

**Briar Bush Nature Center  
Mitigation Plan for  
Modified In-Person Programming**

**1212 Edge Hill Road  
Abington, PA 19001**

## COVID-19: What you need to know

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### COVID-19

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.

- How is it spread?
  - COVID-19 most commonly spreads during close contact.
    - People who are physically near (within 6 feet) a person with COVID-19 or have direct contact with that person are at greatest risk of infection.
    - When people with COVID-19 cough, sneeze, sing, talk, or breathe they produce respiratory droplets. These droplets can range in size from larger droplets (some of which are visible) to smaller droplets. Small droplets can also form particles when they dry very quickly in the airstream.
    - Infections occur mainly through exposure to respiratory droplets when a person is in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.
    - Respiratory droplets cause infection when they are inhaled or deposited on mucous membranes, such as those that line the inside of the nose and mouth.
    - As the respiratory droplets travel further from the person with COVID-19, the concentration of these droplets decreases. Larger droplets fall out of the air due to gravity. Smaller droplets and particles spread apart in the air.
    - With passing time, the amount of infectious virus in respiratory droplets also decreases.
  - COVID-19 can sometimes be spread by airborne transmission.
    - Some infections can be spread by exposure to virus in small droplets and particles that can linger in the air for minutes to hours. These viruses may be able to infect people who are further than 6 feet away from the person who is infected or after that person has left the space.
    - This kind of spread is referred to as airborne transmission and is an important way that infections like tuberculosis, measles, and chicken pox are spread.
    - There is evidence that under certain conditions, people with COVID-19 seem to have infected others who were more than 6 feet away. These transmissions occurred within enclosed spaces that had inadequate ventilation. Sometimes the infected person was breathing heavily, for example while singing or exercising.
    - Under these circumstances, scientists believe that the amount of infectious smaller droplet and particles produced by the people with COVID-19 became concentrated enough to spread the virus to other people. The people who were infected were in the same space during the same time or shortly after the person with COVID-19 had left.
    - Available data indicate that it is much more common for the virus that causes COVID-19 to spread through close contact with a person who has COVID-19 than through airborne transmission.
  - COVID-19 spreads less commonly through contact with contaminated surfaces
    - Respiratory droplets can also land on surfaces and objects. It is possible that a person could get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.
    - Spread from touching surfaces is not thought to be a common way that COVID-19 spreads

- What are the symptoms?
  - People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms, ranging from mild to severe.
  - Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.
  - COVID-19 symptoms may include:
    - 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
  - This list does not include all possible symptoms of COVID-19. The CDC will continue to update this list we learn more about COVID-19.
  - For more information regarding the symptoms of COVID-19, please review the guidance outlined by the [CDC](#).

**If you have any questions regarding the Mitigation Plan for Modified In-Person Programming, please call Briar Bush Nature Center at (215) 887-6603.**

## Modified In-Person Programming: How to Prepare

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### **Know Yourself/Your Child. Know Your/Your Child's Needs.**

*Magic Mornings, School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series, A Walk in the Woods*  
Briar Bush Nature Center has implemented policies and procedures in accordance with CDC, PA Department of Health, and Township of Abington guidelines. These policies and procedures are in place in an effort to limit the transmission of COVID-19. Please review the policies and procedures outlined below to ensure you/your child can follow them throughout the program.

### **Pre-Screening**

*Magic Mornings, School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series, A Walk in the Woods*  
Briar Bush Nature Center has implemented pre-screening strategies in an effort to encourage behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- Staff
  - COVID-19 Exposure Survey
    - 30-60-minutes before the start of each workday, staff will complete a COVID-19 survey as issued by the Township of Abington in order to assess the likelihood of COVID-19 exposure.
  - Staying Home
    - Staff members are required to stay home if they:
      - are sick,
      - are showing symptoms of COVID-19,
      - have tested positive for COVID-19,
      - have recently had contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Participants
  - Self-Monitoring
    - In an attempt to prevent the exposure and transmission of COVID-19 to others, individuals / parents/guardians may:
      - take and record the participant's temperature for 14 days before the program,
      - self-screen for the presence of symptoms for 14 days before the program,
        - fever of 100.4 °F or greater
        - cough
        - shortness of breath
        - diarrhea
        - fatigue
        - headache
        - muscle aches
        - nausea
        - loss of taste or smell
        - sore throat
        - vomiting
        - etc.
      - determine if the participant has been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with, tested for, or quarantined as a result of COVID-19.

- Staying Home
  - Participants are required to stay home if they:
    - are sick,
    - are showing symptoms of COVID-19,
    - have tested positive for COVID-19,
    - have recently had contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
  - Individuals / parents/guardians are required to notify staff of any absence/illness.

## **Program Supplies**

*Magic Mornings, School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series, A Walk in the Woods*

Participants must come prepared to the program with the following:

- Mask
  - Participants ages 2+ and adults are required to wear a cloth or surgical face mask during each program.
    - Neck gaiters/buffs, bandanas, and face shields (without the use of a mask) are not permitted during the program.
- Clothing
  - Participants should be appropriately dressed for the program/weather.
    - Open-toed shoes are not permitted in programming. We find that closed-toed sandals work well, as they dry easily.
  - Participants will get dirty during most programs, so participants should arrive in clothing and shoes that can get wet and/or dirty.
  - For children's programs, it is best if the participant brings a backpack with an extra pair of clothes and shoes.
- Sunscreen / Insect Repellant
  - Apply sunscreen and insect repellant to the participant before arriving to the program.
  - You may pack sunscreen / insect repellant for the participant to reapply during the program.
- Water
  - A water bottle is required.
  - Snack/lunch-time is not permitted during programs.
- Personal Items
  - Personal items such as games, toys, electronics, etc. must remain at home.

## **Behavior Policy**

*Magic Mornings, School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series*

While the mission of Briar Bush Nature Center is to provide quality environmental education and an enjoyable experience, the safety and comfort of our participants and staff are of utmost importance.

- Program participants are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior at all times.
- The following guidelines have been developed in order to provide all those involved in programs with a safe and enjoyable experience.
- A caring and positive approach will be taken regarding discipline. Staff will positively reinforce appropriate behavior.
- Listed below are the disciplinary procedures for participants who are exhibiting inappropriate and unacceptable behavior. Examples of those behaviors are also listed below. This is not an extensive list. Depending on the severity of the behavior, a particular step may be skipped.

## Behavioral Policy

	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
<b>Level 1</b>	Redirection	Verbal Warning	Loss of Privilege / Removal from Activity / Discuss with Parents at End of Program
<b>Level 2</b>	Verbal Warning	Loss of Privilege / Removal from Activity / Discuss with Parents at End of Program	Loss of Privilege / Removal from Activity / Discuss with Parents during Program
<b>Level 3</b>	Removal from Program / Meeting with Parents		

### Levels of Offense

- Level 1
  - Disruption of program activities
  - Misuse of property
- Level 2
  - Disregard/disrespect/defiance/non-compliance toward staff, program, regulations, etc.
  - Inappropriate gestures/language
  - Bullying program participants, volunteers, staff, etc.
    - Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated or has the potential to be repeated, over time.
- Level 3
  - Endangering the wellbeing of self, program participants, volunteers, staff, or animals
  - Aggressive physical contact including hitting, kicking, etc.
  - Consistent bullying including aggressive verbal, social, or physical behavior.

## Program Logistics

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### General Public and Visitation

Briar Bush Nature Center has limited the access to facilities in an effort to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

- Museum and Bird Observatory
  - Public access to the Museum and Bird Observatory is prohibited.
- Trails
  - During the Green Phase, the trails are open to the public.

### Prevention Measures

*Magic Mornings, School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series, A Walk in the Woods*  
Briar Bush Nature Center has implemented measures that promote healthy hygiene and reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

- Face Coverings
  - Participants ages 2+ and adults are required to wear a cloth or surgical face mask during each program.
    - Neck gaiters/buffs, bandanas, and face shields (without the use of a mask) are not permitted during the program.
    - Participants are advised to refrain from touching their mask throughout the program.
    - Breaks from masks may be implemented during the program.
- Physical Distancing
  - Participants will be distanced at least 6' from one another throughout the program as often as possible.
    - Outdoor activities will be prioritized where physical distancing can be maintained as much as possible.
    - While indoors, participants will have assigned seating at least 6' apart. Indoor activities have been limited to 15-minute sessions.
  - Efforts to maintain physical distancing will not impact existing program safety protocols.
- Hand Hygiene
  - Staff will teach and reinforce proper handwashing techniques.
  - Hand sanitizer will be available at times when soap and water are not readily available.
- Respiratory Etiquette
  - Participants must cover coughs and sneezes with the inside of their elbow.
- Signage and Demonstrations
  - Signs that promote protective measures, describe how to stop the spread of germs, demonstrate proper handwashing, and demonstrate proper mask use will be posted throughout BBNC facilities.
  - Staff will demonstrate healthy hygiene practices during the program.
    - Staff will remind participants of these practices throughout the program.
- Food and Water
  - Participants are required to bring a water bottle to the program.
  - In an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, children's programs such as *Magic Mornings, Escape to Nature: After-School MTTHF, and Homeschool Series* will not consist of a snack

break. However, participants may bring a snack to *Escape to Nature: After-School W* and *School's Out* programs.

- Participants are distanced at least 10 feet from one another when taking water and snack breaks.

### **Participant Arrival / Drop-Off**

*School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series*

Briar Bush Nature Center has implemented a drop-off procedure that reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

- Drop-Off Carline Considerations
  - BBNC encourages the same parent/guardian to drop-off each day to limit exposure.
  - Parents/guardians are not permitted to enter any of the BBNC facilities.
  - Parents/guardians and participants must wear masks during drop-off.
  - Car seats cannot be held at the Center.
- Drop-Off Carline Procedure
  - Cars will enter BBNC's one-way driveway and stop at the Drop-off/Pick-Up Station at the garage.
  - Parents/guardians and participants must remain in their car while waiting in the carline.
  - BBNC staff will greet each family and conduct the initial screening in order of arrival.
    - See Initial Screening section.
  - BBNC staff will perform a supplies check to be sure the participant is prepared for the program.
  - If the participant passes initial screening, a staff member will escort the participant to their program location. The parent/guardian will exit the driveway and the next car will move up.
    - Participants will be instructed to use hand sanitizer when they arrive.
  - If a participant does not pass initial screening, he/she will not be permitted to join the program.

### **Initial Screening**

*Magic Mornings, School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series, A Walk in the Woods*

Briar Bush Nature Center has implemented initial screening strategies in an effort to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

- Staff
  - Administrative staff will perform screening of staff upon arrival to determine if individuals are permitted to enter. Screening of staff includes:
    - a temperature screening with the use of a non-contact thermometer,
    - a signs and symptoms check for any combination of these symptoms:
      - 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 who do not pass the initial screening will not be permitted to enter.
- Participants
  - Administrative staff will perform screening of participants upon arrival to determine if individuals are permitted to join the program.
  - Parents/guardians and participants must remain in the car throughout the duration of the screening.
    - Initial Screening of *Magic Mornings* participants will occur outside of the museum.
    - Initial Screening of *A Walk in the Woods* participants will occur at the meeting place.
  - Screening of participants includes:
    - a health screening questionnaire with participant / parent/guardian,
    - a temperature screening with the use of a non-contact thermometer,
    - a signs and symptoms check for any combination of these symptoms:
      - 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
  - Participants who do not pass the initial screening will not be permitted to join the program.

### **Ongoing Screening**

*Magic Mornings, School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series, A Walk in the Woods* Briar Bush Nature Center will implement ongoing screening throughout the program in an effort to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

- Signs and Symptoms
  - Staff will monitor each participant throughout the program.
  - If a participant develops a fever of 100.4 °F or greater OR any combination of the following symptoms (outside of allergies), he/she will be sent home:
    - 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

## **Program Groups**

*Magic Mornings, School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series, A Walk in the Woods*  
Briar Bush Nature Center has modified group logistics in an effort to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

- Magic Mornings
  - Maximum Number of Participants: 8 participants, 8 adults
  - Number of Groups: 1
  - Staff-to-Participant Ratio: 1:16
- School's Out
  - Maximum Number of Participants: AM - 16, PM - 16
  - Number of Groups: AM - 2, PM - 2
    - Children who have had contact with each other outside of the program will be placed in the same group if notified ahead of the program (siblings, cousins, family friends, etc.)
    - Each group will remain together with dedicated staff throughout the program.
    - There will be no mixing between groups during the program.
  - Staff-to-Participant Ratio: 2:8
- Escape to Nature: After-School
  - Maximum Number of Participants: 16
  - Number of Groups: 2
    - Children who have had contact with each other outside of the program will be placed in the same group if notified ahead of the program (siblings, cousins, family friends, etc.)
    - Each group will remain together with dedicated staff throughout the program.
    - There will be no mixing between groups during the program.
  - Staff-to-Participant Ratio: 2:8
- Homeschool Series
  - Maximum Number of Participants: 16
  - Number of Groups: 2
    - Children who have had contact with each other outside of the program will be placed in the same group if notified ahead of the program (siblings, cousins, family friends, etc.)
    - Each group will remain together with dedicated staff throughout the program.
    - There will be no mixing between groups during the program.
  - Staff-to-Participant Ratio: 2:8
- A Walk in the Woods
  - Maximum Number of Participants: 10
  - Number of Groups: 1
    - This outdoor adult program will include a maximum of 10 participants which will remain with dedicated staff throughout the program.
  - Staff-to-Participant Ratio: 1:10

## **Program Locations**

*Magic Mornings, School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series*

Briar Bush Nature Center has modified the use of program spaces/locations in an effort to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

- Indoor Spaces
  - Each group will have a designated indoor space.
    - Indoor spaces will be cleaned and disinfected after each program.
  - Indoor spaces will be temperature controlled.

- Indoor spaces will be used during inclement weather (extreme heat, humidity, thunderstorms, etc.).
- Indoor spaces will contain tables and chairs for program use.
  - Participants will be stationed in assigned seating in an effort to maintain physical distancing.
- Participants will have an assigned crate for personal belongings at their assigned seat.
  - Personal belongings will be kept separate from other crates.
  - Crates will be cleaned and disinfected after each program.
- Outdoor Spaces
  - Shelters
    - Each group will have a designated outdoor shelter space.
      - Outdoor spaces will be cleaned and disinfected after each program.
    - Outdoor shelter spaces will contain tables and chairs for program use.
      - Participants will be stationed in assigned seating in an effort to maintain physical distancing.
  - Trails
    - Each group will actively use the trail system and places of interest along the trails.
      - Physical distancing will be implemented.
    - Groups will remain separated from one another while on the trails.
- Bathrooms
  - Each group will use a designated bathroom facility.
  - Bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected after each program.

## **Program Activities**

*Magic Mornings, School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series*

Briar Bush Nature Center has modified program activities in an effort to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

- Craft / Activity Bag
  - Participants will receive a bag with items used for most activities during the program.
    - This bag will include items such as crayons, markers, paper, scissors, magnifying glass, etc.
- Animal Encounters
  - Programs will most likely include physical distanced Animal Encounters.
    - In order to protect the health of the animals (as some animals are known to contract COVID-19), participants will not have physical contact with the animals during the Red, Yellow, and Green Phases.
- Pond
  - Programs will most likely include visits to the pond.
  - The pond will be utilized by groups at designated times (staggered scheduling).
  - Pond equipment will be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Nature Play / Exploration
  - The programs will include opportunities for participants to explore and play in nature.
- Transitions
  - Participants will wash hands/use hand sanitizer between activities.

## **Participant Departure / Pick-Up**

*Magic Mornings, School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series*

Briar Bush Nature Center has implemented a pick-up procedure that reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

- Considerations
  - BBNC encourages the same parent/guardian to drop-off and pick-up each day to limit exposure.
  - Parents/guardians are not permitted to enter any of the BBNC facilities.
  - Parents/guardians and participants must wear masks during pick-up.
- Procedure
  - Cars will enter BBNC's one-way driveway and stop at the Drop-off/Pick-Up Station at the garage.
  - Parents/guardians must remain in their cars while waiting in the carline.
  - BBNC staff will greet each parent/guardian in order of arrival.
  - BBNC staff will check parent/guardian ID at pick-up before releasing the child.
  - If a parent/guardian is picking up a sick child during the camp day, he/she should follow the procedure above. A staff member will escort the camper to the car once ID is checked.

## **Cleaning / Disinfecting**

*Magic Mornings, School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series*

Briar Bush Nature Center has implemented intensified cleaning / disinfecting practices in an effort to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

- Program Locations / Materials
  - Program materials such as tables, chairs, bins, bathrooms, craft supplies, materials, etc. will be cleaned and disinfected after each program.
- Frequently-Touched Surfaces
  - Frequently-touched surfaces such as door handles, light switches, etc. will be cleaned/disinfected after each program.

## **Confirmed Case of COVID-19**

*Magic Mornings, School's Out, Escape to Nature: After-School, Homeschool Series, A Walk in the Woods*

Briar Bush Nature Center has implemented the Township of Abington's protocol in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19.

- Confirmed Case of COVID-19
  - In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19, Briar Bush Nature Center is required to shut down and halt in-person operations for 14 days.
    - Programs will be cancelled.
    - Briar Bush Nature Center will begin contact tracing to inform parents/guardians of potential contact with the confirmed individual.
      - In order to maintain confidentiality, the name and any potentially identifying information of the confirmed individual will not be provided.
    - Briar Bush Nature Center will contact the Township of Abington Emergency Management Coordinator who will inform local health officials and follow contact tracing guidelines.
    - Facilities will be cleaned and disinfected after 24-hours
    - Staff will stay home and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days.
      - Families of participants are encouraged to do the same.