearing it and does not securely cover the nose and mouth. CHBC recognizes that wearing a mask may not be feasible for every single child; therefore, children are permitted to wear a face shield when unable to wear a face mask. However, we do encourage families to utilize face masks over face shields when possible.

Cleaning, Sanitation and Disinfecting Practices

CHBC will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized by our cleaning company before school begins. They will take extra steps to ensure all areas are given extra attention with specific protocols in place when dealing with an infectious disease.

During the school day, staff will use a Daily Sanitation Checklist to ensure high touch points, materials, surfaces, bathrooms, and classrooms are properly cleaned and disinfected on a schedule.

Windows will remain open as much as possible with increased air circulation. If there is inclement weather and/or a temperature that exceeds 82 degrees Fahrenheit, the windows will be closed, and air conditioning will be turned on.



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Social Distancing

Physical distancing will be practiced, modeled, and encouraged in an age-appropriate manner. Staff will model and instruct as needed.

The sharing of materials will be minimized. The children will be provided their own school supply box that will contain essentials, i.e. pencils, crayons, scissors, glue, playdough, etc. Each child in the primary classroom will have a binder for their work materials and resources for individual use.

Outside space will be an option for workspace and lessons, as well as group gatherings like circle time and story time. The outside shared area will have a staggered schedule. Activities that require projection of voice and/or physical exertion will only take place outdoors understanding the limitations of physical distancing with young children.

Children's naptime mats will be spaced out as much as possible with 6 feet being optimal and arranged so that children are placed head-to-toe instead of face-to-face to further reduce the potential for viral spread.

Meals & Snacks

All meals and snacks will be brought from home in a lunchbox marked with the child's name. Lunches will be packed in easy open containers and eaten out of their lunch box. Each lunch box will contain daily:

- a large easy open container like a bento box is a great option
- a smaller container or bag with a pre-portioned snack (a second snack would be needed if enrolled in the after-care program).
- one water bottle filled with water and an optional water bottle filled with milk or other beverage.

Lunch will take place in the classroom setting. Lunch seating will have students and staff in staggered arrangement to avoid "across-the-table" seating. All individuals will sanitize/wash hands before and after eating.

Other Safety Measures

Visitors and volunteers will be permitted in the building effective January 18, 2022. If a parent or other individual will be entering the school, they will go through the health screening with a temperature scan and symptom and exposure questions.

If a student or staff member is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms while in school, they will go immediately to the isolation area of the school and the Head of School will determine if they need to go home. The child will always be supervised by a staff member. It is expected that a parent or guardian arrives within 30 minutes to pick up their child if they need to go home.

The HoS will report a positive COVID-19 case to the Bucks County Health Department, in addition to any known exposure risks and will proceed according to those recommendations. The BCHD will work with the HoS to advise what information is shared and when it is released once a COVID-19 case is confirmed. Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will not be permitted to return without medical clearance. This will happen in conjunction with the Bucks County Health Department.



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HoS and classroom teachers will be trained in the protocols for monitoring the signs and symptoms. This will occur before the start of school and in staff meetings throughout the school year, as necessary. Staff will be trained on the safety protocols and procedures to ensure they are consistently implemented and followed. These trainings will be provided and take place before school begins via online, in-person and through publications.

Communications

All parents/guardians and students will be informed on the safety protocols and procedures to ensure they are consistently implemented and followed. The information will be provided via online and through publications based on the audience and the content.

Parents will sign an agreement before the start of school that highlights specific key points to monitor for signs, symptoms, and exposure and to exclude their child from school when signs, symptoms and exposure are present.

Mental Health Support/Check-Ins (staff and children)

The current pandemic has taken a mental and emotional toll on children, parents/guardians, and staff. Staff members have undergone training and will conduct daily mental health check-ins that are developmentally appropriate and researched to support the young child. There will also be weekly mental health staff check-ins. CHBC will continue to provide resources and support to our community.

Remote Learning

In the case of a school-wide quarantine or closure, CHBC will extend the end of the year (not to exceed 10 days). Remote learning will not take place during the first 10 days of quarantine as students will receive educational services when the end of year is extended; however, parents will be provided with a list of learning resources and activities for their children. If the school-wide quarantine or closure is extended past the initial 10 days, or should a second separate quarantine or closure occur, remote learning will take place and be implemented at the discretion of the Head of School. In the case of a classroom-wide quarantine or closure, remote learning will take place at the discretion of the Head of School and Board of Directors.

The first 10 days of quarantine or closure will be reflected in your normal tuition payment. If this is extended past the initial 10 days, or should a second separate quarantine or closure occur, the Board of Directors will be in contact with parents regarding tuition and further procedures via e-mail.

CHBC has the right to change or amend any policies set forth in this document at any time.