

Brason Academy Montessori school

COVID-19 Enhancements

Based on advice taken from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Brason Montessori can return to a Pre-pandemic environment. The Ministry of Education has amended their requirement and childcares are no longer required to have COVID-19 policies in place. In accordance with local public health the following enhancements will remain at this time.

Screening

- All individuals entering the childcare premises must self-screen every day before attending the program using the [screening link](#) provided on the school's website. This tool will continue to be updated to be in line with the province's school screening tool.
- The screening tool has been updated to align with the [updated COVID-19 Integrated Testing & Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge](#)
- All individuals must follow the monitoring and isolation advice outlined in the screening tool

Absence Reporting

- Brason Montessori is still required to track all absences; parents need to advise us why their child will be absent and if they're experiencing any health-related symptoms.
- If absenteeism rises 30% above baseline for COVID related absences, Brason Montessori will contact local Public Health and a letter will be provided to families signed by the local Medical Officer of Health with public health measures to follow.

Rapid Antigen Tests

- Brason Montessori may continue to receive bi-weekly shipments of Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) from the Ministry of Education as part of our screening program.
- Tests are available to both staff and children who are symptomatic, Brason Montessori and will continue to distribute test kits to staff, and families as needed.

Environmental Cleaning

- Existing cleaning and sanitizing practices will be reviewed to determine where enhancements are required, including frequency and timing of cleaning and disinfection, areas to clean and/or disinfect, choice of cleaning products, child safety, staffing, signage, and PPE to use when cleaning.
- Brason Montessori will be cleaned frequently; staff will follow daily/weekly and monthly cleaning checklists.
- Staff will clean and disinfect high touch surfaces a minimum of twice per day (more often if visibly soiled). Examples include doorknobs, gate latches, toilet handles, faucets, handrails, counters, electronic devices, and tabletops.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- Focus will be on regular hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette to help reduce the risk of infection.
- All staff are trained on how to support children with appropriate hand hygiene, including the use of hand sanitizer, and reinforcing its use.
- Hand hygiene should be conducted by anyone entering Brason Montessori and incorporated into the daily schedule at regular intervals during the day, above and beyond what is usually recommended. Age-appropriate signs are posted around the school to support this practice.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing a minimum of 60% alcohol can be used, only if the hands are not visibly soiled.
- Hand washing using soap and water is recommended over alcohol-based hand rub for children. Hand sanitizer will be used when a sink is not accessible.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the entry point of each classroom and main entry into the childcare
- Hand sanitizer should be stored where children cannot access.
- Modifications will be put into place to support any children with special needs to regularly perform hand hygiene as independently as possible.

Masking

- In alignment with community masking requirements, masks will no longer be required for staff, or any other individual at Brason Montessori as of Monday April 4th, 2022.
- Staff/children may choose to continue to wear masks/eye protection. The government plans to continue to provide free masks and eye protection to the childcare.
- Brason Montessori will be a respectful, welcoming community to all individuals and their personal decision regarding masking
- Masking is still required:
 - 14 days following international travel (inside and outside), along with tracing close contacts during those 14 days
 - If an individual has been in close contact with a positive case, or if someone in your household has tested positive or has symptoms.
 - 10 days following an individual who has tested positive or symptom onset (20 days for immunocompromised).

Ventilation

- Brason Montessori will implement best practices to optimize ventilation by moving activities outdoors as much as possible.
- Hepa filters have been added to the classrooms and will be turned on at arrival and run during program times.

Vaccinations

- Vaccinations remain the best defense against COVID-19, including the Omicron variant.
- Brason Montessori supports vaccinations, and will assist staff and families in booking vaccine appointments also and peer to peer support.

Monitoring and Responding to COVID symptoms while at attending the Program

- Educators will conduct a daily health check on all children in attendance.
- If someone becomes ill while at the childcare, the individual will be separated from others (in the isolation room if possible).
- Parents/guardians will be contacted for pick up and should be instructed to pick up within 30-60 minutes.
- Anyone providing care to the ill individual should wear appropriate PPE (surgical mask and eye protection) and should maintain as much physical distance as possible.
- If tolerated the ill child should also wear a medical mask (not for children under 2).
- These PPE items are available in the staff room.
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette should be practiced while the ill individual is waiting to be picked up.
- Contaminated articles belonging to the symptomatic child (including soiled clothing) are to be sent home immediately for cleaning.
- The illness will be noted in both the classroom log.
- All ill individuals will then follow the Ontario school screening for next steps and isolation requirements.

Once the child has been picked up the following cleaning will be conducted:

- Clean all areas the separated individual was in (i.e. isolation room) and other areas in the childcare setting the individual was within 2 meters of, or equipment/toys the child was using should be conducted as soon as reasonably possible.
- All linens touched/used by the symptomatic child at the centre must be placed in the laundry immediately.
- Staff should wear additional PPE (gloves, gown, and eye protection) while cleaning areas the ill individual or handling any linens.
- All PPE should be disposed of after cleaning.

Please note: Any changes or updates will continue to be communicated promptly to all staff and families of Brason Academy Montessori School.