

Berkshire Heights Health and Safety Procedures Covid-19 Response

The safety of the Berkshire Heights children has always been our number one priority. To give you peace of mind and adhere to important guidelines, we will be implementing the following safety measures based on guidelines and recommendations from the CDC, DHS and State of Pennsylvania.

Beginning August 26th - New hours of operation: M – F 6:30am – 5:30pm.

1. New drop off procedures include a daily health assessment and temperature check for each child.
2. Children will have their temperature taken each day upon arrival. A child with a temperature of 100°F or higher will be asked to return home for 72 hours until they are fever free without the aid of medication and with no other symptoms. This applies as well, to a child that remains at home due to a fever.
3. If your child has more than one symptom, a doctor's note will be required to return to school. Symptoms that will exclude your child from care are as follows: fever 100°F or above, rash of any kind, vomiting, diarrhea, new cough, complaints of shortness of breath, complaints of headache or complaints of sore throat. As always, if your child is sick please do not send them to school.
4. New drop off and pick up procedures:

Drop off:

- Drop off your child between 6:30am-8:30am, a staff member will be stationed outside for daily temperature and health checks of your child. Children will be escorted by a staff member to their classroom.
- In the case of inclement weather, one person is permitted at a time to enter the lobby area only, to drop off their child. Children will be escorted by a staff member to their classroom.
- After 8:30, no one will be stationed outside the door, therefore drop off will be delayed.
- Adults must wear a mask during drop off and pick up.
- Families that arrive at the same time are asked to wait outside the building while maintaining proper social distancing until acceptable to approach a staff member outside or to enter the lobby.

Pick up:

- Ring the doorbell, then identify yourself and your child. A staff member will bring your child to the door. Please be prepared to show ID if required. Families that arrive at the same time are asked to wait outside the building while maintaining proper social distancing until it is acceptable to approach the door. Only one family permitted at the door at a time.
- If your child is outside playing at the time of pickup, please wait by the playground gate while maintaining social distancing, for a staff member to approach you.

5. Berkshire Heights staff will undergo a health screening and temperature check prior to the start of their shift. All staff will wear a face mask. We are not requiring the children to wear a mask at this time, but our plan is to have students practice wearing masks for very short periods of time during the day, as long as they're comfortable with that.

6. Here are some ways we're keeping your child safe: classrooms will operate with reduced numbers, children will remain in the same classroom with the same staff throughout the day, each classroom is assigned their own bathrooms, children will rest 6 feet apart, and each classroom has an assigned time for outside playtime and gym use with cleaning occurring between classrooms.

7. We have cleaned and disinfected our facility. We will continue to follow stringent cleaning procedures for proper disinfection of our spaces and high touch areas using CDC approved cleaning products. Our spaces will receive enhanced cleaning throughout the day and evening.

8. Staff will ensure that children are practicing proper hand washing procedures. Children will wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer – with permission when soap and water are not available.

- Upon arrival
- Before and after meals
- After toileting
- After outside play
- Any other times as needed

9. As always, individual cubbies are assigned and labeled to store each child's items. Parent communication will occur through emails, the Class Dojo app and phone calls.

10. Staff have been trained on childcare safety protocols, especially cleaning. We will continue to monitor guidance from the CDC, DHS and the State of Pennsylvania and will revise our safety protocols accordingly. Families will be notified of any updates.