



27 Conshohocken State Road
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
Phone: 610-664-6767
Fax: 610-664-6792
E-mail: admin@balahouse.org
Web: www.balahouse.org

Bala House Montessori School
Health and Safety Guidelines for Operating During the Recovery Phase of COVID -19
Revised August 13, 2022

The health and safety policies and procedures listed below are aligned with the most recent guidance from the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (MCOPH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Office of Childhood Development and Early Learning/Department of Human Services (DHS), and PA Department of Education (PDE). This is a dynamic document that will be updated based on the latest data from Bala House and/or recommendations as they are released.

MASKING

- For the first two weeks of school, and one week after winter and spring break, all students, parents, guests and staff members will be required to wear a mask indoors. After these time periods, indoor masking will be optional.
- Outdoor masking will be optional.

HAND HYGIENE

- Hand hygiene will be practiced at the following times:
 - Before and after eating
 - Before and after using the toilet
 - After playing outside
 - After coming in contact with bodily fluids
 - Children will be reminded and guided to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING EFFORTS

- Full cleaning and sanitizing of rooms and bathrooms daily.
- Bala House staff and our cleaning company are using cleaning products that are EPA-approved for use against COVID-19. As is required by DHS licensing, all cleaning products are stored securely and out of reach of children.
- Classroom windows will be open every day, as well as classroom doors to encourage circulation of air.
- Industrial Air Purifiers are installed in all classrooms

PROCEDURES IN CASE OF CHILD OR STAFF ILLNESS

If a child develops symptoms while at school, the child will be taken to the office while waiting to be picked up, with a staff member. Sick children must be picked up within 30 minutes after being called by the school. If a staff member develops symptoms while at work, they will be sent home immediately.

- Staff or a child who have one (1) symptom of COVID-like illness: fever 100.4 or higher, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell or any two (2) of the following symptoms: chills, fatigue, myalgia, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea will be sent home immediately.

BALA HOUSE STUDENT/STAFF MEMBER WHO TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

- If a student/staff member tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, they will be required to quarantine for 5 full days. Onset of symptoms is day 0.
- If the student/staff member is asymptomatic, the date of the test when administered is day 0 of a 5-day quarantine period.
 - If the positive student/staff member is symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status, they may end their quarantine after 5 full days (return to school on day 6) if they are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and their symptoms are declining or improving. Masks worn inside and outside around others for day 6-10.
 - If the student/staff member is asymptomatic, regardless of vaccination status, they may end their 5 full days of quarantine (return to school on day 6). Masks worn inside and outside for days 6-10. If symptoms develop during the 5 days, they will need to quarantine 5 days since symptoms first appeared. Mask worn inside and outside for days 6-10.
 - **Bala House will notify all parents enrolled in the school about any positive cases of COVID-19 of a student and/or staff member.**

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS WHO TEST POSITIVE PROCEDURES

Household members of students and/or staff who test positive for COVID-19.

- Asymptomatic student or staff member, regardless of vaccination status or previous test history,
 - may stay in school and wear mask inside and outside for 10 days.
 - test on day 6 with a rapid test. If negative, stay in school.
 - if at any time student or staff member develops symptoms, stay home, isolate, get tested.
- Symptomatic student or staff member, regardless of vaccination status or previous test history,
 - stay home, isolate, get tested

RESPONDING TO OUTBREAKS

- An outbreak is defined as 3 or more cases of COVID-19 among children and/or staff, without other identified epidemiological linkages within 14 days, in a specific exposure setting.
- If Bala House has an outbreak, we will work with the MCOPH in accordance with state and local regulations for guidance on what mitigation strategies should be put in place.

By signing the Bala House Enrollment Contract, Parent/Parents agree(s) to comply with all Bala House Montessori Health and Safety Guidelines. Parent/Parents acknowledge that failure to act in accordance with the provisions listed therein, or with any other policy or procedure outlined by Bala

At Bala House young children discover themselves as creative, independent learners in a diverse, supportive Montessori environment.

House Montessori can result in termination of services.

These policies and procedures are subject to change in order to comply with the health and safety recommendations set by the Centers for Disease Control, the Montgomery County Office of Public Health, the Office of Childhood Development and Early Learning/Department of Human Services, the PA Department of Education, and specific data from the Bala House.