

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee (BBBSMM) is committed to the safety and well-being of our youth, families, volunteers, staff, and community. BBBSMM will remain in compliance with all CDC guidelines and recommendations regarding COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. BBBSMM has developed these guidelines in consultation with other BBBS agencies, nonprofits, businesses, etc. and has designed them to comply with state and national recommendations. Even when the state or national recommendations relax fully, this policy will remain in place until BBBSMM issues an updated policy.

Bigs should continue to communicate with their Little's parent/guardian about their preferences and comfort level and adhere to that preference during match outings. It continues to be the decision of each family and Big to determine if match will meet in-person, meet virtually, or a combination of virtual and in-person. Outdoor activities/outings are strongly encouraged whenever possible.

Infected/Sick Individuals or Those with Known Exposure

We require ALL sick individuals or individuals with known exposure to infections (included, but not limited to COVID-19, influenza, etc.) to do the following:

1. REFRAIN from in-person contact with their Big, Little, or Little's family until no longer contagious and adhere to CDC guidelines regarding contagion periods/windows.
2. Before any outing, Big and parent/guardian should assess their/their child's health and exposures. If yes to any of these questions, in-person meetings shouldn't take place.
 - a. Have I been around anyone who has been sick?
 - b. Do I feel achy?
 - c. Am I experiencing a fever or chills?
 - d. Am I unusually fatigued?
 - e. Do I have a cough (not allergy related) or tightness in my chest?
 - f. Am I experiencing digestive issues?
 - g. Do I have an unexplained rash?
 - h. Am I experiencing any other symptoms that are out of the ordinary?
3. When one is unable to meet with their Little/Big in-person due to infection or exposure to infection, AND one is also well enough to engage in virtual contact, we strongly encourage you to initiate meaningful virtual contact to keep the relationship strong and engaged until you can meet in person again. Consistency is one of the top qualities among great mentors!

Masks and Vaccinations

1. While wearing masks when sharing time together in-person is no longer required by BBBSMM, we STRONGLY ENCOURAGE all those who have not received vaccinations to continue to always wear masks. Further, we STRONGLY encourage those who have received recent vaccinations to follow CDC guidance that advises wearing masks until maximum inoculation is achieved.
2. If you are more comfortable wearing a mask, please feel free to continue to do so.
3. Providing personal information regarding vaccinations is not a requirement of our program and no BBBSMM program participant should feel pressure to share this information or request this information of another party.

SAFE IN-PERSON MATCH OUTING GUIDELINES

Effective June 15, 2021

4. Sharing one's vaccination status is purely voluntary and permitted.
5. PLEASE NOTE, however, that sharing your vaccination status DOES NOT mean the other party should/must share their status. Should members of the match disclose their vaccination status to BBBSMM, staff will keep this information confidential.
6. Bigs should continue to communicate with their Little and their Little's parent/guardian about their preferences and comfort level and adhere to that preference during match outings.
7. If the Big and Parent/Guardian agree to the Big transporting the Little, no matter vaccination status, the following is strongly encouraged:
 - Big and Little wear masks
 - Consider having windows down and keep travel distance minimal
 - Little should sit in back seat and on the passenger side
 - Use hand sanitizer directly before and after car ride
8. If Bigs and Littles visit venues/locations together that require masks, they must comply, regardless of vaccination status.
9. Bigs and parents/guardians should continue to make thoughtful choices about what is the best for themselves/their child.
10. Matches should always consider ripple effects and their recent exposures. They should also consider members of their family and whether in-person meetings will place immunocompromised individuals or individuals with other health concerns at a heightened risk. Match participants should be careful and sensitive in assessing if anyone feels anxious or concerned about safety and wellness. Should any party need support around how to have such conversations, they should contact BBBSMM for guidance.
11. Ultimately, being a Big is to be a role model. A mentor's responsibility is to model healthy behavior, responsible decision making, self-care, and being a rule-abiding and conscientious community member. Mentors also model ways to cope with frustrating and stressful situations by talking about feelings, suggesting healthy self-care activities, and being open about good days as well as bad days.

BBBS will continue to provide guidelines for matches that follows [Wisconsin Department of Health](#) and [Centers for Disease Control](#). It continues to be the decision of each family and Big when to meet in-person or continue meeting virtually. If you have any questions, concerns, or requests related to your match's activities, please reach out to your Match Support Specialist.

Below are some helpful links from the CDC website:

- [How to stay safe](#)
- [Fully vaccinated](#)
- [Choosing safer activities](#)

Prior to resuming in-person match outings, each match participant (including Big, Parent/Guardian, and Little) should review these guidelines. **BBBS will continue to monitor and follow advice of the CDC and state guidance and may choose to revise guidelines around in-person contact as needed.**

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