

Beacon Family,

Here is a significant amount of information regarding our Covid policies, though it is long, ALL of it is important to know prior to attending Beacon. We hope you find this information useful. It is intended to inform you of procedures we've put in place. Overall, we expect to operate close to previous standards in the eyes of our students. Most operations were in place pre-COVID. We do not expect our new procedures to affect our students' experience of engaging in activities through-out the day. We plan to foster social emotional needs as well as cognitive, motor skills, and more.

Arrival/ Departure News:

Please plan to park in the gravel parking lot across from our school if your student is in our preschool or pre-k program. Please do not block the gates for the towing company. We would like to reserve the front parking spaces for our younger students and for anyone who needs extra assistance. This applies for our most busy times of day between 8:55-9:15, and 12:35-12:50. Plan to drop off your child in the designated location listed below, and please plan for a delay and understand that we are transporting children to their classes in a timely fashion, but there may be delays so that everyone can be appropriately spaced out in 6 ft areas. Have your student completely ready to drop off when you approach the drop off location. They should have all needed belongings inside their backpacks. A staff member will meet you at the door to bring your child/ren inside. DO NOT enter the building, please wait outside for your turn. Your child will be escorted back to their class and will wash hands before engaging in play. Doors will open at 9am. Students assigned to Mrs. Kristi's class (TK/PreK) will drop off at the side door of her classroom. Students assigned to our 2's, 3's, & 4 year pre-k program will drop off at the front door of the building. Students will be dismissed from the two year old classroom at the door closest to the classroom on the right side of the building. The TK/PreK class will be dismissed on the right side of the building. Dismissal is at 12:45. Families in the 4's pre-k class dismiss at their classroom back door on the left side of the building. The 3's will dismiss from the front door. Departure: Families need to plan to arrive by no later than 12:45 to allow time to park and pick up while honoring social distancing. Please understand that our teachers and staff will work hard to get children to you as soon as we can. The students will end their educational day at 12:40 and be prepared to go at 12:45 so they will not miss any activity if you come later. They will be lined up and ready to go at 12:45pm. Our staff have new closing procedures and will need to make departures quick due to new and additional steps they will be doing at the end of the school day to disinfectant and prepare the classrooms for the following day. Please keep conversations to a minimum and if there is a need to talk further with a teacher, please notify admin and we will find an appropriate time during the day for the teacher to call you if needed. Please use same parking guidelines as arrival to optimize our parking spaces

Daily Routines/ Illness:

During the day, we will attempt to social distance whenever possible, however, the children will be allowed to engage in play that involves close contact. Please read and be aware of the most recent health and illness policies adopted by our school. If at any point we feel a child is ill or lethargic, they will be sent home. It is important that we have all needed phone numbers to reach someone who will be able to pick up your student within 15 minutes of being called. Everyone should be familiar with the newest guidelines for returning to school if illness has occurred. Please be aware of the following policies being implemented at Beacon Cary immediately and for the future as deemed necessary for COVID prevention. We will no longer serve a morning snack and will only serve provided lunches from home. Please plan to feed your student a good breakfast prior to coming to school. For lunch, all food must be

brought in sealed containers and labeled with the student's name on packaging/ containers. Any "lost" containers without a name will be disposed of. All water-bottles must be labeled with the student's name and must fit into their backpack without leaking. An alternate suggestion would be to find a water-bottle that has a handle that can hang from a hook. All water-bottles will be stored on the student's hook or in their backpack instead of the bucket we previously used. -We will no longer allow pacifiers or any type of lip balm or lotion to be utilized at school. The only exception will be diaper cream, which will be applied with a glove. Please apply all sunscreen, bug repellent, and such at home prior to arriving at school. In addition to the Health Form provided to you from the DHHS, here are the important health related rules that will be followed:

-Any person experiencing a fever of 100.4 or higher may not attend school until they are fever-free for 3 days without the aid of medication. They will need to be Covid tested or remain out of school until they complete a 14 day quarantine. **All DHHS and CDC guidelines must be followed prior to return, this changes often and admin will share the most recent information with families if needed.** Due to weekly policy changes provided by the DHHS, our website info may not be updated, so please reach out to our admin if you have specific questions regarding these policies. We do update enrolled families via email on any updates to policy.

-Any person experiencing a new cough or runny nose must remain out of school and get a Covid test prior to returning.

-Any person experiencing symptoms of difficulty breathing, coughing, feeling lethargic, diarrhea/ vomiting and loss of taste or smell may not attend school until they are symptom free for 3 days without the aid of medication. They must take a Covid test to determine if these symptoms are Covid-related.

-Additional symptoms to look for and remain home if experiencing include feeling lethargic, chills, achiness, not eating or drinking, general fussiness, and if for any reason the student is unable to participate in activities as normal. PLEASE READ AND FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE DHHS COVID 19 INFORMATION SHEET SHARED WITH YOU. We suggest posting your printed copy somewhere at your house to refer to if you have any health concerns to consider.

-Anyone experiencing a symptom of Covid that has tested and receives a negative Covid test result, must **in addition**, provide a doctor's note stating that they have received an alternate diagnosis AND the same note must indicate when it is safe to return to school. Ex: Your child tests negative, has been assessed and it is determined they have an ear infection. The note must provide there is an alternate diagnosis AND then state that it is safe for the to return on a set date such as 9/1/2021. If you do not have both a negative test result AND alternate Diagnosis note, your student will not be able to return until you do or until you complete a 14 day quarantine. Any questions regarding this can be sent to the admin at any time. This policy allows for the safest return to school.

-Staff are strongly recommended to receive the Covid immunization shots. If they are not immunized against Covid, they are required to complete a weekly Covid test and submit results to admin. We will not share the immunization status of any staff.

-All illness policies apply to students and staff.

Daily Health Checks will include:

-Upon arrival, each student's temperature will be taken via a contactless forehead thermometer before entry. If this indicates a temp higher than 99.6 we will also utilize an underarm thermometer to take a follow-up temp. Anyone experiencing a temp higher than 100 will be asked to remain home. If the temp is 100.4 or higher they will have to follow rules posted above for COVID symptoms.

-Guardians who drop off should be prepared to answer questions related to the health of their student over the following 24 hours. Questions may include things to indicate if they are healthy, eating and sleeping properly, or if you have any concerns to share with us such as an allergy, ear infection, etc. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ARE HONEST AND PROVIDE INFORMATION THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR CHILD'S DAY. HEALTH INFO SHARED WILL ONLY BE SHARED WITH TEACHERS AS NEEDED.

-Upon arrival, each student will be escorted by a staff member to the sink to wash hands before engaging in play.

-Please confirm with Admin that we have all updated phone numbers, addresses and contacts (as many as possible) in the event that a child becomes ill while at school. We will need ill children to be picked up within 15 minutes. If you have a situation where that timeframe would not work for you, it is your responsibility to find someone local who can arrive within that time frame.

Travel related Testing:

-Anyone traveling out of the country must remain out of school until they have performed a Covid test (PCR) and received the results.

-Anyone traveling to another state will need to communicate their travel plans to our admin team and follow the guidelines provided to them. Anyone traveling to a state rated red or higher on the following webpage, will need to Covid test on the 5th day after they return. Decisions will be made case by case in relation to the nature of the trip and how interactive you will be with the general public on the trip. In some cases, the student will need to remain home until they receive their test results.

https://www.mayoclinic.org/coronavirus-covid-19/map?mc_id=google&campaign=12619887048&geo=9009976&kw=covid%20hotspots&ad=509662149025&network=g&sitetarget=&adgroup=120372570216&extension=&target=kwd-898935760267&matchtype=b&device=c&account=7470347919&placementsite=enterprise&gclid=CjwKCAjwmK6IBhBqEiwAocMc8vQPF64nNjfXJ-uWF3TEamCs4nurdVklEg_gwABWAvGiGNmzCMQvxoc-tEQAvD_BwE

- Testing can be done at your pediatrician and/ or a local testing site. Wake Toxicology is typically very quick with results and close to us at: 509 E. Chatham st, Suite 108 Cary NC.

-All Covid test results must be sent to the Director.

-All travel related policies apply to students and staff.

Our Staff's commitment to providing preventive measures:

- Proper spacing "markers" will be placed for lining up in hallways and classrooms. Spacing will be utilized to the best of our ability for table activities where more than one child is at the table at a time.
- Our staff will vacuum and mop classrooms daily or more frequently if needed.
- Our staff will disinfect toys, materials, and equipment daily and as needed. If we see a toy that has been "mouthed" we will remove it from rotation and disinfect it immediately. At the end of the day, all equipment and toys will be disinfected.
- Tables will be disinfected prior to and after use.
- Bathrooms will be disinfected between uses and cleaned at the end of day and as needed.
- Health checks will be performed often and as needed through-out the day.
- All age groups will remain with only the students from their own age-group, there will not be any combination of classes or interactions with other classes once class lists are established. Each class will have its own outdoor time.
- One main teacher will be assigned to each class. This will be the one person who will interact on a regular basis with those students. Admin will assist only if needed.
- Staff will wear a facemask when within 6 ft of the students (Such as during a diaper change).
- Staff will practice proper hand washing often and as needed if they interact in contact with a student. Hand-Sanitizer will be provided for times when a sink is not available such as outdoors.
- Only one class will utilize the playground at a time.
- All food consumed by a class in the event of a celebration must be store-bought, and pre-packaged. We will not be able to serve "buffet style" or serve multiple foods placed within reach of children. This would apply for celebrations, not individual lunches. If a family would like to share food for a celebration, please discuss options with the admin and teacher to ensure we can accommodate. Suggestions that would work under the circumstances are items such as popsicles, baked goods prepackaged such as Little Debbie snacks or muffins, prepackaged crackers such as goldfish or pretzels, and things like packs of gummy snacks.

General Info regarding Mask procedures:

- Children aged 4+ will be required to wear a face mask. They will need to remove it to eat, drink, and if a teacher feels there is a need for the mask to be removed for the safety of the student.
- Children aged 3 are recommended and encouraged to wear a mask whenever possible.
- Children aged 2 will be allowed to wear a mask if the student is able to communicate well and there are no safety issues. Children under the age of 2 years old are not allowed to wear a mask per the CDC recommendations.

Tuition:

Tuition payment is expected even in the event of a classroom or school closure due to Covid exposure or illness. When a classroom closure happens, we pay the teachers who are affected if they were exposed at school, and we still have all other operational fees to pay as well. If your child misses school due to illness, tuition is expected, and we can not provide make-up days.

We look forward to providing preschool services for our Beacon families. As with any type of social setting, we plan to utilize our resources to social distance, and sanitize, but there will be times when students will interact and come in close contact with each other. We will continue to offer activities such as art, science, math, dance, music, outdoor play, and more. It is our desire that the students feel like preschool is a fun and engaging place to come. We will be careful that our procedures do not evoke a feeling of fear in our students. We will focus on how we can work together to properly prevent “germs” from spreading and how we can support each other and encourage good hygiene habits. For those who attend, please know that we understand our important responsibility to care for your student’s health and safety and that is as important to us as the responsibility to provide lessons and activities that bring them joy, happiness, excitement and provide time with their friends that we know they deserve. We hope this information has clarified what measures are being done to ensure safety and the continuation of fun learning

Updated: 9/21/2021. We strive to keep updated but please touch base with us if you have any questions since there is a constant flow of new information emerging weekly in regards to best practice procedures for Covid.