



Bluffview Montessori COVID-19 Health Protocols Effective Date: Friday, December 22, 2023

The following guidelines and recommendations are based on the guidance from the

- Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): [Best Practice Recommendations for COVID-19 Prevention in Schools](#) (update 1/24/2022)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC): [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- Minnesota Department of Health: [MDH COVID-19 information webpage](#)
- [MDH COVID-19 Testing Recommendations](#) (updated 2/22/2022)
- [Covid 19 Community Levels: A measure of the impact of Covid 19 on health and health care systems](#) (updated 3/3/2022) This is the source of the **Covid 19 Community Levels Chart** below. This site also hosts the Covid 19 County Check drop down features to check the color-coded levels indicated on the chart.

Covid 19 Community Levels: Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community

COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community				
New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days. There is another chart at the end of this document that outlines the recommended Individual, household, and community level prevention strategies relative to Covid 19 community levels

Federal Government and Minnesota Rule Requirements:

- Face coverings: All people are no longer required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) order to wear face coverings on all indoor public transportation conveyances (airports, public buses, etc.), including school buses. See [CDC: Requirement for Face Masks on Public Transportation Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs](#)
- Handling a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19: Minnesota Rule 4605.7070 requires any person in charge of any institution, school, child care facility, or camp to report cases of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). See [MDH: Reportable Disease Rule](#)

BMS Health Protocols

Prevention Layers	Protocols
Face Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Face coverings are optional (recommended) for all students and staff, visitors, contractors, and adult learners, regardless of vaccination status, while in Bluffview Montessori.● When using district provided transportation for any purpose, including buses and vans, occupants will follow any and all current CDC/federal mandates.● Situations where face coverings are required:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ When entering the nurse's office and is suspected of potentially having Covid.○ When a person tests positive and returns after a 5 day-isolation they must wear a well-fitting face covering indoors for days 6-10.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Families may choose to remain out for days 6-10 in lieu of wearing a mask for those days.● Exceptions can be made for the following categories of people:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A person who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.)○ Children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask.
Isolation (if you tested positive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All people who have a positive test for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, must stay home and isolate (CDC isolation guidance here) for at least five days from the date symptoms started or the date the positive Covid 19 test was administered.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <u>Day 0</u> is the day either symptoms began or you were tested for COVID-19. <u>Day 1</u> is the first full day after symptom onset or the COVID-19 test administration date.○ If symptoms are improving and you have been fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medication), isolation may end after 5 full days if you can wear a well-fitting mask days 6-10.○ If you were severely ill with COVID-19, you should isolate for at least 10 days.○ People unable to wear a well-fitting mask (e.g., under age 2, people with certain disabilities) must isolate themselves for 10 full days.
Close Contact Tracing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Contact tracing will not be conducted unless there is a significant cluster of cases identified within the same classroom, cohort, or group of individuals that threatens the school population at large. In these situations, identified close contacts will be required to adhere to the quarantine protocols.

Quarantine (if you were exposed to a known positive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New quarantine guidelines as of 8/11/22 (CDC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If potentially exposed to a Covid positive individual, you do not need to stay home and quarantine unless you develop symptoms which include but are not limited to a 100.4 degree fever, cough, or shortness of breath. ○ Masks are strongly encouraged if exposed to a known Covid positive. ○ Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you had your last close contact with someone with COVID-19. If you develop symptoms, isolate immediately and get tested. Stay home until you know the results. <u>Day 0</u> is the day of exposure. ○ It is encouraged to get tested at least 5 days (so on day 6) after you had your last close contact, even if you don't develop symptoms.
Physical Distancing and Cohorting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physical distancing may be implemented when deemed necessary, notably when the County is in "red"/"high" transmission or if we are monitoring a potential outbreak in the building. ● Cohorting is no longer recommended in school settings (8/11/22 CDC update). ● Classroom teachers/staff may be requested to document seating charts to identify close contacts in large group, indoor settings (like the lunch room) or high risk activities like choir and band in the event that we do need to contact trace after someone tests positive for COVID-19/an outbreak occurs.
Health Screening and Staying Home When Sick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students, staff, and visitors are recommended to complete a daily health screening. ● Students who have influenza-like or COVID-19-like illness symptoms must stay home and take a COVID-19 test. Students can return with a negative test (PCR or antigen) if they have been fever-free for 24 hours and their symptoms are improving. Rapid tests are available in the school office and families can also call the school and request for test kits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students who are not tested for COVID-19 can return once it has been ten (10) full days from the onset of symptoms or it has been five (5) full days from the onset of symptoms and wear a mask for days 6-10.
COVID-19 Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bluffview has free rapid test kits available for enrolled students and staff. Testing kits can be picked up at the office while our supplies last. For cases with symptoms where there is no identified close contact, the Antigen/take home test results will be accepted for a return to school assuming the student is fever free for 24 hours without meds. ● PCR testing is available at Winona Health.
Respiratory Etiquette and Hand Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students and staff members are encouraged to build routines of handwashing and respiratory etiquette into the daily schedule. Employees, students, and visitors will be instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or tissue when coughing or sneezing. ● Sanitizer and masks will be available in the office and classrooms.
Cleaning and Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regular housekeeping practices are conducted by our maintenance department, including routine environmental cleaning of classrooms and common spaces. ● Whenever possible, steps will be taken to increase the intake percentage of outside air to increase dilution of contaminants, and minimize recirculation, while maintaining indoor air conditions. In the absence of effective mechanical ventilation, steps will be taken to increase natural ventilation as much as possible, including opening windows when possible and safe.

	Efforts include the HVAC being set at 100% external air intake, mobile air purifiers in all classrooms and community spaces, and fans available to place in windows facing outward.
Accommodations for Children with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures will be provided. To learn more about accommodations, parents/guardians should contact their child's case manager.
Visitors & Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors may be limited to maintain a reduced amount of potential transmission. Limits will be set when Winona County is in "red" or "high". • All visitors, community providers, volunteers, and other authorized adults entering the building are expected to adhere to relevant provisions and health protocols. • All classrooms, sites, and programs are required to keep a roster of visitors and volunteers (name, contact information, date, time, program, site, etc).
After School Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After School Care will follow all BMS protocols.
Athletics & Activities with WAPS Cooperative Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All individuals that engage in the sports/activities as offered through our cooperative agreement with Winona Area Public Schools will adhere to the Covid guidelines as published by WAPS. • MN State High School Leagues guidance updated 5/3/22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per MSHSL requirements for Individuals who test positive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Days 0-5: Individuals may not participate in practice or contests.* ○ Days 6-10: Individuals may participate in practices and contests on days 6-10 if the following requirements are met:** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The individual must have lessening symptoms and be fever- free for at least 24 hours. ■ During days 6-10, no mask is required if the participant has a negative PCR/NAAT test or antigen test. Participants must show proof of negative results to their coach/supervisor. ■ If not tested, individuals must wear a well-fitting mask at all times, avoid travel and avoid being around people who are at high risk *Day 0 is the day symptoms started or the day of the test if asymptomatic. Student is eligible for practice and contests on Day 6 if all three conditions have been met.) **It is highly recommended that any student-participant who has tested positive for COVID-19 follow the "Graduated Return to Sport Protocol" that is provided by the Minnesota State High School League and the MSHSL Sports Medicine
Facilities Rentals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility rentals during the school day will follow BMS health protocols.