



# BLIND CHILDREN'S CENTER

LIGHTING THE WAY SINCE 1938

## Keeping our Community Safe

*Effective 3/6/23*

To ensure the health and safety of Blind Children's Center (BCC) staff, children and families, the following policies and procedures must be followed when at BCC.

- It is strongly recommended that parents wear a clean mask covering the mouth and nose at BCC while dropping off and picking up their child(ren) indoors.
- Parents who have a cough, or are sneezing, from any reason, including allergies, are required to wear a mask at all times when inside the BCC facility.
- Face coverings are optional for children over 2 years old. Parents should notify their child's teacher if they want their child to wear a face covering at BCC.
- Face coverings should fit snugly, fully covering your nose and mouth, and be fitted under the chin. Coverings that are open at the bottom or do not fit tightly are not acceptable.
- If parents send their child to school with a face covering, it must be clean or be a disposable mask used only once. BCC will provide children and parents with clean disposable masks as requested.

Please note that Management reserves the right to reinstate the mandate for disposable masks when deemed necessary to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

### Vaccination

BCC strongly encourages parents and children be vaccinated for Covid-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone approved to receive a COVID-19 vaccine get one—including children ages 6 months and older. Vaccines protect you, your child and the staff at BCC, all of which ensure that the Center can remain open and serve your child(ren). Research shows that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and dying. As with other vaccine-preventable diseases, persons are protected best from COVID-19 when they stay up to date with the recommended vaccinations, including recommended boosters.

While many parents have gotten their children vaccinated, some families have questions about the vaccine's safety and efficacy. We encourage you to speak to your pediatrician, BCC's Registered Nurse, or learn more at the following resources:

- Children's Hospital Los Angeles: <https://www.chla.org/blog/covid-19/kids-and-the-covid-19-vaccine-your-questions-answered>
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/planning/children/6-things-to-know.html>

### Head Start/Preschool & Early Head Start/Toddler Center-Based Programs

- If your child(ren) has a temperature over 100.4, is sick, has symptoms – even if they are mild, or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, they cannot come to BCC. Please contact your child's teacher.

- All children will undergo a health check and temperature check upon arrival at BCC, before parents sign their child in for the day.
- If any member of your household tests positive for Covid-19, you must notify your child's teacher immediately so that we can follow our exposure management plan.

### **Early Head Start Home-Based Program**

- BCC's Parent Educator has the option to wear a mask during home visits and socializations, whether indoors or outdoors.
- Based on public health recommendations, BCC strongly recommends that parents/caregivers also wear a mask during home visits.
- The Parent Educator/Home Visitor will complete a health screening at the beginning of each home visit.
- If your child or someone in the household is positive with COVID, please contact BCC's Parent Educator/Home Visitor prior to a scheduled home visit.
- For any activities (home visits or socializations) that occur at BCC's facility, parents/caregivers are required to follow all protocols including health screens and temperature checks.
- It is strongly recommended that parents wear a clean face covering when at BCC.