

Health and Safety Overview

A-B Community Education Extended Day Program will follow the guidelines provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the CDC, the Department of Secondary and Early Education (DESE), the EEC (Department of Early Education and Care), and the Acton Board of Health. Below are the steps we are taking to provide children with a healthy and safe program experience.

- We ask families to self-monitor for the two weeks leading up to their first day with us. Watch yourselves and your children for COVID-19 symptoms such as: Fever or chills; Cough; Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing; Fatigue; Muscle or body aches; Headache; New loss of taste or smell; Sore throat; Congestion or runny nose; Nausea or vomiting; Diarrhea.
- Staff and children must stay home if they are sick and showing any symptoms related to COVID 19. If your child is showing symptoms, please contact [Kate Murray at kmurray@abschools.org](mailto:kmurray@abschools.org).
- Staff and children will undergo a health screening from one of our Extended Day Staff upon arrival at the program each day. Anyone displaying symptoms may not attend the program. Parents are asked to remain outside until their child is cleared.
- Any adults dropping off or picking up a child should wear a mask.
- Only staff and children will enter the building.
- Children and staff will be divided into small groups that meet mandated guidelines, with no more than 11 children, with 2 adults per cohort.
- Activities and physical layouts are designed to ensure 6' of social distancing at all times.
- Staff will wear masks at all times.
- Children are asked to bring their own masks that will be worn throughout the day; masks should be clearly labeled with the child's name (if possible). Each child should bring an extra mask to have if needed. There will be scheduled mask breaks throughout the day.
- Good hand washing is critical! Children and staff will wash their hands after checking in, and will wash hands or use hand sanitizer frequently throughout the day.
- District custodial staff and Extended Day Staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces within the school building, e.g. door knobs, faucets.
- Extended Day Program staff will clean all surfaces throughout the day.

- Classroom windows will be open to the greatest extent possible.
- School nurses will be available throughout the day and isolation rooms are set up in each building.
- Snacks will not be provided but children may bring their own non-perishable snack each day (if desired). Children must bring a non-perishable lunch and drink or they can order lunch. All students are eligible for a free breakfast and lunch until December 31.
- Children should be taught to cough or sneeze into a tissue or their elbow. If wearing a mask, they should remove the mask to do so then put it back.
- **If a student displays symptoms during the day, they will be taken to the nurse's office. Parents will be contacted and must pick them up as soon as possible.**
- Parents should note any allergies or medical conditions/concerns when completing the online form. Kate Murray will follow up as needed.
- Clearly label all your child's belongings. Children will bring with them what they need for the day - including a device for their asynchronous schoolwork - and will take everything home with them in the evening. They will not be able to store anything in the classrooms
- Please make sure your child brings a reusable water bottle with them to the program each day
- We are working hard to minimize the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 during the program; if exposure occurs, we will follow local and state guidelines.

More helpful information:

What parents need to know about opening Childcare Programs:

https://eecedlead.force.com/resource/1594088576000/Parent_Reopening_Guide

CDC Guidance for Childcare Programs:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

How to protect yourself and others:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

Masks

This year, getting ready to send kids back to school looks so different than it has in the past, as masks take center stage in back-to-school flyers and advertisements! One of the most important ways families can help students prepare for transitioning back to school is to get them in the habit of wearing a mask throughout the day and for a variety of activities. Below are a few helpful sites to support your efforts in one of our key virus mitigation strategies.

- [How to Help Kids Embrace Mask-Wearing](#)
- [Helping Your Child Wear a Mask](#)
- [How to Help Kids Adjust to Masks Before School: 16 Activities to Practice Mask-Wearing](#)

At this time, because the science is still emerging, neck gaiters are not considered an acceptable face covering, but we will continue to monitor the science and revisit this decision as needed.