



**BVWS COVID-19 Safety
Protocols**

August 2021

Appendix to Parent Handbook

BVWS COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Table of Contents

Boulder Valley Mission and Vision	3
Introduction (August 2021)	3
Limitations	4
Continuing our Layered Approach	4
Maximize outdoor classrooms and 38-acre campus	4
Ventilation	4
Cleaning	5
Regular reminders for families to monitor symptoms, exposure and keep sick children home.	5
Mandatory indoor masking of all students and staff	5
Hand Hygiene and respiratory etiquette	6
Physical distancing where possible	6
Student Cohorts	6
Quarantining and Targeted Contact Tracing	6
Vaccination	7
Antigen Testing on Site	7
Field Trips, Festivals and Athletics	7
Parents on Campus	7
Conclusion	7

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 prepared to adapt to the changing situation as needed.

Introduction (August 2021)

School Protocols outlined in this document are supported by [Public Health Order 2021-07](#) from Boulder County Public Health Department (BCHP). This guidance is founded on a layered

mitigation strategy approach that when followed by schools, students, staff and families, will result in the collective success in meeting the goal to maintain in-person learning in schools and child care settings in Boulder County. The primary goals of this guidance are: to ensure that children learn safely in-person for the entire school year; to minimize school disruptions; and to balance the physical health needs of children with the academic and social learning at school.

The policies and procedures below represent the best efforts based on information available as of August 10, 2021. Boulder County Public Health (PCPH) shared additional information about [Public Health Order 2021-07](#), which, among other things, will require face coverings for all individuals two years and older, while in a school setting. Below are the announcement letters that they shared with us – which outlines their rationale: [BCPH Letter to School Administrators](#)

Limitations

This document is not intended to be comprehensive. There is considerable detail about how many of these goals will be implemented that are covered in other operating documents.

Continuing our Layered Approach

We are confident, after our full-year in-person 2020-21 school year, that we can continue to work safely with a layered approach to safety as described below.

- Maximize use of outdoor classrooms and our 38-acre campus
- Ventilation
- Cleaning
- Regular reminders for families to monitor symptoms, exposure and keep sick children home.
- Mandatory indoor masking of all students and staff (under Boulder County public health order)
- Hand Hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Physical distancing where possible
- Student Cohorts
- Quarantining and Targeted contact tracing

Maximize outdoor classrooms and 38-acre campus

Each class (1st -8th grade) has an outdoor, as well as an indoor, classroom. At each grade level, we will balance indoor and outdoor instruction. 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.

Ventilation

Classrooms will be aired out during the school day by opening doors and windows as much as is possible while maintaining safe and comfortable temperatures. All grades classrooms HVAC units are installed with MERV-13 (a highly rated filtration also in use in general surgery, superior commercial buildings, and hospital inpatient care).

Cleaning

BVWS will:

- Fully follow the State licensing regulations for cleaning and disinfecting items in Early Childhood.
- Continue with a schedule of increased, routine cleaning and disinfection for all school buildings.
- Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list](#)) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.
- If a room has had a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, the space will be cleaned AND disinfected before it is used by students again.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children.

Regular reminders for families to monitor symptoms, exposure and keep sick children home.

While we are only performing daily temperature checks for every student each day in Early Childhood, we will be partnering with you and monitoring for any signs of illness. We continue to *require anyone showing symptoms to stay home*. Anyone (teachers, staff, parent or child) must stay home if they have major or minor symptoms consistent with COVID-19. [CDPHE At-Home Symptoms Screening Tool](#)

You can determine the length of time away from school using this [CDPHE Return to Learn Tool](#).

If any symptoms present during the school day, we will follow this [CDPHE Addressing Symptoms at School](#)

Mandatory indoor masking of all students and staff

Masks are required indoors in classrooms and common areas for everyone aged 2 or older regardless of vaccination status under the August 10th [Boulder County public health order](#).

All individuals age 2 and older must wear a Face Covering while inside any school building (including for purposes of extracurricular activities), regardless of vaccination status.

Each child should bring 2-3 cloth masks to school each day in a Ziplock bag in their backpack. Spare disposable masks are available at the office.

Face Covering or Facial Covering means a covering made of cloth, fabric, or other soft or permeable material, without holes, that covers only the nose and mouth and surrounding areas of the lower face.

Mesh, netting, or similarly porous material does not meet the requirements or definition of a Face Covering. A Face Covering may be factory-made or may be handmade and improvised by using ordinary household materials. The Face Covering should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face; allow for breathing without restriction; and

either be constructed of disposable mask materials or include multiple layers of fabric that can be laundered and machine-dried without damage or change to shape. Face Coverings must cover the nose and mouth at all times and should remain in place until taken off safely.

A Face Covering should be replaced when it becomes dirty, wet, and/or difficult to breathe through.

Note that any mask that incorporates a one-way valve (typically a raised plastic cylinder about the size of a quarter on the front or side of the mask) that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling is not a Face Covering under this Order and is not to be used to comply with this Order's requirements. Valves of that type permit droplet release from the mask and can put others nearby at risk.

Hand Hygiene and respiratory etiquette

Individuals will be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently. 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 (as when outdoors further on campus), hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be available (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).

BVWS will teach and reinforce 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.

Physical distancing where possible

When class cohorts are indoors we will strive to maintain physical distancing wherever possible.

When outdoors for larger gatherings we will ensure cohorts are physically distancing.

Student Cohorts

- Students will continue to receive differentiated instruction in their specific classes in designated classrooms. To adhere to current public health guidelines, students will remain in their cohort groups (grade classes/cohorts or EC classrooms) 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.
- We will be working with students within their classes to build community, celebrate festivals and other work on inter-personal social-emotional development.

Quarantining and Targeted Contact Tracing

In conjunction with BCPH, only students who have closer than average contact, or who have not been consistently following safety rules, will be required to quarantine. Post-exposure testing is required for the rest of the cohort, but the cohort will be allowed to continue in-person learning. This exemption from quarantining after potential exposure is only valid for in-cohort instances. Students who are notified that they have had a potential exposure outside of school will still need to quarantine per BCPH requirements, and may not participate in in-person

learning until after the quarantine period. Students exposed outside of school may return seven days after exposure so long as they have no symptoms and obtain a negative PCR test on day five.

Vaccination

In alignment with our public health partners, BVWS will continue to provide opportunities for our staff and students who are eligible to get vaccinated, knowing the benefit that collective immunity will have for our schools and the entire community. Our vaccination rate among staff is very high with nearly all of our staff having received the Covid vaccine.

BVWS considers vaccination to be a medical issue between individuals and their medical providers. As an institution we take no position on whether anyone should or should not get any particular vaccine. We are committed to fully following all laws in this regard, including reporting requirements or any other rules and regulations implemented by the State or County.

Antigen Testing on Site

At BVWS we have Binax-Now antigen tests available to use for students and are implementing on site post-exposure testing.

Field Trips, Festivals and Athletics

Precautions for field trips, festivals and athletics shall be at least as strict as during the school day. During events, because spectators and students are potentially in close proximity, masks will be required even outdoors. Additional precautions may be required depending on the activity, and will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Parents on Campus

- During the school day, indoors: Parents are prohibited from entering classrooms. If you need something or someone from a classroom, let us know in the office and we will get it for you.
- During the school day, OUTDOORS: Masks are not required outdoors UNLESS parents are in close proximity to others, including students. If, by prior arrangement with a teacher or the school administration, you are interacting with students, you are required to wear a mask, even outdoors.
- Outside of the school day: with prior permission parents may enter classrooms, but must wear a mask at all times while indoors even when alone (e.g. cleaning classroom) per the BCPH August 10th public health order. Please follow ventilation guidelines while indoors.

Conclusion

We agree with the priorities of the CDC, CDPHE, and BCPH that children should be in person as much as possible. All of our school safety protocols are intended to balance student academic and social-emotional growth, and engage all students in learning, by providing opportunities for in-person learning in a safe way during this health crisis. The well-being and safety of our students, teachers and community is paramount.

Due to COVID-19, we are confronted with a school year that may look different once again. 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. This upcoming year we, like all of the area schools, may face ongoing challenges. Through those challenges, our class teachers will continue to guide, love and cherish your children.

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