

# **Bethel Christian Schools – Riverside, CA**

## **SAFETY PLAN GRADES 6-12**

### **Key Contacts Described in Plan**

Superintendent	Dr. Michael Crites	951-359-1123
Principal	Mr. Michael Pangkee	mpangkee@bethelchristianschools.com
Dean of Students	Mr. Terence Spencer	tspencer@bethelchristianschools.com
Administrative Assistant	Mrs. Alicia Lemus	alemus@bethelchristianschools.com
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School Office		951-359-1123

**MISSION**

To keep Bethel Christian Schools (6-12) open for the 2020-2021 school year for on-campus learning as safely and fully as possible.

**PURPOSE**

To advance the gospel of Jesus Christ through private Christian Education as an in-person gathered community of teachers, administrators, staff, students, and parents for God’s glory, our joy, and for the benefit of all connected with Bethel Christian Schools.

**INTRODUCTION**

The goal of Bethel Christian Schools’ Safety Plan is to provide an environment that fosters the overall health of the children, adolescents, staff, and community that BCS serves. The plan is based on evidence that is currently available and will be monitored as new information or situations arise. BCS believes that keeping the school closed would be counter to scripture and would have a negative impact on the spiritual, mental, behavioral, and developmental health of BCS students. This plan will provide a framework for safety when Bethel Christian Schools reopens in the near future.

There are many federal, state, and local guidelines available when it comes to making decisions on how to best mitigate the risk and protect the BCS school and community. BCS has carefully considered many of the available guidelines and will lean on the medical advice provided by the Riverside County Public Health Department in conjunction with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Based on the provided guidelines, BCS will implement 12 steps to reopening schools.

**ONGOING MONITORING OF OUR PLAN**

BCS recognizes that COVID-19 is constantly changing. Due to the fluidity of the situation, BCS has assembled a COVID-19 Task Force that will meet on a regular basis to review and amend the reopening plan when necessary. The team is made up of school administrators, teachers, and parent representatives that will make recommendations to the administration for any alterations that may be needed according to the California Department of Public Health and our local health department at [www.Rivcoph.org](http://www.Rivcoph.org).

**THE FAMILY’S RESPONSIBILITY**

While medical experts agree that the risk to the individual child is very low when reasonable precautions are being taken, there is risk that a child could become infected while attending BCS and infect others.

No one knows the interactions of their child(ren) better than the parents. BCS is asking that the parents make the ultimate decision and accept the responsibility that enrolling their child(ren) at Bethel Christian Schools is appropriate. Please prayerfully consider whether or not you would like to have your child(ren) attend BCS and that the steps that BCS is taking as a community are in the best interest of your family.

**CLEANING, DISINFECTION & VENTILATION**

An enhanced cleaning schedule beyond normal vacuuming and trash collection will be used throughout each school day with emphasis on high-touch surfaces. Maximum efforts will be made to reduce the need to touch objects (no-touch waste containers, prop doors open when applicable, etc.), and teachers and staff will regularly reinforce “no sharing” policies in regards to food, water bottles, or cutlery. To the greatest extent possible, classroom materials and equipment will be made of materials that can be easily cleaned and disinfected after each use.

**Enhanced Cleaning:**

- Disinfect with Strike Bac Disinfectant Cleaner (**Best EPA Registered COVID-19 Disinfectant**) daily.
- Disinfect light switches, door handles, sink handles, tables, chairs, desks, and any other commonly touched surfaces regularly, preferably during recess and lunch and at the end of the day.
- Disinfect restrooms, floors, sinks, lunch tables, and water fountains\* throughout the day.

Parents and students will be encouraged to bring water bottles to school daily limiting the use of our water fountains and water refilling stations.

*NOTE: A copy of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) will be available in the school office for review. Additionally, if school admission increases, BCS will look into a feasible option of hiring a professional cleaning company in addition to our in-house custodial staff.*

**Ventilation**

It is expected that environmental conditions and airflow influence the transmissibility of COVID-19. Adequately ventilated classroom environments (e.g., open windows with air flow, and improved airflow through ventilation systems) are expected to be associated with less likelihood of transmission compared with poorly ventilated settings. Bethel is committed to increasing the proportion of outside air brought in through these systems (when possible) and to the use of outdoors or environments with improved ventilation (e.g., keeping windows open, doors propped, etc.).

Ventilation (AC Units) are checked annually for hazards, mechanical issues, and maintenance.

*NOTE: Installing a UV Light in the HVAC system is currently in discussion and may be considered via fundraiser.*

**STABLE GROUPS**

The purpose of a stable group is to prevent the mixing of students and staff so that if a child or employee develops an infection the number of exposures would be reduced. This applies to both indoor as well as outdoor activities.

Due to the nature of students transitioning between classes per period, grade level mixing within various subject matter is unavoidable. This is due to students being placed in a variety of different courses based on levels and electives. However, BCS administration will direct our students and staff to practice physical and social distancing whenever practicable.

## **ENTRANCE, EGRESS, AND MOVEMENT WITHIN THE SCHOOL**

### **Students**

- During morning drop off students will be directed to go to their class to avoid possible mixing.
- Students will have their temperature taken by their teacher.
- Recesses, breaks, and lunches are scheduled to limit the amount of contact between grade levels and any crossover with other students.
- Entrance and exit routes to and from classrooms and one-way directions around buildings will be implemented to limit contact with different cohorts. During student pick-up, each grade level will be assigned a pick up location for parents to pick-up their child(ren).

### **Staff**

- Staff has been trained to avoid close contact with students, other staff, and visitors when practicable.
- Teachers and campus supervisors have been directed to walk classes in a one way direction around buildings to avoid the possibility of mixing.

### **Visitors**

- All parents, visitors, and vendors will be screened prior to entering the main areas of Bethel's campus and then directed to the school office.
- Parents, under most circumstances, will not be allowed to enter classrooms.

NOTE: *Until further notice, our bus transportation is suspended.*

## **FACE COVERINGS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL PPE**

- In accordance with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and our local health department, all students (K-12) and adults, which include but are not limited to; staff, parents, vendors, and visitors will be required to wear a face mask upon entering school grounds.
- Staff, in limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (i.e., communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield will be used instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the staff member maintains physical distance from others, to the extent practicable. Staff will return to wearing a face covering outside the classroom.
- For staff who come into routine contact with others, CDPH recommends the use of disposable 3-ply surgical masks, which are more effective than cloth face coverings.
- Face coverings may be removed temporarily for purposes of eating meals and snacks.
- Face covering may be removed temporarily for outdoor recreation only if students and staff are able to maintain a physically distanced space of 6 feet or more between one another.
- Anyone that inadvertently fails to bring a face covering to the school will be given a face mask.
- If a student, parent, or visitor refuses to wear a face covering, the individual will be removed from the school.
- Staff that serves food and beverages will be required to wear gloves in addition to face coverings.

*\*NOTE: People are exempt from the face covering requirement if they are under the age of 2, have a medical or mental health condition or disability that would impede them from properly wearing or handling a face mask, or when it would inhibit communication with a person who is hearing impaired.*

### **HEALTH SCREENING FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF**

Bethel Christian Schools hereby states and implements a strict exclusion policy for symptomatic students and staff.

- Staff will be provided with information on signs and symptoms of potential COVID-19 in children so that appropriate action can be taken if children develop symptoms during the day.
- Temperature checks using no-touch thermometers will be conducted at the start of class for students. Temperature checks for staff members will be conducted before in the school office and results will be documented.
- Students and staff who have signs/symptoms of COVID-19 (according to CDC, California DPH and local Public Health guidance) will stay home and decisions about returning to school should be predicated upon the absence of symptoms. The individual will need to stay home and follow the guidance under **Identification and Tracing of Contacts** in this Safety Plan.
- Students that show symptoms while school is in session will be discreetly sent to the isolation room to avoid any undignified attention and parents/guardians will be notified immediately for pick up. The student will need to stay home and follow the guidance under **Identification and Tracing of Contacts** in this Safety Plan.
- The school's Distance Learning Protocol or other forms of structured learning may be implemented on an as-needed basis for children who are required to stay home because they are in quarantine, in isolation due to COVID-19 infection or exposure, doctor recommendations, and/or uncomfortable with onsite learning.

*NOTE: Parents and caregivers are ultimately responsible for the daily screening of their children at home prior to entering campus. A weekly checklist will be provided online via FACTS for parents to complete with their student(s) before arriving at school on Monday to clear for entry.*

### **HEALTHY HYGIENE PRACTICES**

COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses are almost exclusively spread by respiratory droplet transmission. As a result, and because virus shedding may occur prior to symptom onset or in the absence of symptoms, frequent and proper hand hygiene (soap and water or hand sanitizer) is critical to limit transmission. In fact, proper hand hygiene is one of the most effective strategies to prevent the spread of most respiratory viruses including COVID-19, particularly during the pre-symptomatic phase of illness.

- Teach students and remind staff to use tissue to wipe their hands and to cough/sneeze into a tissue or their elbow even when wearing a face covering.
- Students will be taught how to clean their hands properly using soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds, and instructed to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose, and mouth as much as possible throughout the day.

- A regular schedule for routine hand hygiene, above and beyond what is usually recommended, will be incorporated into the elementary (K-5) schedule (after break, before returning to class, before and after lunch, PE, etc.). For practical reasons and to avoid excess traffic in the hallways, the preferred strategy for these extra hand hygiene moments would be hand sanitizer provided by the teacher or from hand sanitizing stations that have been strategically placed around campus.

NOTE: *It is recommended that parents provide pocket-size sanitizer for their student(s) to bring to school.*

### **Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 and Exposures**

When a student, teacher, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and has exposed others at the school, the school will do the following:

1. Staff and students that test positive for COVID-19 will not be allowed on school grounds and must remain in isolation for 10 days. If results become known while the individual is on Bethel's campus, the individual will be immediately sent to the school's quarantine/isolation room to wait for parent/guardian pick up unless they are able to safely drive off campus.
  - a. The individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to be isolated for 10 days (from symptom onset or 10 days from test date if the case had no symptoms or if unsure when symptoms first started).
  - b. After 10 days of the isolation period, the individual must be without a fever for 24 hours without the use of medication and other symptoms have improved for isolation to be lifted and the individual cleared to come back to work or school.
2. Activate our COVID-19 confirmed case protocol.
  - a. Notify the Local Health Department and complete a contact tracing report. This report will be used to report cases of COVID-19, identify individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19, and to identify areas of the school that may be contaminated.
    - i. A student or staff member is determined to be exposed to COVID-19 when an individual is found to be less than 6 feet from the infected person for more than 15 minutes.
    - ii. The Dean of Student will conduct and determine who is considered exposed through interviewing various staff members and students (when practicable).
  - b. Identify areas that may be contaminated. Contaminated areas will be closed off for 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting to avoid exposure (if practicable).
  - c. A student who has been exposed, based on contact tracing, will have parents notified, by the school's administrative assistant, for immediate pick-up. Parents will need to do the following:
    - i. Self-quarantine their child for a minimum of 10 days.
    - ii. Strongly encourage parents to have their child tested for COVID-19 if their child develops symptoms during this time.
    - iii. If their child is symptom free during the 10-day self-quarantine, the child may return to school on the 11th day.

- iv. The student will not be penalized academically and may be switched to our distance learning program during this time.
- d. A *staff member* who may have been exposed will be sent home immediately to do the following:
  - i. Self-quarantine for a minimum of 10 days.
  - ii. Strongly encourage the staff member to be tested for COVID-19 if symptoms develop within the 10-day self-quarantine period.
  - iii. If the staff member is symptom free during the 10-day self-quarantine period, they may return to school on the 11th day.
  - iv. The staff member will be referred to our Human Resource Department to review various benefits, labor laws, disability insurance, Paid Family Leave, and unemployment insurance.

### **Symptomatic Students, Teachers, or Staff Members**

Students and staff members who become sick and develop COVID-19 symptoms while at home or at school will need to do one of the following:

1. Quarantine for a minimum of 10 days. The student or staff member may return to campus on the 11th day or thereafter if,
  - a. The individual does not have a fever for 24 hours without the use of medication.
  - b. Symptoms are improving.
2. The student or staff member receives clearance from their primary care physician or health professional clearing them to return to school/work.
3. The student, teacher, or staff member gets tested for COVID-19. During this time, they must quarantine.
  - a. If the results of the COVID-19 test are negative, the student, teacher, or staff member may return to Bethel if,
    - i. the individual does not have a fever for 24 hours without the use of medication and
    - ii. symptoms are improving.
  - b. If the results of the COVID-19 test are positive, the individual will need to do the following:
    - i. The individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 will need to be isolated for 10 days from symptom onset or 10 days from specimen collection date if asymptomatic or if unsure when symptoms first started.
    - ii. On the 11th day of the isolation period, the individual must be without fever 24 hours without the use of medication and symptoms are improving for isolation to be lifted and the individual cleared to come back to work or school.

*\*Note: The school will activate our Confirmed Case Protocol as stated under **Investigation and Responding to COVID-19 Cases** if there is a positive test case.*

### **PHYSICAL DISTANCING**

Where possible, we ensure at least six feet of physical distancing at all times at our school by:

- Staff and students always will remain at least six feet distance from one another, where practicable, in the classroom and outside the classroom.
- Teacher and other staff desks will be placed at least six feet away from student desks.
- A good-faith effort will be made to seat students 6 feet apart from each other when practicable.
- When weather permits, consideration will be given to having classes outside.
- Lunch and break times are staggered throughout the school day to avoid mixing and allow students to remain in established groups.
- Students will eat their lunch outdoors, unless inclement weather or poor air quality does not allow it.
- Lunch recess areas will be extended to accommodate physical distancing guidelines.
- Physical education classes will take place adhering to specified guidelines to the extent practicable and no equipment will be shared unless properly disinfected first.
- Visual cues such as signs and floor markings are used to indicate where staff, students, and visitors should be located or their direction and path to travel.
- On a volunteer basis, we allow employees to work from home when applicable.

### **STAFF TRAINING AND FAMILY EDUCATION**

Staff and families will be trained through email, in-person/virtual meetings (adhering to physical distancing), and school videos, educating them about:

- Enhanced sanitation practices
- Proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings.
- COVID-19 specific symptom identification
- How to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the case of sickness. This includes the importance of not coming to work or school if one becomes symptomatic, if they live with someone that has tested positive for COVID-19 or has come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- School procedures when a staff member or a student becomes symptomatic at school.
- Information regarding COVID-19-related benefits to which staff members may be entitled under applicable federal, state, or local laws.
- The fact that:
  - COVID-19 is an infectious disease that can be spread through the air.
  - COVID-19 may be transmitted when a person touches a contaminated object and then touches their eyes, nose, or mouth.
  - An infectious person may have no symptoms.
- Methods of physical distancing of at least six feet and the importance of combining physical distancing with the wearing of face coverings.
- The fact that particles containing the virus can travel more than six feet, especially indoors, so physical distancing must be combined with other controls, including face coverings and hand hygiene, to be effective.



- The importance of frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and using hand sanitizer when employees do not have immediate access to a sink or hand washing facility, and that hand sanitizer does not work if the hands are soiled.
- Providing up-to-date information pertaining to the identification of the signs and symptoms of potential COVID-19 in individuals.

NOTE: Parents and caregivers are ultimately responsible for the daily screening of their children at home prior to entering campus. A weekly checklist will be provided online via FACTS for parents to complete with their student(s) before arriving at school on Monday to clear for entry.

**TESTING STRATEGY AND APPROACH AND VACCINATION**

**Approach – Surveillance Testing**

Bethel Christian Schools requires all staff and highly suggest students to be tested according to the following table:

	Yellow Tier  CR < 1.0*  TP < 2%	Orange Tier  CR 1.0-3.9*  TP 2-4.9%	Red Tier  CR 4-7*  TP 5-8%	Purple Tier  CR > 7-13.9*  TP > 8%
Staff	Symptomatic and Response Testing	Symptomatic and Response Testing	Symptomatic and Response Testing plus Every 2 months asymptomatic testing.	Symptomatic and Response Testing plus Every 2 months asymptomatic testing.
Students	Symptomatic and Response Testing	Symptomatic and Response Testing	Symptomatic and Response Testing	Symptomatic and Response Testing

TP = test positivity

\* The case rates above are adjusted case rates.

\*\* Bi-monthly asymptomatic testing assumes the use of a PCR test.

**Additional Information:**

- Students or staff who have tested positive for active infections with SARS-CoV-2 virus within the last 90 days are exempt from asymptomatic testing.
- In the event of an outbreak on campus, staff will be required to test weekly until it is determined that the outbreak is over.
- Students and staff are advised to receive a PCR test from their primary care physician, CVS, or private provider.
- School administrative assistant will work with each staff member to arrange and confirm their appointment, confirm their test was taken, and collect results in accordance with privacy laws.
- Results of each staff member's test will be sent via email to the school's Administrative Assistant forwarded to the Dean of Students for actionable steps.
- Students or staff who have tested positive for active infection with COVID-19 virus within the last 90 days are exempt from asymptomatic testing.

**Definitions:**

- **Outbreak:** CDPH defines an outbreak as 3 or more confirmed or probable cases of staff or students occurring in a 14-day period who are epidemiologically linked in the school, are from different households, and are not contacts of each other in any other investigation cases (e.g., transmission likely occurred in the school setting).
- **Symptomatic testing:** This testing is used for individuals with symptoms of COVID-19, either at home or at school. In this situation, the school guidance requires that these individuals stay home and isolate in case they are infectious. The Guidance includes the possibility of returning to school in the case of a negative test for SARS-CoV-2 and 24 hours after fever is resolved and symptoms are improving.
- **Response testing:** This testing is used to identify positive individuals once a case has been identified in a given stable group. Response-based testing can be provided for symptomatic individuals or for asymptomatic individuals with known or suspected exposure to an individual infected with SARS-CoV-2.
- **Asymptomatic testing:** This testing can be used for surveillance, usually at a cadence of every 2 weeks or less frequently, to understand whether schools have higher or lower rates of COVID19 rates than the community, to guide decisions about safety for schools and school administrators, and to inform LHDs about district level in-school rates. Asymptomatic testing can also be used for screening, usually at a higher cadence (weekly or twice weekly) than surveillance testing, to identify asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic cases, in order to exclude cases that might otherwise contribute to in-school transmission. Screening testing is indicated for situations associated with higher risk (higher community transmission, individuals at higher risk of transmission (e.g., adults and high school students transmit more effectively than elementary aged students).

*Note: In the event of a positive case, our COVID-19 confirmed case protocol will be activated as explained in our Confirmed Case Guideline.*

### **Vaccination**

We have notified employees that the CDPH strongly recommends that all persons eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines receive them at the first opportunity. Currently, people under 16 are not eligible for the vaccine since trials for that group are still underway.

### **TRIGGERS FOR SWITCHING TO DISTANCE LEARNING PROTOCOL**

Bethel Christian Schools onsite program will be suspended and switched to our Distance Learning Protocol if:

1. Within a 14-day period, an outbreak has occurred in 25% or more stable groups in the school.
2. Within a 14-day period, at least three outbreaks have occurred in the school AND more than 5% of the school population is infected.
3. The Local Health Department may also determine school closure is warranted for other reasons, including results from public health investigations or other local epidemiological data.

*Note: The CDPH defines a school outbreak as 3 or more confirmed or probable cases of staff or students occurring within a 14-day period who are epidemiologically linked in the school, are from different households and are not contacts of each other in any other investigation cases (e.g., transmission likely occurred in the school setting)*

### **COMMUNICATION PLANS**

The Superintendent will work alongside the School Principal to communicate confirmed cases to staff, teachers, students, and parents about cases and exposure through emails, school notifications, video messages, and/or virtual Zoom meetings. Names of individuals who have been diagnosed or exposed to COVID-19 will be held confidential as required by FERPA and state law.

Meetings with our COVID-19 Task Force will be held regularly to review the current state of the school as it pertains to confirmed cases and exposures.

### **WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS - CDC GUIDELINES**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

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. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- 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. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

**WHEN TO SEEK EMERGENCY MEDICAL ATTENTION - CDC GUIDELINES**

**<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>**

Look for emergency warning signs\* for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

\*This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility: Notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19.

# 10 things you can do to manage your COVID-19 symptoms at home

Accessible Version: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

## If you have possible or confirmed COVID-19:

**1. Stay home** from work and school. And stay away from other public places. If you must go out, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ridesharing, or taxis.



**6. Cover your cough and sneezes.**



**2. Monitor your symptoms** carefully. If your symptoms get worse, call your healthcare provider immediately.



**7. Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



**3. Get rest and stay hydrated.**



**8.** As much as possible, **stay** in a specific room and **away from other people** in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people in or outside of the home, wear a cloth face covering.



**4.** If you have a medical appointment, **call the healthcare provider** ahead of time and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19.



**9. Avoid sharing personal items** with other people in your household, like dishes, towels, and bedding.



**5.** For medical emergencies, call 911 and **notify the dispatch personnel** that you have or may have COVID-19.



**10. Clean all surfaces** that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs. Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.



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[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)