



ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan

Health and Safety Plan Summary: **Belmont Charter School**

Initial Effective Date: **June 16, 2021**

Date of Last Review: **March 31, 2023**

Date of Last Revision: **September 1, 2023**

- 1. How will the LEA, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?**

Belmont has developed a network pandemic response team lead by our Chief Operating Officer. The team meets weekly to review current transmission data, CDC, state and local guidelines and makes any necessary adjustments to the health and safety plan. Additionally, staff are asked to submit weekly health and safety feedback, allowing us to monitor the effective implementation of our mitigation strategies and course correct as necessary in any areas.

We have established a COVID-19 Reopening “Playbook” to guide all staff on the proper implementation of our mitigation strategies, following the Swiss Cheese Model of mitigation adopted from the Cleveland Clinic that focuses on mask wearing, social distancing, improved ventilation, enhanced cleaning practices, increased hand hygiene, and vaccination. The playbook walks staff through the implementation of these strategies during all school activities, including classroom instruction, meal times, staff meetings, arrival and dismissal.

Additionally, we have established a COVID-19 related communication update to all staff and families to share any pertinent updates, remind of safety measures, share vaccination information and allow for feedback as needed.

- 2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students’ academic needs, and students’ and staff members’ social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?**

All classrooms and teachers have been set up to pivot to virtual instruction, should a student, classroom, grade level or school need to pivot to virtual instruction due to quarantine needs or staffing challenges related to COVID-19. The schools have invested in their technology infrastructure, providing a 1:1 model for students, owl cameras to facilitate learning in the classroom for virtual students, and online learning platforms.

Our Family Support Services Team continues to support all students and families-whether virtual or in person-through this difficult time, connecting with resources and increasing counseling supports for those that need it.

3. Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Universal and correct wearing of masks; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mask wearing is <i>optional</i> for K-12 students and staff, <u><i>except those in our PreK Head Start programs.</i></u> ● Masking may be required from time to time in a classroom, across a grade or a school if there is evidence of spread. ● See COVID Case Response section for information on mask-to-stay for individuals that test positive for COVID and for those that have a household exposure. ● Schools will have a supply of masks to provide to staff and students should they need one. School Operations teams should reach out to Stacey when in need of more masks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Distancing is no longer required as a general practice per CDC guidelines. ● If a student or staff member is on site, symptomatic and either tests positive or is awaiting results, they should be masked and socially distanced from others, but do not need to be in a designated isolation room as previously required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Handwashing and respiratory etiquette; 	<p>All children, staff, and volunteers should engage in hand hygiene regularly throughout the day. Schools are encouraged to establish routines to encourage handwashing at the following times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As you enter and exit the building ● As you enter and exit the classroom ● Before and after eating or handling food, or feeding children ● Before and after administering medication or medical ointment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before and after diapering • Before and after using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom • After coming in contact with bodily fluid (blowing nose, sneezing, etc.) • After playing outdoors • After handling garbage • Before and after using shared equipment or supplies • Hand sanitizer will be provided in all classrooms and common spaces for use when washing hands is not an option. Operations teams should contact Theresa when additional hand sanitizer supplies are needed. • Set up sanitizing stations outside of large common spaces such as entrances/exits. • Supervise children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent ingestion and to ensure they are using it properly. • Enforce a “you touch it, you take it” policy in classrooms for supplies, foods, etc. • Teachers explicitly teach hand washing expectations and supervise as needed. • signage describing handwashing steps is placed near sinks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have hired additional custodial staff to enhance the daily cleaning of our schools and using disinfectants identified by the CDC and EPA as approved for safe and effective use against coronavirus. • We will continue the daily cleaning of our schools and using disinfectants identified by the CDC and EPA as approved for safe and effective use against coronavirus. • To ensure constant cleanliness, all classrooms and common areas will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected daily. • Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day • Spray bottles and paper towels will also be made available throughout the building. While there are no specific cleaning requirements for teachers or staff, all BCN staff should feel empowered to use disinfecting spray between scheduled cleanings. <p>According to the CDC guidelines, it is recommended that when weather conditions allow, increase fresh outdoor air by opening windows and</p>

	<p>using fans to increase total airflow supply to occupied spaces. Following this guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, at least one window is opened in any room with more than 2 people, with the window fan placed in the window exhausting air out (the windows are larger than the fans, so air is able to circulate in and out) • In spaces with Central Air, the Central Air System filters have been upgraded to the CDC recommended MERV-13 filters and are changed at an increased frequency.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments; 	<p>Process for students or staff testing positive for COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students or staff that test positive for COVID-19 are to remain at home in isolation for 5 days after date of symptom onset or date of positive test if asymptomatic. • Individuals may return on day 6, regardless of vaccination status, as long as they are fever free, and are to wear a mask from day 6-10. • A negative COVID test is not required to return to school. • School teams should communicate with families plans for remote work while the student is absent, if the student is feeling well enough. <p>Contact Tracing in Schools & Response to positive cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC Guidance no longer requires contact tracing in schools, the Director of Centralized Operations will still gather basic data regarding a case (siblings, after school/ost status, bus, etc.) in the event additional cases occur. • Case levels in schools will be monitored and classrooms, grade levels and schools will be moved to masking as deemed necessary to mitigate spread. • Out of an abundance of caution, individuals can always mask if they believe they were a close contact to someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Everyone should always monitor themselves for symptoms. <p>Quarantine requirements for exposure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regardless of vaccination status, students and staff are no longer required to quarantine due to a COVID 19 exposure. • Any student or staff who is exposed to someone with COVID 19 should mask for 10 days. • If a student/staff has a household exposure (someone in their home tested positive for COVID-19), regardless of vaccination status, everyone should mask in the home AND the student/staff member must mask on campus for 10 days.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing; 	<p>For any student or staff member experiencing symptoms, they are immediately brought to the nurse office and evaluated by our nursing staff. COVID-19 testing is available on site through our student based health center for any student or staff that needs it.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>; 	<p>We are partnering with Education Plus Health, our student based health center, to provide vaccine opportunities to our communities. We have hosted three on-site vaccine clinics to date. Additionally, Education Plus Health has held vaccine information sessions for our school community.</p> <p>We share vaccine opportunities with our staff and families in our communication and direct everyone to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health COVID Vaccine Hub webpage to connect all families with current vaccine opportunities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and 	<p>Our nurse practitioner and special education team have worked with any of our students with disabilities and their families to evaluate their ability to meet the health and safety procedures set forth in this plan and put in place appropriate accommodations to the health and safety policy as needed, including but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scheduled mask breaks 2. Additional time outside 3. Increased assurance testing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination with state and local health officials. 	<p>Our network pandemic liaison has established a relationship with the COVID Schools Team at the Philadelphia Department of Public Health and communicates regularly with that team for guidance related to COVID-19 positive cases, close contacts, school closure and other mitigation strategies.</p>

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Directors/Trustees for **Belmont Charter School** reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on **June 14, 2021**.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

 5 Yes

 0 No

Affirmed on:

By:

(Signature of Board President)*

Michael Karp

(Print Name of Board President)

*Electronic signatures on this document are acceptable using one of the two methods detailed below.

Option A: The use of actual signatures is encouraged whenever possible. This method requires that the document be printed, signed, scanned, and then submitted.

Option B: If printing and scanning are not possible, add an electronic signature using the resident Microsoft Office product signature option, which is free to everyone, no installation or purchase needed.