



The Bucket School Health and Safety Plan 2021/2022

These plans may continue to evolve as new information and guidelines become available. Our director will be responsible for updating this plan in coordination with guidance from the CDC, Chester County Health Department, PA Department of Education, and the PA Department of Human Services. These plans are our interpretation of guidelines as to how they would best fit our school's mission. Parents will be notified of updates to these policies in a timely fashion.

Goals:

1. The health of The Bucket School students, staff and families will be the first consideration in all decisions.
2. In-person interaction among the students and staff is of the utmost importance to our mission of fostering the social-emotional, physical, and academic development of our students in preparation for their future schooling.

How staff and families can help keep our Bucket School community safe:

1. Children and staff should stay home if they are sick and ALWAYS err on the side of caution in the best interest of the school community.
2. Report all absences to the classroom teachers **and** director in writing via email so we can track the possible spread of illness.

COVID-19 Mitigation Protocol effective August 20th, 2021:

Symptom Screening.

Parents will be required to complete and sign a COVID-19 Parent/Guardian Agreement. By sending their child to school, parents are affirming that their child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms, has not been directed to quarantine, and is not otherwise sick or ill. The Bucket School will no longer screen symptoms on a daily basis. Our staff will abide by this same policy.

Cleaning and Hygiene.

- Classrooms, hallways, and bathrooms will be cleaned nightly, in accordance to CDC guidelines.
- Staff will be asked to clean and disinfect toys, tables, etc. within their classrooms on an ongoing basis with supplies provided and per CDC guidelines.
- All high touch areas such as doorknobs, light switches, etc. will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Students and staff will wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds when entering the classroom and often throughout the day. In rooms where a hand washing sink is not available, hand sanitizer will be provided with adult supervision.
- Water drinking fountains will continue to be inaccessible to students. Students are encouraged to bring their own labeled water bottles from home.

Masking.

- Individuals aged two and over are required to wear a face covering while indoors regardless of vaccination status. Masking is optional but welcome during outdoor activities such as recess. If you prefer for your child to **not** remove his/her mask outdoors, please email the director. Teachers may also take students outdoors for mask breaks. Although quarantines may still be required, universal indoor masking will greatly reduce the necessity for educational interruption for all students and staff, which is a priority.
- We highly suggest buying your child some type of clips or lanyard so that their masks don't fall to the floor and these will assist with mask breaks.
- All students will need 2 extra masks to be kept at school in a zip lock baggie labeled with their name on it.

Physical Distancing and Other Safety Protocols.

- Learning centers will remain at 2-3 students per group.
- Children will be distanced to the extent possible when eating.
- The Bucket School will follow contact tracing guidance as established by the Chester County Health Department.

Sick Policy/Reporting Absences

It is critical that all families adhere to the sick policy of our school. In addition, we ask that if your child is ill, you report the absence in writing via email to the director with a copy to the child's teacher.

Guarding the health of all the children is a big responsibility for the staff and one which makes it imperative that we have the cooperation of each parent. Parents should not knowingly send a sick child to The Bucket School. It is our policy to check all children to see that they are healthy. The staff will use its authority to send home any child exhibiting a fever or other symptoms of ill health. Parents are asked to inform their child's teacher immediately of any changes in a child's health or physical appearance, e.g., burns, bruises, skin rashes, constipation. Parents will be notified if the child becomes ill during the day and needs to be picked up from school. We will use the emergency contact information you provide on the Permissions Form.

Please use the following guidelines to assist in determining whether your child is well enough to attend school:

Fever

Children with fevers of 100.4 degrees or above should not be sent to school. The child should not return to school until fever-free without the use of medication for 24 hours.

Vomiting and Diarrhea

Children should remain at home for 24 hours after vomiting or experiencing diarrhea.

Undiagnosed Rash

Children with an undiagnosed rash should remain home until the rash is gone or until your pediatrician determines it is not of a contagious nature.

Colds

Children with a cold should remain home until the symptoms are gone. The reason for this common sense rule is that not only should other children be spared the contact with the common cold in its most contagious form, but the whole school must be guarded against the possibility that this is not a simple cold at all.

Head Lice

Children with a suspected case of head lice should remain home until they have received proper treatment and after which careful and thorough combing with a nit comb shows no evidence of nits or lice. Families must notify

the school immediately even if it is only a suspected case so the school community can take necessary precautions and all families can check their children. Lice can spread rapidly through a school. Children need to be cleared by a note from the doctor to return to school.

Antibiotics

Children placed on antibiotics should be kept home for at least 24 hours.

Other Policies:

Immunizations

The Bucket School complies with the health and immunization regulations of the Pennsylvania State Board of Private Academic Preschools and is required to keep immunization records on file for every child who is enrolled. Families opposed to immunizations due to religious or moral beliefs must sign a waiver indicating their objection.

Medicine Policy

Staff may NOT administer medication to any child, with the exception of emergency medications or emergency first aid. Students who have emergency medications (such as Epi-Pens, rescue inhalers) must have a signed emergency action plan on file at the school from their physician. Any staff member who has been trained in the administration of these emergency medications or first aid MAY administer them in an emergency situation. Any medicine so ordered or prescribed shall be clearly labeled as to the name of the child, the name of the medicine, the dosage, and the name and telephone number of the child's physician.

Medical Condition Policy

It is the parents' responsibility to notify the school of any medical, physical, or behavioral condition affecting their child. A meeting with the director and classroom teacher(s) may be scheduled to discuss the child's needs. Parents may be asked to sign an agreement listing your and The Bucket School's respective duties regarding your child. The Bucket School reserves the right to refuse admission to any child for whom reasonable accommodations cannot be made. In such an event, all deposit monies will be refunded. A child with life threatening allergies must have an Emergency Care Form completed by a physician and provided to the school prior to the first day of school.

Sickness Reporting Policy

If a child or staff member is found to have a communicable disease, families will receive an email notification of the illness and be reported to the health department, if necessary.

Students and staff should report any exposures to COVID-19 or positive test results to the director in writing via email.

Sickness Procedures During Hours of Operation:

- When a staff member or child becomes sick during school, the staff member or child will be sent home immediately. Children will leave the classroom to wait while parents are called.
- Parents will be required to pick up their child as soon as possible. We will call emergency contacts if we cannot connect with you. Parents need to call the school upon arrival, remain in their vehicle, and a staff member will bring your child out to you.
- Staff and families will be notified by email if the class has been exposed to any possible case of COVID-19 or any other highly communicable disease.
- All areas used by staff members and children of a suspected case of COVID-19 will be closed off until they have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Policy on COVID-19 symptoms and exposure:

If a child (or staff member) has any of these symptoms of COVID-19 listed below and/or tests positive for COVID-19,*

- Fever of 100.4° or above or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

he/she is not permitted to attend school. The Bucket School will follow the Chester County Health Department guidance regarding instructions for symptomatic individuals. Please refer to the following document:

<https://www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/63862/2021-School-Symptomatic-Instructions>.

A child can return to school when:

- He/she receives a negative test result for COVID-19 and is otherwise well enough to go back to school **OR**
- A healthcare provider has seen the child and documented a reason for the symptoms other than COVID-19
OR
- All are true: 1) at least 10 days since the start of symptoms AND 2) fever free off anti-fever medicines for 24 hours AND 3) symptoms are getting better.

*Note: Symptom list subject to change.

If someone in a student's household is diagnosed with COVID-19 or if a student is exposed to COVID-19, The Bucket School will follow the Chester County Health Department guidance regarding "Instructions for Individuals with Close Contact." The complete guidance can be found at:

<https://www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/63861/2021-School-Close-Contact-Instructions>

If a Confirmed Case of COVID-19 Has Entered the School:

- Chester County Department of Health (610-344-6225) will be contacted immediately.
- The Bucket School will follow all guidance from local health officials.

Temporary Closing of a Class Due to Lack of Staffing

- There may be instances where we need to close a class for a week or so if we are lacking substitutes to cover for missing staff members who are quarantining or ill. Please see our policy on tuition during a closure.

Tuition Policy During School Closure

We will do our best to provide on ground, in person instruction during the 2021-2022 school year. However, circumstances may force us to change plans due to the pandemic in order to protect the health and safety of our staff and students. In the event of a mandated or voluntary school closure that disrupts on-ground, in person education, teachers will provide an alternate learning plan that may include at-home lessons and/or worksheet packets, or other accommodations. If we must implement one of these alternate learning plans, we will do our very best to provide as much notice as possible. Please understand that in light of the fixed nature of our costs, **tuition and/or fees will not be refunded; however, if a single mandated or voluntary closure extends more than 20 consecutive, scheduled school days, we will reevaluate our tuition policy and alternate learning plan based on the most up-to-date information on the pandemic.**