

# Health and Safety Plan Summary: Building Blocks Learning Center

Anticipated Launch Date: 9/1/2020

Pandemic Team: Michele Burchell, M.Ed. (President, BBLC INC. and Director of Doylestown)

Colleen Francescangeli (Director of Hilltown)

These summary tables provide our school population with a detailed overview of BBLC's Health and Safety Plan. It will be posted to our school's website. This plan is subject to change, depending on the evolving health status of our area and any future guidance from national, state, and local health officials.

Facilities Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting and Ventilation	
Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
<b>* Cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilating learning spaces, surfaces, and any other areas used by students (i.e., restrooms, drinking fountains, hallways, and transportation)</b>	<p>*Before the opening of school, classroom carpets will be deep cleaned, playground equipment cleaned and disinfected, social distancing markers will be arranged, and all classroom spaces and toys will be cleaned and disinfected.</p> <p>*Spaces utilized by the Church will be disinfected before our students enter.</p> <p>*We use CDC/EPA-approved cleaners and have an ample amount of supplies. We will be utilizing a pump pressure sprayer to disinfect large areas/items, like playground equipment, hallways, etc. at the end of every school day.</p> <p>*School bathrooms are cleaned and disinfected daily. <a href="#">Faucets and paper towel dispensers will be disinfected multiple times a day.</a></p> <p>*Toys are cleaned and disinfected daily. Any toy that is put in the mouth is removed and cleaned separately. Plush toys, or materials that are difficult to clean (like dry rice and sand) will be removed from circulation.</p>

## Facilities Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting and Ventilation

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*Tables are cleaned and disinfected multiple times a day, including before and after snack.</li><li>*"Common" areas like coat hooks and hand rails are disinfected regularly.</li><li>*The building's water fountains are not utilized by BBLC.</li><li>*Classroom windows are opened to circulate fresh air. Whenever possible, windows will remain open after students have vacated the space to further "air out" classrooms, for as long as possible. Fresh air is our friend.</li><li>*School laundry is washed in hot, soapy water.</li><li>*Buses utilized by BBLC will be disinfected by CBSD personnel according to the CBSD Health and Safety Plan.</li></ul>

## Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols

### Requirement(s)

**\* Classroom/learning space occupancy that allows for social distance separation among students and staff throughout the day, to the maximum extent feasible**

### Strategies, Policies and Procedures

\*Using sit spots, mats, markers, and chairs, we will structure whole-group activities to allow for social distancing, to the maximum extent possible. This includes activities inside classrooms and in hallways. In our preschool/kindergarten setting, our students are not often “stationed at desks or work spaces” as older students may be. There are several instances when we are able to position students with social distance (like while hearing a story, during show-n-tell, or during snack time), but there will be times when children will be collaborating and interacting with one another in closer proximity. Socialization with peers using conversation, problem solving, compromise, sharing, and negotiation is an integral part of our age appropriate curriculum. We may choose to limit the number of students playing/working in one area.

\*Staff will maintain social distance from other staff members. Any needed staff meetings will be held in a larger space or outside, to continue to allow for social distancing.

\*Staff will also plan to maintain social distance from students whenever possible. However, there will be times throughout the school day where staff will work in closer proximity to students, as several feet of social distance would be disruptive to the educational process. Staff also needs to be sensitive to the emotional needs of our young students.

\*Staff will maintain social distance (to the extent reasonable possible) from parents at drop-off/pick up whenever possible. The Director may be in closer proximity to parents during arrival.

\*Furniture will be on sliders to allow for easy space-making during socially distant classroom activities.

## Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
	<p>*Children's belongings will be arranged and separated so that they do not touch.</p>
<b>* Restricting the use of cafeterias and other congregate settings, and serving meals in alternate settings such as classrooms</b>	<p>*Snack is set with social distance for each child individually, not buffet- or family-style, within the classroom space. We utilize disposable napkins and cups. We do not utilize a communal cafeteria.</p> <p>*Edible birthday/holiday treats for classmates will be permitted, only if the items are store-bought (and do not contain colored frosting) and in the original, unopened package; nothing homemade; no goodie bags; no take home treats. Birthdays are still special. <a href="#">Holidays are, too.</a></p> <p>*Lunches, when brought to school, need to contain items which students can open and manage independently. Parents are asked to utilize child-friendly containers, and prepare items for easy access by the children.</p>
<b>* Hygiene practices for students and staff including the manner and frequency of hand-washing and other best practices</b>	<p>* With direct supervision, children will clean hands multiple times a day. Children will have their hands sanitized upon entering the classroom, before snack, after recess, and after using a tissue. Children will use soap and water after snack, after toileting, before and after lunch, and when their hands are visibly dirty. Parents will be responsible to clean children's hands after dismissal from the school.</p> <p>*Children are encouraged to not touch their eyes, noses, and mouths and to cover coughs and sneezes with the insides of their elbows.</p>

## Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
<p><b>* Posting signs, in highly visible locations, that promote everyday protective measures, and how to stop the spread of germs</b></p>	<p>*Child-friendly signs will be posted throughout the building to remind our school population about measures to minimize the risk of germ spread.</p> <p>*Age-appropriate story books will also be presented to classes to educate about stopping the spread of germs.</p>
<p><b>* Handling sporting activities consistent with the <a href="#">CDC Considerations for Youth Sports</a> for recess and physical education classes</b></p>	<p>*One class at a time will utilize recess areas and materials will be disinfected between classes, to the extent reasonably possible.</p> <p>*Larger recess areas may be sectioned off to alternate and stagger usage space.</p> <p>*We will have use of an “outdoor classroom”.</p>
<p><b>* Limiting the sharing of materials among students</b></p>	<p>*Toys will not be shared between classes during the school day.</p> <p>*Children will work with their own individual supplies when feasible, and we will disinfect shared items (like scissors/paint brushes/) between uses.</p>
<p><b>* Staggering the use of communal spaces and hallways</b></p>	<p>*The car line will be the only method (except for walkers from nearby residences or bus riders) for drop-off/pick-up to avoid large groups of people standing in one area. <b>No parking in the lot and walking up to the arrival/departure door.</b> Adults who transport our students may be asked to wear masks at drop off/pick up, in accordance with any health directives. We may ask for masks to be lowered (for a few seconds) at pick-up for recognition purposes.</p> <p>*Arrival window is spread over 15-20 minutes to allow for staggering of students.</p>

## Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
	<p>*Dismissals are staggered and can utilize more than one door to minimize number of students waiting together.</p> <p>*Throughout the regular school day, our classes meet with the same teachers and the same students in their dedicated classrooms. Any future add-on programs, after the regular school day, will potentially allow for students of the same grade level to be together.</p>
<b>Limiting the number of individuals in classrooms and other learning spaces, and interactions between groups of students</b>	<p>*After completion of classroom orientations in September, only essential staff and students will be permitted in the classrooms while classes are in session. This limit on visitors to our classrooms will be in effect until further notice. Any essential meetings during school time are to be held strictly in the school office, or in an area away from classrooms. Traditional events which call for large groups of visitors to enter the school space are on hold. Field trips are on hold. In-person parent conferences are on hold (phone conferences are still planning on being scheduled). The idea of allowing single screened visitors into the classrooms during school hours may be revisited and decided upon on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>*Any child support services are asked to be scheduled outside of school time whenever possible. If support personnel must provide service during school time, every effort will be made to have services provided in an alternate area—not inside of classrooms.</p> <p>*Staff will receive training regarding new COVID precautions and safety practices.</p> <p>*Each of our learning spaces will contain less individuals than the maximum amount recommended by the PDE (25).</p>

## Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols

### Requirement(s)

#### Other social distancing and safety practices

### Strategies, Policies and Procedures

\*Parents are encouraged to teach children to effectively use a tissue. Used tissues will be thrown into a no-touch garbage can, and hands will be cleaned afterwards.

\*Parents are encouraged to wipe down/clean items being brought to and from school (like folders, backpacks, lunch boxes, and coats) on a regular basis. Choose items which can be laundered/disinfected easily.

\*Understanding that contributing to the safety of our school population reaches far beyond our building, families are asked to be an integral part of our school's safety plan. Households are asked to maintain basic precautionary measures at home including sanitizing/disinfecting, washing hands, practicing social distancing, wearing masks when directed, limiting exposure to large groups of people, staying home when ill, and following quarantining guidelines when returning from a high-COVID-case state (as recommended by health officials), etc. We are all in this together and need to have reciprocal trust, support, and honesty.

\*Clear acrylic sneeze guards and privacy shields will be used for snack times and/or play times to allow for another level of social distance and precaution.

## Monitoring Student and Staff Health

### Requirement(s)

**\* Monitoring students and staff for symptoms and history of exposure**

### Strategies, Policies and Procedures

\*Screening should start at home each school morning. Parents should evaluate their children for any COVID-like symptoms before leaving for school. Because we work with young children who will be eager to attend class, we want to avoid potential disappointment at the arrival door.

\*Temperature screening for students (and any potential visitors) using a no-touch forehead thermometer is to take place upon arrival to BBLC. Caregivers are to remain with children (except bus riders) during this screening and will be quickly asked about the health status of the child. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will be denied entry to the school space. This procedure will be made as child-friendly and respectful as possible. Fever-reducing medications are not to be used before school.

\*Staff members will self-monitor for symptoms before leaving for work. Staff members who are ill should stay home.

\*Bus riders should have their temperatures taken at home before boarding the bus. Masks may be required on CB buses. Temps will be re-screened upon arrival to BBLC.

\*Sick children should be kept home. Children who are demonstrating any COVID-related symptoms including **fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle/headache, loss of taste/smell, fatigue, chills, or gastrointestinal issues** are not permitted to attend school, unless a signed doctor's note/clearance for school is supplied which specifically states that symptoms are the result of a differential diagnosis. [If a doctor's note cannot be supplied, then the child may return to school after 10 days since](#)

## Monitoring Student and Staff Health

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
	<p>symptoms first appeared <b>AND</b> there is an improvement in symptoms <b>AND</b> there has been no fever for 48 hours.</p> <p>*The school director reserves the right to deny attendance or send home any person who is deemed not healthy enough to attend school. If a child is uncomfortable or cannot safely manage cold symptoms (i.e., wiping a runny nose on clothing), s/he will be sent home.</p> <p>*Children may return to school after being 48 hours fever-free, vomit-free, and diarrhea-free.</p>
<b>* Returning isolated or quarantined staff, students, or visitors to school</b>	<p>*The Dept of Health or county and municipal health departments (CMHDs) staff will notify BBLC immediately upon learning that a person with a confirmed case or probable case of COVID-19 was present at school while infectious. DOH or CMHD staff will assist us with risk assessment, isolation and quarantine recommendations, and other infection control recommendations. BBLC will alert families, but will maintain the confidentiality of the affected individual. The affected individual would need to remain excluded from school until the DOH's "release from isolation" criteria have been met. A negative COVID test result may need to be supplied to return to BBLC.</p> <p>*If a household family member of a student or staff member tests positive, then the DOH or CMHD staff will determine how long the individual should be kept out of school under quarantine. BBLC will alert school families of the situation and follow recommendations from local health officials.</p>
<b>* Isolating or quarantining students, staff, or visitors if they become sick or demonstrate a history of exposure</b>	<p>*If a child/staff member/visitor exhibits symptoms after arrival at school, s/he will be masked and kept comfortable in an isolation</p>

## Monitoring Student and Staff Health

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
	area, with supervision, until pick-up arrives, which should take place within 15 minutes. Isolation area is located outdoors, just outside of the front of the school building. In case of inclement weather, the isolation area is just inside the door.
<b>* Notifying staff, families, and the public of school closures and within-school- year changes in safety protocols</b>	*Any changes to our safety protocols/school status will be communicated to the school community in writing, mainly through email. Announcements may also be posted to social media.

## Other Considerations for Students and Staff

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
<p><b>* Protecting students and staff at higher risk for severe illness</b></p>	<p>*The director is to be made aware of any person who is immunosuppressed, has respiratory concerns, or is at higher risk for severe illness so that a realistic, safe plan can be made. That plan may include not attending school for a period of time, as risk cannot be completely removed from the school setting.</p> <p>*In order to add another level of protection, staff will wear aprons with the understanding that they may work closely with young children. Aprons will be laundered daily. Hand sanitizer will be kept in the pockets.</p> <p>*Staff will wear gloves and masks when preparing snack and other food items/beverages.</p>
<p><b>* Use of face coverings (masks or face shields) by all staff</b></p>	<p><b>*If wearing face coverings at all times is specifically mandated by health officials</b>, staff will follow this directive. Staff may alternate between masks/face shields, depending on the activity and level of engagement. <b>Face shields alone may only be used when 6 feet of proper social distancing can take place.</b></p> <p><b>*If wearing face coverings at all times is not specifically mandated by health officials</b>, staff will wear masks when they cannot allow for social distance. When social distance is possible, and when permitted by health officials, staff may elect to take off their masks so that young children can view facial expressions and non-verbal cues which are vital to social/emotional development. Clear face shields may also be utilized by staff, again to allow our students to view facial expressions and read non-verbal cues. However, we will always err on the side of caution.</p>

## Other Considerations for Students and Staff

Requirement(s)	Strategies, Policies and Procedures
	<p><b>*If face coverings for young children are specifically mandated by health officials:</b> an appropriate-fitting face mask with ear loops (no vents/valves, not a face shield) should be purchased for school. The school will provide one elastic attachable cord. When not in use, the mask will stay around a child's neck so that it will not need to be stored or touched by another individual. "Mask breaks" will be permitted during snack/lunch time, during outdoor recess, and when utilizing the outdoor classroom. "Mask breaks" may also occur when children are stationed (sitting) with appropriate social distance. The school, of course, realizes that our students are very young, and that wearing a face covering for a 2-3-4-5 year old most likely is an <b>imperfect practice</b>. We will do our best to "model" and gently remind/guide our students through this concept, exercising great patience and understanding.</p> <p><b>*If face coverings for young children is no longer mandated by health officials:</b> BBLC will revisit the concept of masking for students and will make our decision at that time, based on the status of our locality and local health guidelines. We will always err on the side of caution, taking into consideration the physical and mental health of our staff, students, and school families.</p>
<b>* Strategic deployment of staff</b>	*BBLC employs trained substitute staff members (with state mandated clearances) who will be available to fill in for teacher/assistant absences, whenever possible.

## Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

Building Blocks Learning Center, Inc. has reviewed and approved this Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan on 7/18/2020 (updated 8/12/20, 9/1/20). This plan is subject to change, based on the evolving health status of our area. Changes will be made upon recommendation of the school Pandemic Team, in following guidance from local, state, and federal health officials, and will promptly be communicated to the school community. Performing all listed precautionary procedures, of course, does not remove the risk of infection entirely. It is our aim, with this vast combination of safety measures, to minimize the risk of COVID infection to the extent reasonably possible.

Parents of BBLC students will receive this document electronically and are asked to make themselves familiar with the plan. By enrolling their child(ren) at BBLC for the 2020-2021 school year, parents agree to the outlined safety strategies/policies/procedures and understand that risk of an infectious disease cannot be completely removed in a public setting, such as a school.

Affirmed on:  
**7/18/2020**  
**(8/12/20)**  
**(9/1/2020)**

By:

*Michele Burchell*

---

(Signature\* of Board President)

Michele Burchell

---

(Print Name of Board President)