



Blue Heron School
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Protocols for Reopening Blue Heron School

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Dear Parents,

We are working on the plan for reopening Blue Heron School (BHS) in September. Of course, we will adapt as needed to conditions, so here are the current plans, but please keep in mind that they may change.

- We will divide the children into four groups, in order to keep group size at twelve or fewer with one teacher. There will be no mixing between groups, so they will be organized by schedule. Children may have a different teacher than last year, or be with different friends. We will do as much as possible to help children be prepared for this change. Two classes will be in the lower level of the Trailhead Gallery, and two will be in the Early Education Center (the new building) (source: NH Safer at Home Child Care COVID-19 Reopening Guidance).
- Children, child care providers, and other staff will be screened daily by taking their temperatures on arrival and asking if they have:
 - Had a fever of 100.4° F or higher or any symptoms of COVID-19: cold symptoms such as sore throat or congestion, flu symptoms such as muscle aches and pains, or loss of sense of taste or smell. Anyone with a fever above 100.4° F may not come to school, and they must be fever free without medication for 72 hours before returning. (Per NHDHHS Covid-19 FAQ page). Please notify us if your child develops a fever.
 - Has had any close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
 - Traveled in the past 14 days either internationally (outside the U.S.), by cruise ship, or domestically (within the U.S.) outside of NH, VT, or ME on public transportation (e.g., bus, train, plane, etc.).
 - Children and staff will wash or sanitize their hands upon arrival.
- We will call parents to pick their child immediately if they become sick with any cold or flu symptoms at school. We will have the child rest in the office until they are picked up, and disinfect the office afterwards.
- Parents will be asked to wear masks at arrival and departure, and will not step out of their cars. As much as possible, the same adult will drive children every day.
- Children will not be required to wear masks constantly, but may be asked to wear one in certain circumstances. Teachers will wear masks as needed.
- We will spend as much time as possible outdoors.

- We will sanitize according to NH Child Care standards, which reference the CDC guidelines, at regular intervals during the day.
 - Bathrooms will be disinfected mid-morning and after lunch and as needed. Each of the four cohorts will have their own bathroom.
 - Door handles, sink faucets, light switches and frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned during the day.
 - Children will eat only food they bring from home. Food prep activities are suspended for now.
 - Tables, chairs, and countertops will be disinfected daily.
 - Napping pads will be disinfected daily and sheets and blankets washed weekly. Mats, sheets, and blankets will be stored spaced out on shelving.
 - Materials used outdoors such as milk crates, pots and pans, and shovels will be disinfected as needed.
 - Learning materials will be cleaned daily, or rotated in and out of use. Children will have individual materials to reduce sharing.
 - We will immediately remove any item that a child sneezes or coughs on or puts in their mouth, or touches after putting their fingers in their mouth and disinfect it before returning it to the classroom or outdoor shelves.
 - We will use materials that can be either sprayed with disinfectant and wiped down, or washed in the clothes washer.
 - All classrooms will be cleaned by a professional cleaning company every day.
- Staff and children will practice frequent hand hygiene:
 - Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
 - Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
 - Supervise and help young children to ensure they are washing/sanitizing hands correctly, and to prevent swallowing of alcohol-based hand sanitizer. When soap and water are not readily available and hand sanitizer is used with children, it will be used under the direct supervision of staff. When not in use, hand sanitizer will be kept out of reach of children (on a high shelf, cabinet, or in a backpack worn by staff outside).
 - Teachers will help children to wash their hands when arriving at school, entering the classroom, before and after meals or snacks, after outside time, before and after going to the bathroom, and prior to leaving for home.
- We want to keep everything as simple as possible. We will use things that can be sprayed with disinfectant and wiped, or washed in the washing machine or dishwasher. **As you prepare for fall, please provide a bento type lunchbox such as a Yumbox, or Planetbox, or Bentgo with no fabric lunchbox or backpack. Please send a water bottle every day. Please send slippers that will stay at school that are hard plastic, or fabric that goes in the washer and dryer.**
- Children and teachers cannot come to school with any cold symptoms, symptoms of illness or a fever.

- We will supply and apply sunscreen and bug spray this year, to keep it simple to manage safe storage and application of these products.
- Science Center staff, including the naturalists, may interact with Blue Heron children as needed or scheduled. They will follow all safety protocols.

Reporting and Investigating COVID-19 in the Educational Facility (source: NH Department of Education Grades K-12 Back-to-School Guidance)

- Employees and BHS families are required to notify school if anyone in their family tests positive for Covid-19.
- Any person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be reported immediately to public health by calling 603-271-4496 (after-hours call 603-271-5300 and ask for the public health nurse on call).
- Public health will conduct a detailed investigation to identify people who may have been in “close contact” with a student or staff member diagnosed with COVID-19 during their infectious period. As part of the public health investigation, investigators seek to identify close contacts starting two days before the person became symptomatic or tested positive for COVID-19 (if asymptomatic).
- “Close contact” for the purposes of the public health investigation in New Hampshire is defined as a person being within six feet of the individual diagnosed with COVID-19 during their infectious period for 10 minutes or longer. Depending on individual circumstances, and on a case-by-case basis, public health may identify other individuals considered at risk for exposure.
- Any person who is identified as a close contact or at risk for exposure to COVID-19 based on the public health investigation will be required to quarantine for 14 days from their last day of exposure. Depending on the specific circumstances, this may involve quarantine of only specific individuals (e.g., those sitting next to a person with COVID-19 in a classroom), but could include whole classes (depending on degree or likelihood of close contact, classroom size, age of students, etc.); this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis by public health.
- NH public health will work with schools to collect the necessary information (through the schools point-of-contact), interview the person diagnosed with COVID19, and potentially other staff involved to gather information to make an informed decision about risk and need for people to quarantine.
- Public health will also assist with school and student/family communication.
- BHS is mandated to notify NH Bureau of Child Care Licensing (NHBCCL) of any confirmed case of Covid-19.
- The classroom will be closed, sanitized and reopened as recommended by public health recommendations.