

Bethany Lutheran School

COVID 19

Guidelines

2021-2022



DISCLAIMER

The following information does not constitute legal advice, medical advice, or an endorsement of any product or service referenced herein. The following document is intended only as a starting point and outline in preparing to reopen Bethany Lutheran School.



BETHANY
LUTHERAN SCHOOLS TK-8

COVID GUIDELINES AT SCHOOL (TK-8)

2021-2022

Introduction

Solano County public schools has aligned with the California Department of Health which has mostly aligned with the Center for Disease Control. Solano County will continue to directly align with State guidance. Bethany Lutheran Schools relies heavily on information from the State, County, CDC, and our Church District, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) in making and preparing protocols for the safety and well being of our community.

- The local Health Order has been lifted and there will be no additional restrictions imposed in Solano. California will keep a close eye on COVID-19 vaccination and infection rates over the summer and keep these guidelines in place until at least September 1, 2021.

Prevention Strategies to Reduce Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in Schools

Regardless of the level of community transmission, it is critical that schools use and layer prevention strategies. Five key prevention strategies are essential to safe delivery of in-person instruction and help to prevent COVID-19 transmission in schools:

Universal and correct use of masks

Physical distancing

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

All prevention strategies provide some level of protection, and layered strategies implemented at the same time provide the greatest level of protection. Schools should adopt prevention strategies to the largest extent practical—a layered approach is essential.

Universal and Correct Use of Masks

Effective cloth face coverings (as defined by ACPHD) are required in large group settings, (except when eating or drinking) indoors and when being transported in school buses and vans or

authorized-for-a-school-event personal vehicles for everyone at school. Exceptions for no face covering must be made by a doctor. No other exceptions can be made.

When wearing a mask in certain settings, BLS students, faculty, and staff must wear a surgical facemask or a cloth face covering with two layers are preferred. In a study from Duke University, bandanas only block half the droplets and fleece gaiters emitted more droplets likely caused by breaking into smaller ones. Bandanas, neck gaiters, and masks with exhaust valves are not acceptable at BLS.

BLS will provide a disposable face covering for a student who intermittently forgets to bring a mask.

A face shield is an acceptable alternative for those who cannot wear face covering properly, but it must be worn with a cloth drape across bottom and secured (i.e. tucked in to shirt, tied around back of neck).

Unvaccinated staff will wear a face covering except when working alone in an office with door closed. Staff who are exempt for medical reasons will wear a face shield. Face shields must be worn with cloth drape across bottom and secured (i.e. tucked into shirt, tied around back of neck). In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, a face shield can be used instead of a cloth face covering while in the classroom as long as wearer maintains physical distance from others, to the extent practicable. Face shields must be worn with cloth drape across bottom and secured (i.e. tucked into shirt, tied around back of neck).

DO choose masks that

-  **Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric**
-  **Completely cover your nose and mouth**
-  **Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps**

DO NOT choose masks that

-  **Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example, vinyl**
-  **Have exhalation valves or vents, which allow virus particles to escape**
-  **Are intended for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators or surgical masks**

Do NOT wear a mask



Physical Distancing

VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS

BLS will need to limit volunteers (with the exception of preschool parents as required by law) and visitors on campus in the following ways:

- Only volunteers willing to show proof of vaccination who desire to assist in classrooms are permitted as teacher assistance.
- Only after school learning providers who are willing to show proof of vaccination can be considered
- Parents and emergency contacts to school offices if wearing a mask.
- Visitors to the office will be limited to 2 at a time; others should wait outside.

Whenever possible, please contact the office by telephone or by email for assistance. Appointments will usually be conducted via Zoom or telephone.

DISTANCING

The enrollment at BLS allows for space within the classroom and outdoors. Whenever possible, teachers will encourage students to keep the habit of distance. Within the classroom, teachers will space students apart whenever possible. However, group work that is necessary to move forward with learning will be employed and may result in table group seating.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

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, routine, 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.

Students will be reminded about how to clean their hands properly with age-appropriate material and to try and avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth as much as possible. Students who have symptoms of a respiratory tract infection should stay home and students will be reminded to sneeze or cough into their elbow/sleeve.

A regular schedule for routine hand hygiene, above and beyond what is usually recommended (before eating food, after using the bathroom, upon entry from outdoors, after using shared materials when sharing cannot be avoided, after touching face, nose, or mouth, etc.) will be encouraged.

Access to hand hygiene facilities (hand sanitizer dispensers and sinks/soap) is critical. Hand sanitizer (70% USP grade alcohol) is available at the entry point for each classroom and in all work spaces. Hand soap and sinks are available throughout the facility including multiple outdoor stations including near the playground. No-touch waste receptacles are available for disposal of materials throughout the facility. Disposable, disinfectant wipes or spray bottles of disinfectant and paper towels are available in every classroom and work space so that commonly used surfaces can be wiped down by individuals before each use (teachers, older students).

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

A regular cleaning schedule will be used throughout the school year with emphasis on high touch surfaces. Maximum efforts will be made to reduce the need to touch objects/doors (no-touch waste containers, prop doors open), and teachers and staff will regularly reinforce “no sharing”

of food, water bottles or cutlery policies. To the greatest extent possible, sharing of classroom materials and equipment will be prohibited.