



Bluffview Montessori COVID-19 Health Protocols Effective Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022

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](#) (updated 1/13/2022)
- MDH [Recommendations for Handling a Confirmed Case of COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#) - (updated 3/1/2022)
- [MDH COVID-19 Testing Recommendations](#) (updated 2/22/2022) [Quarantine](#) & [Isolation](#) (updated 3/16/22)
- [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
	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. ○ 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. ● 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"> ● People who have a positive test for COVID-19, must stay home and isolate 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. ○ 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 cluster of cases identified within the same classroom, cohort, or group of individuals. 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"> ● Fully Vaccinated** Individuals OR Tested Positive for COVID-19 within the Past 90 Days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You do not need to stay home and quarantine unless you develop symptoms. ○ 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

	<p>until you know the results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is encouraged to get tested at least 5 days after you had your last close contact, even if you don't develop symptoms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-Household Exposure (Not Fully Vaccinated): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ People who had close contact and are not fully vaccinated must quarantine for at least 5 full days. Day 0 is the last date of potential exposure. Day 1 is the first full day after your last contact with a person who has had COVID-19. ○ Individual is recommended to be tested on day 5. ● Household Exposure (Not Fully Vaccinated): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individuals who are not fully vaccinated and live in the same household as someone that tests positive will be required to quarantine during the positive person's isolation period. ○ Individuals may return after both the positive individual is done with isolation (return on day 6) if they are tested for COVID-19 <i>after</i> the positive person's isolation ends and are symptom free. ○ If not tested for COVID-19, individuals must quarantine for 5 days from the end date of the positive person's 5-day isolation. <p>**Fully vaccinated means a person has received their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.</p>
<p>Physical Distancing and Cohorting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physical distancing will be implemented when possible. ● Cohorting will be used to limit the number of students, teachers, and staff who come in contact with each other. ● Classroom teachers/staff are required to document seating charts/cohort groups to identify close contacts when someone tests positive for COVID-19.
<p>Health Screening and Staying Home When Sick</p>	<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.
<p>COVID-19 Testing</p>	<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. ● PCR testing is available at Winona Health and the Vault testing site at the Winona Mall.
<p>Respiratory Etiquette and Hand Hygiene</p>	<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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students, staff, and visitors are encouraged to use hand sanitizer prior to or to proceed immediately to the front restrooms to wash hands upon entering. Sanitizer and masks will be available at the entrance.
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 will be limited to maintain a reduced amount of potential transmission. 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.) for contact tracing purposes.
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"> Competitions/Games: All participants, coaches, and advisors must comply with WAPS COVID-19 protocols at home events. When traveling to other schools for away events, WAPS participants, coaches, and other persons must comply with away school district’s protocols, unless they contradict and are more relaxed than the provisions of the WAPS Covid-19 protocols. Face Coverings: When distancing cannot be maintained, such as on the sidelines, student-athletes will be strongly recommended to wear a face covering both indoors and outdoors. Transportation: When using district transportation for any purpose, including school buses and vans, occupants will follow current CDC/federal mandates. Distancing will be implemented to the extent possible and/or student-athletes will remain seated with their cohort assignment. Physical Distancing/Cohorts: Student-athletes should remain in cohort groups when applicable, and pods of students should remain 6’ from other pods. Health Screening: All participants are expected to complete daily health screenings prior to coming to school. Students should refrain from these activities when they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and should be tested. If students are absent from school due to being sick or in quarantine, they must remain home from after-school activities and athletics. Contact Tracing and Quarantine: Contact tracing will be conducted to identify those needing to quarantine. Coaches are expected to have documentation of student cohort

groups and seating assignments for transportation. People who are fully vaccinated can refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic, facilitating continued participation in in-person learning, sports, and extracurricular activities.

- **Per MSHSL requirements:** Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 cannot participate in interscholastic in-person competition until all three of these things are true:
 - They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fever, and,
 - It has been at least 10 days since they first experienced symptoms or tested positive, and,
 - The symptoms of cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms are better.

(Day 0 is the day symptoms started or the day of the test if asymptomatic. Student is eligible for competition on Day 11 if all three conditions have been met.)

Facilities Rentals

- Facility rentals during the school day will follow BMS health protocols.

Individual, household, and community level prevention strategies relative to Covid 19 community levels

COVID-19 Community Levels

COVID-19 Community level	Individual- and household-level prevention behaviors	Community-level prevention strategies (as recommended by state or local authorities)
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters • Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible • Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19 • If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing) ◦ Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute and administer vaccines to achieve high community vaccination coverage and ensure health equity • Maintain improved ventilation in public indoor spaces • Ensure access to testing, including through point-of-care and at-home tests for all people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Communicate with organizations and places that serve people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease to ensure they know how to get rapid testing • Ensure access and equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach, support services for disproportionately affected populations
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Talk to your healthcare provider about whether 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect people at high risk for severe illness or death by ensuring equitable access to vaccination, testing,

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	<p>you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing) ○ Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ consider self-testing to detect infection before contact ○ consider wearing a mask when indoors with them • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters • Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible • Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19 	<p>treatment, support services, and information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider implementing screening testing or other testing strategies for people who are exposed to COVID-19 in workplaces, schools, or other community settings as appropriate • Implement enhanced prevention measures in high-risk congregate settings (see guidance for correctional facilities and homeless shelters) • Distribute and administer vaccines to achieve high community vaccination coverage and ensure health equity • Maintain improved ventilation in public indoor spaces • Ensure access to testing, including through point-of-care and at-home tests for all people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communicate with organizations and places that serve people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease to ensure they know how to get rapid testing

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure access and equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach, support services for disproportionately affected populations
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a well-fitting mask¹ indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status (including in K-12 schools and other indoor community settings) • If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Wear a mask or respirator that provides you with greater protection ◦ Consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed ◦ Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing) ◦ Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider setting-specific recommendations for prevention strategies based on local factors • Implement healthcare surge support as needed • Protect people at high risk for severe illness or death by ensuring equitable access to vaccination, testing, treatment, support services, and information • Consider implementing screening testing or other testing strategies for people who are exposed to COVID-19 in workplaces, schools, or other community settings as appropriate • Implement enhanced prevention measures in high-risk congregate settings (see guidance for correctional facilities and homeless shelters) • Distribute and administer vaccines to achieve high community vaccination

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies • If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ consider self-testing to detect infection before contact ○ consider wearing a mask when indoors with them • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters • Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible • Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> coverage and ensure health equity • Maintain improved ventilation in public indoor spaces • Ensure access to testing, including through point-of-care and at-home tests for all people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communicate with organizations and places that serve people who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease to ensure they know how to get rapid testing • Ensure access and equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach, support services for disproportionately affected populations

¹ At all levels, people can wear a mask based on personal preference, informed by personal level of risk. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.