

COVID 19 Plan for children and families at BLOOM Updated 4.1.22 effective 4.4.22

We are relying on each family to do their part by practicing social distancing, watching for symptoms, and keeping track of your families points of contact when not at Bloom. Please remember that we are here to help with any questions you may have. We will be reviewing this plan as changes to meet guidelines. A copy of the plan will be available at the entry doors and online.

Operating Criteria

Bloom wishes to serve children when confident that an adequate number of supplies are available to support routine cleaning, sanitation and disinfection, hand hygiene and adequate PPE to protect staff and children. Bloom also requires enough staff to care for the children.

Pre-Arrival

Before leaving your home each morning, we ask that you perform a routine health screening on you and your child. Your at home health check should include a temperature check (under 100.4), and observation of any shortness of breath or cough or other symptoms. If you or your child are experiencing any symptoms, please stay home and call the office (763)559-0045 or email kati.halliday@bloomearlylearning.org to discuss your path for isolation or testing.

Arrival

Parents will enter Bloom to drop off their child(ren). Please practice social distancing to other families and staff during this time. Hand sanitizer will be provided for the **parent only** at this check point. Then proceed to your child's cubby to prepare them for drop off. Parents will bring their child(ren) to the classroom. Infant parents please wash your hands when entering the room. Please make sure that the teacher knows they are present before leaving. If you feel that you cannot communicate a message to the teacher, please email the office and it will forward them to the classroom. You can also write a message for the classroom using the Tadpoles app. Children will enter the room and wash their hands before starting their day.

Departure

Please enter the building practicing social distancing. Hand sanitizer for the **parents only** will be provided at the parent desk.

Communication

We know that not spending large amounts of time in your child's classroom will limit your window into your child's day. Communication is always available through the tadpoles app, or feel free to call or email your child's teacher. Classrooms will also utilize their private Shutterfly site to communicate and share pictures.

Social Distancing

Please do your part to distance yourself from other families during pick up and drop off. Bloom's high traffic areas are the entryway, totes for hope shelf, and classroom areas.

Personal Protective Equipment

Masks are not required for adults and children at Bloom. Adults and children can wear masks while at Bloom, this is not a requirement. Disposable child size masks will be available at the parent desk. When children are masking in the classroom; staff will support your child as they learn to safely wear and store masks during their time at Bloom. Masks will not be worn during meal and naptimes.

Please plan on providing at minimum 2 clean masks each day. If your child's mask becomes wet or dirty, a staff member will help your child to change into a clean mask. Extra masks are available for adults and children at the health screening station by the front door. We ask that parents wear their own, when possible, but please know we will try to keep a limited supply in that area if you do not have a mask. Hand sanitizer is provided in this area as well for adults only.

Health Exclusion

Bloom will continue to follow guidelines from MDH for all illness and exclusions. We ask that you contact the office to work through your family's timeline line depending on vaccination status, continual contact, ability to maintain distancing within the classroom, and if your child qualifies for a 7-day testing timeline. Adults and children that are current with their vaccinations can qualify for a 5-day isolation with return of wearing a mask for 5 days.

One update to our illness exclusion is our fever exclusion. Going forward Bloom will exclude children with a fever of 100.4 or greater. We ask you to monitor your child's symptoms and consult with their physician. Please communicate with the office any symptoms or doctor's diagnosis for your child(ren) or anyone living in your household. We will continue to communicate as usual for any contagious illnesses on the parent board. Please remember that children with a fever needs to be fever free without medication for 24 hours before returning to Bloom if a non-COVID 19 illness is determined. Children with non-COVID 19 symptoms will follow the Hennepin County Infectious Disease Manual.

Symptoms consistent with COVID 19 include: new onset or worsening cough, shortness of breath; fever; chills; muscle pain; headache; sore throat; new loss of taste or smelling; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea. Bloom will be following the MDH Exclusion Decision Tree and the CDC quarantine and isolation guidance. If you have questions about the decision tree, please call the Minnesota Department of Health, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Prevention and Control Division 651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414.

Health Screening

Health screenings will happen pre-arrival, and mid-day for all children and staff. We will be asking and monitoring for; a temperature of 100.4 or greater, coughing, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting. If your child becomes ill at school, we will exclude from the group and contact for pick up within the hour.

Temperature will be taken with a non-contact thermometer. If the temperature is not within the child's normal range during, staff will recheck with a contact thermometer by taking their temperature under the arm and adding a degree. These temperature checks will happen mid-day.

When a Staff or Child Becomes Sick at School

When a child or staff member develops any symptoms or illness consistent with COVID-19 (we will follow the symptoms from the exclusion guidance) we will do the following:

- Isolate the person in a separate room while they wait to be picked up. We will ensure that they have hygiene supplies that are needed. Children two and above will be asked if they would like to wear a mask while they wait and continue to be directly monitored by Bloom staff.

- Staff monitoring the child will care for them using social distancing practices when allowed and utilize personal protective equipment.
- Isolation will happen in a closed space that will remain closed off for further use once the ill person leaves.
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, focusing on areas where the person is known to have been and items they have touched.
- Sick children and staff will not be allowed to return to the program until they have met the exclusion guidelines criteria from MDH.
- Communication will be sent to the center to inform of the confirmed case, and the following steps. Bloom will continue to protect children's and staff member's privacy and will communicate the classroom effected.

Updated Contacts

Please make sure your phone numbers are up to date on your child's emergency card.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

Bloom will continue to maintain best practices for routine cleaning and disinfecting. Classrooms and community areas will increase frequency. Cleaning and disinfect high usage area will be sanitized at the beginning, throughout, and after use.

Classroom materials will be rotated throughout the day and disinfected after each use. Children will use their designated chair and cot. These items will be sanitized daily. Each classroom has a designated mouthed toy area. If a child enters the child's mouth it will be removed from service and cleaned and disinfected before returning into service. Items that cannot be easily cleaned have been removed from the classrooms at this time. Plush items are not shared and are laundered before shared.

Common areas such as bathrooms, hallways, and large motor rooms will be disinfected after each group leaves.

Classrooms will continually run an air purifier. The building's ventilation is set to circulate the air through out the classrooms and common areas at a continual pace.

Handwashing

The single most effective way to prevent the spread of disease is to correctly wash your hands thoroughly and often. Staff members are focusing on demonstrating and teaching proper handwashing techniques to the children. Children wash their hands upon arrival, before and after mealtimes, before and after art and sensory play, after bathroom and diaper times, after sneezing and or using a tissue, and each time they return to the classroom.

Wet hands with running water

Next use liquid soap

Wash hands for at least 20 seconds paying close attention to all areas of the hand

Rinse hands with running water

Dry hands with a single service, disposable paper towel

Turn off the water with the same paper towel used to dry the hands

Classroom Life

We know families have had several changes over the past month. All of the classrooms look forward to being a consistent support to help your little one rebuilds routines and stability in their classroom community. We are thrilled to see the wonder of each child and their ability to adapt to the changes

during the pandemic. The dependability from our staff classroom routine has proven to be a powerful support for children returning to Bloom.

Each classroom will continue to eat in their classrooms for meals and snacks. Family style serve is on hold and staff will continue to follow health and safety practices when serving meals. In the next few weeks we will be monitoring our community spread and determining if family style service is an option again for our Preschool and Pre-K classrooms. Handwashing procedures will happen before and after each meal as usual.

Volunteers, in-center field trips, and off-site field trips will be assessed on a case-by-case basis factoring in each risk. The staff look forward to having fun and meeting milestones with your little one.

Bloom's private playground space will be continued to be used. Each age group will utilize their designated time to ensure staggering and no intermixing of age groups. Staff will encourage children to spread out and will provide ample outdoor materials for children to engage in their own space.

Classrooms will utilize the large motor rooms during their designate classroom time. The space will be cleaned and sanitized after each use. The infant, toddler, preschool, and pre-k will alternate times in the lakeside west motor room.

Thank you for your understanding during a time of change. We will continue to monitor and update our procedures to best protect the children, families, and staff at Bloom. As we work through each change, know that we assessed the daily practices and procedure to determine our updates. We will continue to observe trends at Bloom and in our close community before making further changes. We will also follow any requirements from MDH as they change and access recommendations from MDH and the CDC. Bloom will continue to monitor how these updates affect the daily classroom life and any impacts these have for the children and staff. Please reach out with any questions you may have.