

Covid19

North Branch School follows recommendations and guidelines from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Blue Ridge Health Department (BRHD) and state and local agencies. These policies and procedures have been created in accordance with both CDC, BRHD, state & local recommendations, guidelines and best practices. These policies & procedures are subjected to change as new guidance is available.

Check in Procedures (These have changed from last year)

→ At drop off 8:30-8:45 am

- ◆ Preschool students must be escorted into the building by parents/caregivers and checked in with the teacher on duty.
- ◆ Early Primary - Primaries can be escorted into the building by parents/caregivers.
- ◆ Juniors can be escorted into the building by parents/caregivers or dropped at the front entrance and walk into their classroom on their own.
- ◆ Seniors and Middle School students can be dropped off by parents/caregivers and walk to their respective classrooms on their own on sidewalks.
- ◆ All parents are encouraged to park and escort their students to their classrooms.
- ◆ If parents would like to speak with teachers, please be sure to schedule a meeting as mornings are very busy times for all teachers.
- ◆ If parents would like to congregate for social conversation we ask that you please be mindful that school begins at 8:50 am and conversations should be held outside the school buildings.

Daily Check out Procedures (These have changed from last year)

→ Preschool

- ◆ At 12:30 PM, parents/caregivers will be allowed into the preschool classroom 4 at a time to pick up their child. Waiting parents can either wait on the front porch, in their cars, or in the Big Room during inclement weather.

→ Half-Day Early Primary Students

- ◆ At 12:45 PM, half-day Early Primary students can be picked up from the back playground by parents.

→ Full-Day Early Primary - Middle School Students (3:15-3:45 PM)

- ◆ **At 3:15 PM, Primary** students will be ready for pick up from the back playground by parents. Please **check out with the teacher on duty with the check out clipboard**. In case of heavy rain, pick up will be from the Big Room of the main building.
- ◆ **At 3:30 PM, Juniors - Middle School** students will be ready for pick up. Juniors will be picked up from the back playground (Big Room on rainy days). Seniors & Middle School students will be picked up from the Annex porch.
- ◆ Senior & Middle School students will be allowed to walk out to their parent/caregivers vehicle without escort.

Sick Policy

- **Keep your child at home if sick with any illness.** Contact your healthcare provider to discuss your child's symptoms.
- Children must be symptom & fever-free for 24 hours without medication before they can return to school.
- Coughs, runny nose, upset stomachs, fevers, headaches are all symptoms of illness and should be monitored by parents. Students should be free of symptoms before returning to school. This list of symptoms is not exhaustive. Please help us keep our students and teachers in the classroom by not sending students with illness to school.
- Inform NBS Office staff (540-456-8450 or northbranch@nbsva.org) if your child is ill or will be absent for any reason.
- If illness presents during the day, NBS will contact parents/caregivers to come pick up their child(ren).
- NBS reserves the right to exclude those with illness at anytime.

COVID Policy

- If a child has symptoms of COVID or has been exposed to COVID, a COVID test must be administered (Antigen or PCR) before the student can return to school. If the student tests positive or is a close contact for COVID, NBS will follow the VDH & BRHD COVID action plan. The action plan is updated regularly and subject to change.
- The [VDH flowchart](#) for “Child Care & K-12: What to do if my child is ill or exposed to COVID-19” will be followed. This flow chart changes regularly as policy changes with VDH.
- NBS requires a negative COVID test to return on day 6 after the presentation of symptoms or after a positive test as long as the student has been symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without medication. Masks must be worn day 6-10 for those who return on day 6. Students can quarantine for the full 10 days and return on day 11 without a negative covid test. NBS sick policy still applies: an ill student must be symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without medication to return, even after 10 days of quarantine for COVID.

Handwashing

- All students and those entering the building will wash hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds or use the hand sanitizing station located inside each main entrance.
- Students will wash hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds at class transitions, after using the bathroom, before meals, after meals, and when coming back inside from outside time.
- Handwashing signage will be posted in each bathroom by the sink and in each classroom by the hand washing sink area.
- When hand washing is not available, hand sanitizer stations will be used.

General reminders

- Students will be routinely reminded to not touch their faces and wash hands often.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

- ◆ NBS will use EPA-approved disinfectant and cleaning supplies.
 - ◆ Disposable cleaning gloves will be used as directed by disinfectant and cleaning supply labels.
 - ◆ NBS facilities will be cleaned daily after school Monday-Thursday and once during the weekends Friday-Sunday.
- Daily disinfecting of high-frequency touch areas will be conducted by
- ◆ Teaching Staff
 - Staff will disinfect high-frequency touch areas in their classrooms at a minimum of once at the end of the school day. Examples of high-frequency touch areas include but are not limited to: chairs, tables, sinks, doors, cubbies, light switches, loft ladders and daily items used.
 - ◆ Administrative Staff
 - Administrative Staff will disinfect high-frequency touch areas in common spaces at a minimum of once at the end of the school day. Examples of high-frequency touch areas include but are not limited to: exterior main doors, common area light switches, common area tables/chairs.
 - ◆ Cleaning Staff
 - Cleaning staff will perform daily routine cleaning (includes sweeping & vacuuming of floors, cleaning bathrooms and cleaning front and back doors)
 - Use EPA-approved disinfectant cleaning products
- Outside play area cleaning
- ◆ Spraying disinfectant on outdoor playgrounds is not an efficient use of disinfectant supplies and has not been proven to reduce the risk of COVID-19 to the general public. Cleaning of wooden surfaces or ground coverings such as sand and mulch is not recommended.

Classroom design

- Classrooms will be configured to promote the best use of space, furnishings, and student/teacher flow and health concerns.
- Common congregation areas will be configured to keep movement flowing whenever possible.

Classroom air circulation (fresh air exchange)

- Front and back doors to each building will be propped open whenever possible to promote fresh air circulation to buildings.
- Each classroom teacher will decide when it is appropriate to open classroom exterior doors and windows to promote fresh air circulation in their classrooms.

→ HVAC system has HEPA filters and each classroom has portable HEPA air filters

Student Activities, and shared items

→ Computer use & cleaning & other shared items

◆ All Senior & Middle School students will be assigned a computer number and will use ONLY their assigned computer number.

→ Shared items

◆ Students will be reminded to not touch their faces and wash hands with warm water & soap for 20 seconds after using shared items whenever possible.

→ Large group activities will be planned in accordance with recommended guidance.