



Reopening Guide

Fall 2020-21

COVID-19 Safety Protocols

BVWS COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Table of Contents

Boulder Valley Mission and Vision	3
Introduction (August 3rd 2020)	4
State Guidelines	4
Limitations	4
Covid and BVWS	5
Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette	5
Cloth Face Coverings	5
Air Circulation and Ventilation	6
Cleaning and Disinfection	6
Shared Objects	6
Teacher Safety Precautions	6
When to Stay Home	7
1. You have Symptoms	7
2. You have had close contact	8
3. You have recently been in a high-risk area	8
Students, Families, and Attendance	8
Cohorting	8
Daily Health Checks	9
Policy on notifications	9
Attendance	9
Temporary Closures and Distance Learning	9
Self-Quarantine after Travel	9
Cleaning Procedures Used on Campus	9
When to clean and disinfect	10
How to clean and disinfect	10
Soft surfaces	10
Cleaning and disinfecting outdoor areas	10
Cleaning and disinfecting the building or facility if someone is sick	11
Conclusion	11

Boulder Valley Mission and Vision

Boulder Valley Waldorf School educates children for the whole of life, using the curriculum and educational principles of Waldorf Education, so they become confident individuals, capable of making free choices, able to realize their full potential, and inspired to make a difference in the world.

The school cultivates a welcoming, inclusive community, which supports the growth and development of students, parents and teachers and recognizes and honors their talents. The education fosters reverence for nature and environmental stewardship by integrating the school's agricultural land and exceptional natural setting in our educational and community programs.

In all that we do, we take into account our school values:



Purpose: Learning infused with purpose and meaning

Character: Importance of Character

Whole Child: Educating the Whole Child

Integrated Curriculum: Rich Curriculum that meets each child

Creativity: Focus on Creativity and the Arts

Inclusive: Valuing Community and Diversity

Reverence: Reverence for the earth and all living things.

Requirements for school health and safety are constantly evolving and will likely continue to evolve throughout the school year. We are preparing to adapt to a changing situation and plan to:

- Follow the Colorado State requirements and the guidelines from the CDC for reopening schools, and meet their expectations in the way best suited to teaching our students on our campus
- Keep our campus open to students unless we are mandated to close, or if student attendance or staffing is too low to operate on-campus learning
- Spend time outside to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19 and to counter the effects of the statewide stay-at-home order this past spring
- Provide a remote learning option for students with health concerns, even when campus is open for other students, if possible

Introduction (August 3rd 2020)

As we all work together to move forward in the uncertain atmosphere of a pandemic, our wishes for life to return to normal have not been realized, and most likely won't for some time. With this document, we hope to provide some of what feel like the more obvious answers. That said, as we all are aware, things can change quite rapidly.

In Colorado, we are continuing to see an uptick in cases, which has kept Boulder County from moving to the next phase, (Protect Our Neighbor). We, thankfully, are not seeing the exponential growth being reported in places like Florida or Texas.

Boulder Valley Waldorf School is committed to in-person learning wherever that is possible. Just as important is our commitment to safety. Balancing these two priorities will require us to constantly adjust our processes. The policies and procedures below represent our best efforts based on information available as of late July, 2020. They blend Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Colorado State Department of Education with other sources.

State Guidelines

Colorado has three levels of Covid response: *Stay at Home*, *Safer at Home*, and *Protect Our Neighbors*. The guidelines below are in force when the State is in *Safer at Home* or in *Protect Our Neighbors*. When the State is in *Stay at Home* level, classes will not meet in person on campus, and BVWS Grades will operate in Distance Learning mode. BVWS Early Childhood will operate under State Licensing guidelines even during *Stay at Home*, unless directed otherwise by local Health Department officials.

Limitations

This document is not intended to be comprehensive. There is considerable detail about how many of these goals will happen (how to clean, when to clean, who is cleaning) that are covered in other operating documents.

Covid and BVWS

According to the CDC: COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as handwashing, staying home when sick) and environmental cleaning and disinfection are important principles that are covered in this document. Fortunately, there are a number of actions school administrators can take to help lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread during school sessions and activities.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- All teachers at BVWS will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
- BVWS encourages staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues will be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be available (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).

Cloth Face Coverings

- BVWS will teach and reinforce the use of cloth face coverings. Face coverings will be worn by teachers and all students 1st grade and above at all times indoors, and outdoors where a 6-foot distance cannot be consistently maintained. Face coverings for students in Early Childhood are determined by State EC Licensing, and are currently (as of 7/31) not required.
- Individuals will be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently.
 - Each child will bring 2-3 cloth masks to school each day in a Ziplock bag in their backpack.
 - Face shields do not replace masks.
 - Cloth masks worn will be washed every day. Masks need to comply with school dress code.
- Cloth face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have symptoms. Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment.
- Students are free to wear protective equipment with greater efficacy will they or their parents so choose. Surgical masks, respirators, and/or face shields are allowed.

Air Circulation and Ventilation

- Teachers will air out rooms by opening doors and windows as much as is possible while maintaining safe and comfortable temperatures.
- Teachers will make maximum possible use of assigned outdoor classroom spaces. However, it will not always be possible to be outdoors. Weather conditions (including thunder or high winds), temperatures, or lesson types, may require class to be held inside classrooms.

Cleaning and Disinfection

BVWS will:

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., indoor play items and equipment, door handles, sink handles) within the school at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects (e.g., physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) will be limited when possible, or cleaned between use.
- Fully follow the State regulations for cleaning and disinfecting items in Early Childhood.
- Develop a schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children. Use products that meet EPA disinfection criteria.

Shared Objects

BVWS will:

- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
- Keep each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assigning each student their own art supplies, equipment) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
- Avoid sharing toys, books, other games, or learning aids.

Teacher Safety Precautions

- All teachers will wear face masks when indoors in the presence of students, or when outdoors where a 6-foot social distance cannot be maintained. Face shields are recommended and will be worn at the discretion of teachers. EC will follow Licensing Rules.
- For the health and safety of our Teachers and the greater community, we will limit in-person meetings. Community members will avoid unnecessary gathering with other adults and keep 6 ft. distance when it is necessary.
 - Parent/Teacher conferences will be by phone or video conference
 - All meetings among staff will be remote or outdoors with 6-foot distancing.
 - Teachers will avoid indoor common areas as much as possible.

- Teachers will wash hands often and use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.

When to Stay Home

There are three reasons for you to keep your child at home:

1. You or someone in your household have symptoms consistent with COVID-19
2. You have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19
3. You have recently been in a high-risk area

Anyone—student, teacher, staff member, or parent—is required to stay home and not come onto campus if they meet any of the three criteria above. You must notify the school if you are staying home because of one of these three reasons. This will allow the school to assess whether supplemental cleaning and/or community notifications are necessary.

1. You have Symptoms

Symptoms of COVID-19:

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

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

If you have had symptoms you can return to school after

- **At least 14 days since symptoms first appeared and**
- **At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and**
- **Symptoms have improved**

If you have no symptoms but tested positive, you can return to school after:

- 14 days have passed since the test and you continue to have no symptoms.
- Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might get tested to see if you still have COVID-19. Regardless of whether you test positive or negative, you must stay home for the full 14 days, per the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#).

2. You have had close contact

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine will stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.

Who needs to quarantine?

Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

This includes people who previously had COVID-19 and people who have taken a serologic (antibody) test and have antibodies to the virus.

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Steps to take:

Stay home and monitor your health

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19
- Watch for fever (100.4 °F or higher), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19
- If possible, stay away others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19

3. You have recently been in a high-risk area

If you or your family has recently travelled out of the area to a place with a high incidence of COVID-19, we ask you to self-quarantine for 14 days upon your return. Please do not come to school immediately upon return from an out-of-area trip. Exceptions may be granted for certain forms of low-risk travel. Questions can be directed to the School Director.

Students, Families, and Attendance

Cohorting

- Students will continue to receive differentiated instruction in their specific classes. To adhere to current public health guidelines, students will remain in their cohort groups (grade classes/cohorts or EC rooms) throughout the school day, including recess and lunch.

- Students will not be allowed to engage with students from other cohorts.
- All cohorts (grades/cohorts or EC classrooms) at BVWS are 20 or fewer students.
- Each grade will have a designated classroom and outdoor space, classes will be held outdoors as weather and learning needs permit.
- We will be working with students within their classes to build community, celebrate festivals and other work on inter-personal social-emotional development.

Daily Health Checks

Parents will check students for symptoms before coming to school. In addition all students will be screened upon arrival at school for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. The screening will include a contactless forehead temperature scan and a brief interview about whether the student or anyone in the household has had symptoms since the last screening. Students may also be screened at other times during the day at the teacher's or the school's discretion. Children showing symptoms will be sent home.

Policy on notifications

Whenever BVWS is informed of a case of COVID-19 within the community, the school will send notice without naming the individuals. The school will also comply with Boulder County Public Health Department rules for notification of the health authorities.

Attendance

During these unusual times, the school will continue to record attendance. However, the school will levy no negative repercussions for missed school due to Covid. Parents will contact their class teacher for guidance on how to continue learning while absent during quarantines.

Temporary Closures and Distance Learning

The report of a case or suspected case of COVID-19 in a class will result in the class shifting to Distance Learning for one or more days while the areas used by that class are sanitized and disinfected. A confirmed case in a student or teacher will require Distance Learning for that class for 14 days, since everyone in that class will have had close contact with an infected person. In other cases we will consult with the Boulder County Health Department and follow their guidance. Classes will resume in person after the quarantine period.

Self-Quarantine after Travel

Families who travel out of state will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days before returning to school. This includes the period leading up to the first day of school. Exceptions may be granted for certain forms of low-risk travel. Questions can be directed to the School Director.

Cleaning Procedures Used on Campus

When to clean and disinfect

High-touch surfaces will be cleaned or disinfected several times during the day. The whole room will be cleaned daily. A deep cleaning will be required any time a case or suspected case is reported in a classroom.

How to clean and disinfect

Routine Cleaning

- Wear gloves to clean and disinfect.
- Clean surfaces using soap and water, then use disinfectant.
- Cleaning with soap and water reduces number of germs, dirt, and impurities on the surface. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces.
- Routinely clean frequently touched surfaces.
 - More frequent cleaning and disinfection may be required based on level of use.
- High touch surfaces include:
 - Tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.

Disinfect

- Recommend use of EPA-registered household disinfectant.
Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product.
Many products recommend:
 - Keeping surface wet for a period of time (see product label).
 - Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

Soft surfaces

For soft surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes

- Clean the surface using soap and water or with cleaners appropriate for use on these surfaces.
- Launder items (if possible) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.

OR

- Disinfect with an EPA-registered household disinfectant
- Vacuum as usual.

Cleaning and disinfecting outdoor areas

- Outdoor areas, like playgrounds in schools and parks generally require normal routine cleaning, but do not require disinfection.
 - Do not spray disinfectant on outdoor playgrounds- it is not an efficient use of supplies and is not proven to reduce risk of COVID-19 to the public.
 - High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings will be cleaned routinely.
 - Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (play structures, benches, tables) or groundcovers (mulch, sand) is not recommended.
- Sidewalks and roads will not be disinfected.

- Spread of COVID-19 from these surfaces is very low and disinfection is not effective.

Cleaning and disinfecting the building or facility if someone is sick

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
 - BVWS does not necessarily need to close the whole school if we can close off only the affected areas.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Wait 24 hours before you clean or disinfect. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, and any school equipment.
- Vacuum the space if needed. Use vacuum equipped with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter. All of our vacuums have the feature.
 - Do not vacuum a room or space that has people in it. Wait until the room or space is empty to vacuum, such as at night, for common spaces, or during the day for private rooms.
 - Consider temporarily turning off room fans and the central HVAC system that services the room or space, so that particles that escape from vacuuming will not circulate throughout the facility.
- Once an area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use.
 - Workers without close contact with the person who is sick can return to work immediately after disinfection.
- If more than 7 days since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
 - Continue routine cleaning and disinfection. This includes everyday practices that businesses and communities normally use to maintain a healthy environment.

Conclusion

COVID-19 is a global crisis affecting everyone. While we did not choose for this to happen, it is how we respond that matters! There are reasons that we all chose Boulder Valley Waldorf School for our children. Many of those reasons have to do with the qualities of the education. It is personal, warm and child-centric.

Due to COVID-19, we are confronted with a school year that will look very different. This is true for all of the schools in Boulder County. It is important to ask ourselves what is the real heart of BVWS? We believe it is the relationships forged between the children, their teachers and each other as they engage with meaningful experiences. Next year we, like all of the area schools, will face ongoing challenges. Through those challenges, our class teachers will continue to guide, love and cherish your children.