

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

Effective: 03/07/22

COVID-19

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COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. Most people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms, but some people can become severely ill. Although most people with COVID-19 get better within weeks of illness, some people experience post-COVID conditions. Post-COVID conditions are a wide range of new, returning, or ongoing health problems people can experience more than four weeks after first being infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. Older people and those who have certain underlying medical conditions are more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19.

- How is it spread?
 - COVID-19 spreads when an infected person breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus. These droplets and particles can be breathed in by other people or land on their eyes, nose, or mouth. In some circumstances, they may contaminate surfaces they touch. People who are closer than six feet from the infected person are more likely to get infected.
 - COVID-19 is spread in three main ways:
 - Breathing in air when close to an infected person who is exhaling small droplets and particles that contain the virus.
 - Having these small droplets and particles that contain virus land on the eyes, nose, or mouth, especially through splashes and sprays like a cough or sneeze.
 - Touching eyes, nose, or mouth with hands that have the virus on them.
- What are the symptoms?
 - People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

▪ fever or chills	▪ headache
▪ cough	▪ new loss of taste or smell
▪ shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	▪ sore throat
▪ fatigue	▪ congestion or runny nose
▪ muscle or body aches	▪ nausea or vomiting
	▪ diarrhea
 - This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.
 - For more information regarding the symptoms of COVID-19, please review the guidance outlined by the [CDC](#).

Modified In-Person Programming

COVID Policies and Procedures

Briar Bush Nature Center (BBNC) has implemented policies and procedures in accordance with CDC, PA Department of Health, Montgomery County, and Township of Abington guidelines. These policies and procedures are in place in an effort to limit the transmission of COVID-19.

Please note that these policies are subject to change without notice.

Prevention Measures

Briar Bush Nature Center has implemented measures that promote healthy hygiene and reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

- Showing Symptoms
 - In an attempt to prevent the exposure and transmission of COVID-19 to others, program participants are highly encouraged 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
 - Please notify staff of any absence/illness by calling Briar Bush Nature Center at (215) 887-6603.
- Masking
 - Low and Medium COVID-19 Community Levels
 - Masking is required indoors for groups of 20 or more individuals. Masking is optional indoors, but strongly recommended, for groups of 19 individuals or less. Masking is optional, but strongly recommended, for groups outdoors.
 - If the program includes a Live Animal Encounter, the educator will be distanced at least ten feet from the audience. Audiences with fully-masked participants may have the opportunity to touch the mammal, reptile, and insect animal ambassadors. Audiences with unmasked participants cannot touch the mammal ambassadors.
 - High COVID-19 Community Level
 - Individuals ages 2+ are required to wear masks covering the nose and mouth throughout the duration of the program both indoors and outdoors.
 - If the program includes a Live Animal Encounter, audiences with fully-masked participants may have the opportunity to touch the reptile and insect animal ambassadors; mammals cannot be touched at this time.
 - Masks must properly fit over nose, mouth, and chin to prevent leaks and at least consist of multiple layers of tightly woven, breathable fabric. **Neck gaiters/buffs, bandanas, and face shields (without the use of a mask) are not permitted during the program.**
 - Breaks from masks may be implemented during the program.

Please be sure to pack a mask in the case that masking is required based on group size and/or Live Animal Encounters. BBNC has masks to distribute for participants without masks.

- Physical Distancing
 - Indoors
 - While indoors, participants will have assigned seating at least six feet apart.
 - Indoor activities have been limited to 15- to 30-minute sessions.
 - In the case of inclement weather, indoor activities may be extended.
 - Outdoors
 - Outdoor activities will be prioritized.
 - Physical distancing will be encouraged.
 - Efforts to maintain physical distancing will not impact existing program safety protocols.
- Hand Hygiene
 - Staff will encourage proper handwashing techniques.
 - Hand sanitizer will be available at times when soap and water are not readily available.
- Respiratory Etiquette
 - Participants are encouraged to 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.

Program Groups

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

- Capacity
 - Briar Bush Nature Center has reduced the capacity for most programs to allow for physical distancing while utilizing indoors spaces.
- Cohorts
 - For programs with a larger capacity, participants who have contact with each other outside of the program will be placed in the same group, if noted 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.

Ongoing Screening

Briar Bush Nature Center will implement ongoing symptom 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 for symptoms outside of those listed on the medical form.
 - If a participant begins to exhibit any combination of the following symptoms, the family may be contacted for early pick-up:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ cough ▪ shortness of breath or difficulty breathing ▪ fatigue ▪ muscle or body aches ▪ headache 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ new loss of taste or smell ▪ sore throat ▪ congestion or runny nose ▪ nausea or vomiting ▪ diarrhea
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Confirmed Case of COVID-19

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

- In the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19:
 - 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.

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