

## HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS 2021-2022

### AS OF NOVEMBER 18, 2021

As you are aware, federal, state, and professional organizations have issued guidance and recommendation for school age childcare for the upcoming school year. For reference, you will find the guidance linked here:

- [Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

### BASCP Protocols

BASCP will utilize guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and the Newton Public Schools to mitigate public health risks of COVID-19 in an effort to keep our children, staff, and families healthy.

#### 1. Face coverings

Regardless of vaccination status, all staff and students will be required to wear a face-covering throughout the day except while eating, drinking, or outside. Limited exceptions to face-covering requirements will be made for those for whom it is not possible to wear a face-covering due to medical conditions, disability impact, or other health or safety factors.

#### 2. Hand hygiene

Students and staff should wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or 2 rounds of "Happy Birthday." If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used instead. Hand sanitizer will be available in all program spaces. The Department of Early Education and Care requires that we have a permission slip for children to be able to use hand sanitizer while in our program. Here is the link for the [BASCP Hand Sanitizer Permission](#).

#### 3. Health self-assessment

Students or staff experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms or diagnosed with COVID-19 must not attend BASCP until cleared by a physician to do so, even if they are fully vaccinated. Although the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care does not currently require families to submit a Daily Health Attestation Form for each child, we ask that families use the following self-assessment tool every morning before coming into school. The Daily Health Attestation Questions are below, or you can access the form here [EEC Daily Health Attestation Form](#). If you/your child is sick, call the BASCP at 617-969-3130 or email [bascteachers@bascp.org](mailto:bascteachers@bascp.org) to report the absence and the reason. BASCP staff will observe children throughout the day and refer children who may be symptomatic to the director or coordinator.

#### Daily Health Attestation

If you answer yes to any of the following, your child cannot attend BASCP until cleared by a physician or a negative COVID-19 PCR test.

#### SYMPTOMS OBSERVED IN CHILD IN THE PAST 24 HOURS? YES OR NO

- Fever (100.0° and higher), feverish, had chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing
- Gastrointestinal distress (nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea)
- New loss of taste or smell

- New muscle aches
- Fatigue \*must be in combination with other symptoms to be cause for exclusion\*
- Headache \*must be in combination with other symptoms to be cause for exclusion\*
- Runny nose or congestion \*must be in combination with other symptoms to be cause for exclusion\*
- Any other signs of illness \*must be in combination with other symptoms to be cause for exclusion\*

WITHIN THE LAST 14 DAYS

- Has your child had close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual?

#### **4. Social Distancing**

BASCP will reduce the group sizes when indoors to promote distancing of 3 feet when possible. BASCP will apply 6 feet of distancing during indoor lunch and snack times where feasible.

#### **5. Vaccination**

BASCP has instituted a mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for all eligible staff. All staff must be vaccinated by September 30, 2021.

#### **6. COVID Testing**

BASCP staff participate in the Weekly COVID Pooled Testing.

Individuals who need to access testing on their own can find a listing of available testing sites at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health [searchable database](#).

#### **7. Isolation and Quarantine**

Students who become sick or symptomatic will be separated from the group until they are able to get picked up. The Director will regularly review the CDC's recommendations for childcare during COVID-19.

The BASCP will follow the directions from the Department of Public Health regarding isolation and quarantine.

#### **8. Notifications and Data Sharing**

BASCP will notify families via email to report cases of COVID in their students' group.

#### **9. Ventilation**

BASCP will continue to work in conjunction with Newton Public Schools Facilities Department to:

- Maximize fresh air coming in and exhaust going out
- Minimize air recirculation wherever possible
- Increase and sustaining air filter efficiency wherever possible

#### **10. Cleaning and Sanitizing**

BASCP recognizes the importance of routine cleaning and therefore will continue routine cleaning and disinfecting areas, with an emphasis on high touch services. BASCP will ensure disinfecting products used are on the list of EPA approved products for use against COVID-19.

#### **11. Snack and Lunch**

Currently, BASCP requests that students bring daily snacks and lunches on Wednesdays and other Early Release Days from home. During mealtimes BASCP will prioritize:

- Utilization of outdoor spaces as much as possible

- Assigned seating (to support contact tracing)
- Indoor eating in well-ventilated areas
- Distancing as feasible

Please be sure to send a water bottle with your child as water fountains will remain turned off. We will set up bottle filling stations.

## **12. Pick Up of Students**

Adults who are not NPS or BASCP staff are not permitted to enter Bowen this year. When you come to pick up your child, please come to the front door of the school and ring the bell. Our dismissal teacher will ask you to identify yourself and who you are picking up. We will then bring your child to the front door to meet you.

## **13. Visitors**

Visitors will not be permitted in the school while BASCP is in operation. There will be other outside entities, such as Newton Community Education, that will utilize the building following NPS protocols

## **14. Family Meetings**

Should meetings with families need to take place we will do them virtually.

## **15. Family Events**

Only outdoor in-person events will take place at this time.

## **16. Travel and Field Trips**

BASCP will participate in outdoor field trips when feasible. We will continue to evaluate the safety of indoor field trips and field trips that require transportation.

## **17. Travel**

BASCP expects families to adhere to [state and federal guidelines](#) on domestic and international travel.