



INSPIRING LIFE-LONG LEARNING

THE SCHOOLS OF BETHANY LUTHERAN

CULTIVATING CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

COVID Safety Plan 2021-2022

Bethany Lutheran School is committed to the physical, mental, social-emotional and spiritual health and safety of our students, their families, and our staff. We are also committed to a successful start of the school year and an exceptional educational experience for your child.

We believe that our love for Jesus, our daily interactions with children and families, our compassion and support for families, and our understanding of the value of an excellent Christian education are key among the factors that set us apart as a school.

Here's what you can expect from us in 2021-2022:

1. Rich and exceptional in-person educational experience beginning August 31
2. Full school day schedule
3. Extended daycare before and after school
4. Continued face-to-face Student Success sessions
5. A return to in-person art/music lessons, and after school sports and enrichment activities
6. Safe and secure campus
7. Faith-filled culture, centered on Jesus Christ and His promises for us

Plan and Protocol Development

Bethany Lutheran School will follow the protocols required by the Long Beach Health Department, which at this time align with the CDC and the California Department of Public Health guidance.

COVID19 Compliance Team

- Mary Fink, Principal (Liaison to DPH)
- Tammy Simpson, Preschool Director
- Carlota Brown, Extended Daycare (EDC) Director
- Kathy Tucker, HR
- Kim Yoshiyama, Administrative Assistant

Plans/protocols for:

[Arrival and departure of students](#)

[Daily and Ongoing Screening of Staff and Students](#)

[Staff/students who become sick](#)

[Close contact/exposure to COVID:](#)

[Access to COVID19 Testing](#)

[Students who must stay home due to exposure or illness:](#)

[Promoting healthy hygiene practices](#)

[Intensified cleaning and disinfection](#)

[Face coverings](#)

[Hydration, snacks and lunches](#)

[Forgotten supplies](#)

[Ventilation of classrooms](#)

[Visitors](#)

Arrival and departure of students

Introduction:

- We realize that some students are dropped off/picked up by grandparents, siblings, carpools, etc., therefore “parents” in the protocol below refers to whichever adult is in charge of the child for drop off/pick up.
- Parents should monitor students for signs of illness, [including COVID19](#), and/or a fever before bringing them to school in the morning. Students who show signs of COVID19 illness or a temperature over 100.4 should not come to school.

EDC students:

- Parents will drop off/pick up students from EDC at the EDC gate and will not enter the parking lot.
- Parents should park their car along Arbor Road or at the park and accompany their student to the EDC gate.
- Parents **MUST** wear a mask when signing in students.
- Parents may not come through the gate, but will be met at the gate by EDC staff.
- The EDC gate will close for morning drop-off at 7:45 AM. Arrivals later than 7:45 AM will need to participate in the drive-through/drop-off described below.

All other K-8 students:

- Parents may drop off/pick up students using the drive-through, entering the campus from Clark and exiting the campus by turning **RIGHT** on Arbor.
- Parents may also park their cars in designated parking spots outside the school gate and **walk their students** to Freedom Square.
- There may be days (such as the first day of school) when more parents will want to be on campus. On those days, we will open parking spots inside the gate.

Morning schedule (7:50-8:40 AM):

- Grades 3-8 may enter their classrooms at 8:00 AM and class will begin at 8:10. Grades K-2 may enter their classrooms at 8:30 AM. Class will begin at 8:40.
- Wednesdays will be a late start day for older students....all students may enter classrooms at 8:30. Class will begin at 8:40.
- Please note that K-2 siblings of older students may use morning EDC from 8:00-8:30 at no charge.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Morning Drive-through/Drop-off plan:

- Parent cars will come through the rolling gate by the gym. Coming through the gate is a signal to students that they should gather their belongings and be prepared to quickly exit the car at the appropriate time.
- Parent cars should form **two** lines as they progress through the parking lot.
- Students will stay in their cars until they reach the EDC doors. Students will exit the cars as directed by staff.
- Staff members will direct cars to exit the Arbor Road gate by turning **RIGHT**.
- The drive through will be open until 8:40, at which point the rolling gates will be closed.
- Please allow extra time and note that students will be counted tardy if they arrive after 8:10 (Grades 3-8) or 8:40 (Grades K-2).
- Students who arrive after 8:40 will need to be escorted by their parent to the school office to check in.

Afternoon pick-up plan:

- Parents who wish to walk inside the campus to pick up their children may park on the street or at Pan Am Park and enter the campus from the school office gate. Parents should plan to arrive at 3:00 and wait in Freedom Square. Parking will not be available in the school lot in the afternoon.
- The rolling gate by the gym will be opened at 3:15 for afternoon pick-up.
- Parents should enter the Bethany lot by driving **NORTH** on Clark Avenue and turning right to avoid backing up traffic on Clark Avenue.
- There will be two pick-up lines: one for students with siblings/carpools, and one for single students.
- Single students will line up along the ditch and students with siblings/carpools will line up along the school building.
- The school will provide nametags for parents....please attach these to your cars' passenger side visors and flip the visor down to display your child's name. This will help pick-up to run more smoothly.
- Staff members will assist students to watch for their parents and will help students into their cars. (Please note that in order to keep students safe and traffic moving, staff members will not be available for conversations or conferences during this time.)
- Parents should remain in their lines and proceed with the traffic
 - For the safety of our students, parents should not change lines or go around other cars.

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- If for some reason students are not outside for parents to pick up, parents should proceed through the Arbor gate and come back around to enter off of Clark.
 - After picking up students, parents should exit the parking lot by turning right on Arbor.
 - The drive-through will remain open until 3:30. Students who have not been picked up by 3:30 will be checked into EDC. Parents may pick up students there.

Daily and Ongoing Screening of Staff and Students

Staff Members:

- Staff members will stay home if they [show any symptoms of COVID19](#).
- Staff members who develop signs of illness during the school day will be isolated and asked to seek medical care and/or go home.

Students:

- Parents will monitor students for [symptoms of COVID](#) and/or fever. Students with symptoms and/or a temperature greater than 100.4 should not come to school.

Staff/students who become sick

- Students or staff members who develop COVID symptoms while on campus will:
 - Put on a surgical face mask immediately (provided by the school)
 - Be escorted to the isolation room where they will remain and be monitored until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility.
- If signs/symptoms are severe, the school will:
 - Call 9-1-1 immediately, then
 - Notify family members
- Students and staff members who have been sent home or to a healthcare facility due to illness or who develop signs of illness at home may not return to school until:
 - 24 hours fever-free without the use of medication and symptoms have resolved
AND
 - Have a doctor's note that says symptoms are consistent with an alternative diagnosis/underlying condition
OR
 - Have a negative PCR Covid test result (not a rapid/antigen test)
OR
 - 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

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- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID19, the school will:
 - Maintain staff/student confidentiality
 - Report the illness to the Long Beach Health Department and follow the department's guidance for next steps including but not limited to:
 - Asking the person affected to identify all individuals (students, teachers, families and other staff) who have been in close contact with the person for two days prior to the onset of symptoms to the present.
 - Report the illness (and subsequent negative test results, if applicable) to all Bethany families while maintaining confidentiality.
 - Contact staff and students in close contact with the individual regarding next steps.
 - Enforce anti-harassment and discrimination policies.
 - Provide materials for students to make up missed school lessons.
 - Advise staff members regarding sick leave, telework, disability, family leave options.
 - If there are two confirmed cases of COVID19 on campus(students or staff) during a 14-day period, the school will assess whether the two cases have epidemiological links.
 - If no links exist, the school will continue with routine COVID19 monitoring
 - If links do exist, the school will reinforce messages with students and staff about precautionary measures to prevent spread.
 - If there are three or more COVID19 cases during a 14 day period, the school will:
 - Determine if cases have epidemiological links.
 - Report the cluster to the Health Department within one business day
 - Complete the required reports for cases and contacts
 - Follow the Health Department's guidance for next steps.

**Students who have seasonal allergies will need to provide a doctor's note documenting the allergy and its accompanying symptoms.*

Close contact/exposure to COVID

- "Close contact" is [defined by the CDC](#) as "someone who was indoors and within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes over a 24 hour period starting from 48 hours before illness onset." In the school setting, this will likely mean a student's grade-level classmates and teacher, but could include others.
- Students and staff members who have been in close contact with a person who tests positive fall into a combination of categories: vaccinated and unvaccinated, masked and un-masked.
- Unmasked/Unvaccinated exposure:
 - Must stay home and quarantine for 10 days from the last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID19

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OR

- If no symptoms develop, may end quarantine after Day 7 with a negative COVID test. A rapid (antigen) test may be used for this purpose.
- Unmasked/Vaccinated exposure:
 - Do not need to quarantine unless symptoms appear
 - Should obtain COVID test immediately, then again 5-7 days later. Rapid (antigen) tests may be used for this purpose.
- Masked/Unvaccinated exposure:
 - Do not need to quarantine unless symptoms appear
 - Should test twice weekly for 14 days. Rapid (antigen) tests may be used for this purpose.
 - May continue to attend school for in-person instruction, but must quarantine from all other after-school extra-curricular activities such as sports, music lessons, both on campus and outside-of-school.
- Masked/Vaccinated exposure:
 - Do not need to quarantine unless symptoms appear
 - Should obtain COVID test immediately, then again 5-7 days later. Rapid (antigen) tests may be used for this purpose.

Please note: Siblings of students or children/spouses of staff members who are exposed are considered “secondarily exposed” and are not required to quarantine unless they develop symptoms

Access to COVID19 Testing

- Staff and students who require COVID19 testing may obtain a test through their family physician OR use on the COVID19 testing sites in Long Beach. Appointments for tests are available here:
<http://www.longbeach.gov/health/diseases-and-condition/information-on/coronavirus/covid-19-testing/>
- Over-the-counter rapid (antigen) tests are available at local drugstores and are appropriate in certain circumstances as outlined above.

Students who must stay home due to exposure or illness:

Bethany will provide lessons and assignments for students who must miss school due to illness or COVID exposure. These lessons cannot and will not replicate an actual day at school, but will keep students from falling behind academically while they are home. In most cases, teachers will not be “Zooming” with these students, although situations may arise where it does become necessary to do so.

Promoting healthy hygiene practices

- All classroom sinks and staff/student restrooms are equipped with touchless soap and paper towel dispensers as well as touchless trash cans.
- All classrooms, restrooms, offices and lunch areas are equipped with touchless hand sanitizer dispensers.
- The school will instruct students and staff on [proper hand washing protocols](#)
- All staff and students will wash or sanitize their hands:
 - Upon arrival to the campus
 - After playing outside
 - After using a shared surface
 - Before and after using the restroom
 - After blowing nose, coughing or sneezing
 - Before eating

Intensified cleaning and disinfection

- The following surfaces will be disinfected between shared uses:
 - Tables
 - Countertops
- The following surfaces will be sanitized after hours daily following [EPA approved protocols](#):
 - Door and closet handles
 - Handrails
 - Bottle filling stations/water fountains
 - Restroom surfaces (will also be sanitized mid-morning, after lunch and mid-afternoon)
 - Vending machines (will also be sanitized mid-morning and after lunch)
 - Light switches
 - Classroom phones

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Face coverings

- All staff and students will wear face coverings indoors. Face coverings must [comply with CDC recommendations](#).
- Students should bring two clean face coverings with them each day.
- Students who cannot wear face covering due to a medical condition may wear a face shield instead.
- In some cases, teachers and students may use face shields when teaching/learning phonological concepts, etc. The school will provide these to students/staff.
- Students and staff should follow [CDC guidelines](#) for safe wearing and sanitizing of face coverings, including washing face coverings daily.

Hydration, snacks and lunches

- Students should bring a refillable water bottle each day.
- Students should bring snacks and lunches in a lunch container as usual. ChoiceLunch will also be available.
- Students may not share snacks or lunches.
- If students forget lunches, we will provide them an emergency lunch from ChoiceLunch and parent accounts will be charged.
- To minimize unnecessary contact and traffic on campus, we will not call parents to bring forgotten lunches.

Forgotten supplies

- Please help your child remember to bring all supplies needed for the day, including homework, iPads/Chromebooks, jackets, etc. It may be helpful to:
 - Develop a daily checklist
 - Have your child pack his/her lunch the night before and put it in the refrigerator
 - Have your child pack his/her backpack before going to bed and put it by the front door so it is ready to go (along with a note to grab their iPad/Chromebook and their lunch out of the frig!)
- To minimize unnecessary contact and traffic on campus, we will not call parents to bring forgotten supplies. This may be a bit distressing to students, but we hope it will also be a learning experience.

Ventilation of classrooms

- All classroom air conditioning/heating filters have been changed.
- Classrooms will utilize a HEPA air filter when doors are closed. (Note: HEPA filters do not eliminate COVID19, but [filtering the air](#) may help minimize spread.)
- Classroom doors and windows will be left open when it is practical to do so.

Visitors

- Visitors to campus must be free from COVID19 symptoms and wear a mask (ages 2 and up) indoors. If visitors do not have a mask, Bethany will provide one.
- Visitors should enter via the Arbor Road security gate and proceed to the school office for check-in.

Final thoughts

- The 2020-2021 school year was successful because our Bethany families were vigilant about monitoring their children for signs of COVID, cooperated with school policies and extended grace upon grace to staff members and to each other as we weathered the pandemic together. Treating each other with patience, love and compassion is what we do best at Bethany and we know the 2021-2022 year will be no exception.
- Given all that we had to endure last year (learning-from-home, cohort sizes, desk shields, etc.) wearing masks indoors seems very do-able!
- Returning all students to school involves moving forward in faith and acknowledging that there is some risk as soon as we leave the safety of our homes. No place of business, worship or education can guarantee 100% protection from COVID19. But we can all do our part to minimize those risks and the spread of the disease.
- The Bethany Lutheran School staff will do its best to keep kids safe at school, but we also know that kids are kids: masks are going to get dirty or fall off, kids are going to forget to pull their masks up after recess, and some kids will wash their hands for less than the recommended 20 seconds. In fact, we are sure you have seen some of these same behaviors in your own home. Our goal is to promote and encourage the best and safest behavior possible in the school setting.
- Finally, and most importantly, a reminder from God's Word:

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1

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