



Berean Baptist Academy

2020-2021 OPERATIONS GUIDE

CITIZENSHIP. SCHOLARSHIP. LEADERSHIP.

FAMILY INFORMATION GUIDE

COVID RESPONSE PLAN

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Disclaimer

Berean Baptist Academy recognizes the necessity of providing an environment that fosters the wellness and health of its students and families, and Berean desires to reflect responsible citizenship and proper stewardship in daily operations. Although Berean Baptist Academy operates as a private institution, this approach is built upon the guidance and recommendations of public health officials; it is aligned to the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) from June 8, 2020 and updated June 24 and June 30. Additionally, this approach highly mirrors the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction guidance found in *Lighting Our Way Forward*.

The guidelines outlined in this plan are designed to optimize in-person instruction with reasonable accommodations to promote the health and safety of students. The guidelines and information outlined are subject to change based upon research data and government authorities. Closure will not include the stopping or reduction of tuition.

COVID INFORMATION

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an infectious illness caused by a virus, and the illness can spread from person to person. The symptoms for COVID-19 range from mild to severe.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

While the number of symptoms for COVID-19 continue to expand, the most predominant warning signs for COVID-19 include the following symptoms:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent cough or fatigue
- Recurring pain or pressure in the chest
- Bluish lips or face
- Fever of 100.4 or higher

Who is at the greatest risk?

According to the NCDHHS, individuals who are considered high-risk for severe illness due to COVID-19 include people who have a high-risk condition that includes one or more of the following conditions:

- Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
- Heart disease with complications
- Compromised immune system
- Severe obesity - body mass index of 40 or higher
- Other underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, such as diabetes, renal failure or liver disease

How will the school help minimize the risk of exposure?

Berean Baptist Academy cannot guarantee absolute protection against COVID-19 to its students or families; however, the following steps have been taken to mitigate the risk the exposure and spread of COVID-19:

- Reduction in class size
- Use of learning cohorts (children within the same daily group)
- Modification of daily operations
- Increased disinfecting and cleaning of high-touch surfaces
- Offering a virtual learning option
- Temporal (forehead) thermometer

What happens in the event of a confirmed case?

If Berean Baptist Academy has a case of COVID-19, we will follow the exact guidance being given to public schools. We will adhere to the following process for allowing a student or staff member to return to school.

¹ NC Department of Health and Human Services; Center for Disease Control Prevention

- If a person has had a negative COVID-19 test, they can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines and they have felt well for 24 hours.
- If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a medical professional based on a test or their symptoms or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they cannot be at school and must stay at home until they (or a family member if younger child) can answer YES to the following three questions:
 - Has it been at least 10 days since the child first had symptoms?
 - Has it been at least 3 days since the child had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine)?
 - Has it been at least 3 days since the child's symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?
- BBA will notify local health authorities of confirmed COVID-19 cases among children and staff (as required by NCGS § 130A-136.)
- If a student/employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they must remain out of school until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.
- If a student/employee that has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or has been presumed positive by a medical professional due to symptoms, they are not required to have documentation of a negative test in order to return to school.
- If a student/employee has been determined to have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain out of school for 14 days since the last date of exposure unless they test positive. In which case, exclusion criteria above would apply. They must complete the full 14 days of quarantine, even if they test negative.
- Provide remote learning options for students unable to be at school due to illness or exposure.
- After consultation with local health officials, follow their guidelines for operational concerns.

GUIDELINES FOR ONSET OF ILLNESS

Child

- If a child becomes sick during the day, the teacher will remove child to the nurse's station where the child will be kept comfortable until a family member or guardian arrives. The family member guardian will immediately be called, and a request for immediate pick up will be made.
- If a child becomes sick at home with any symptoms (cough, fever, muscle aches, generally not feeling well), notify us and keep your child at home. Follow our current illness policy to understand the return to school policy. If symptoms are consistent with Covid-19, please phone your child's pediatrician and ask for guidance. Please phone us and share that guidance so that Berean will know how to proceed with our next steps of notifying the proper and required people, and/or authorities.

Family Member

Children who have had close contact with a person with symptoms or diagnosed with COVID-19 must stay home and monitor symptoms.

SCHOOL DAY OPERATIONS

Arriving at School

- Traffic flow will be routed to accommodate for wellness checks when being dropped off at each building.
- Students undergo a wellness check before entering the building. Students must stay with their parent or car until the student has passed the wellness check.
- Additional staffing will be in place to provide adequate supervision for both traffic and morning wellness checks.
- Students who have a temperature of 100.4 or higher using a temporal (forehead) thermometer will not be allowed to attend school and must follow health protocols before being allowed to return.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be setup at the entrances to the buildings.

Using Extended Care

- As permitted, Extended Care will utilize temporary holding areas in the early morning and late afternoon for children utilizing Extended Care.
- Students will be directed to their learning cohort's area.
- Student activities will be limited to minimize physical interactions with other students.

Attending Classes

Elementary Learning Cohorts

- Students' desks will face the same direction to mitigate risk of exposure to others.
- Except in the case of an emergency, students in the Elementary School will remain in the same group each day with limited interaction with other groups.
- Elementary teachers who teach specialty classes, such as art, technology, etc., will rotate to the student classrooms.
- Elementary cohorts will have separate playground times and physical education.
- Elementary students will have a temperature screening conducted at lunchtime.

Upper School Learning Cohorts

- Except in the case of an emergency, students in the Upper School will remain in the same learning group each morning and teachers will rotate to the students.
- Student desks will face the same direction to mitigate risk of exposure to others.
- Students will have a temperature screening conducted at lunchtime.
- Students will form new learning groups in the afternoon.

- Students will have another temperature screening before changing electives.

Utilizing the Restroom and Water Breaks

Elementary School

- Classes will incorporate restroom breaks into the school day.
- Classes will stagger restroom visits so that no two classes are using the same restroom at the same time.
- Students will be instructed to wash their hands for 20-seconds.
- Water fountains will be limited to filling personal water bottles.
- Adjacent sinks will be marked off for non-use.
- BBA has installed touchless paper towel dispensers
- Students will be encouraged to use a clean paper towel to operate sinks

Upper School

- Students will be able to use the restroom during class periods.
- Teachers will only release one student at a time from the classroom
- Each classroom will have a designated restroom location

Using Personal Protective Equipment

- Students can wear Personal Protection Equipment (face covering and gloves) according to parental discretion.
- Parents should be aware of face covering exceptions regarding age, medical or behavioral conditions, activities, etc.

Eating Lunch

- Students will remain with their group during lunch with sufficient distancing between groupings. Lunches will be delivered to each group's table in a closed food container.
- A clear plastic barrier will be placed down the middle of the table.
- Students may bring their lunch.
- Students may not share lunch items.

Limiting Visitors on Campus

- To minimize the risk of exposure, non-essential visitors cannot be allowed to visit students on campus. This includes, but is not limited to, lunch visits or birthday celebrations.

Dismissing Students

- Students will be dismissed with adequate distancing between groups and at staggered times.

Increased Sanitation

BBA will increase sanitation to mitigate potential exposure by:

- Using a CDC cleaner nightly on each desk and table, locker doors, and high touch areas.
- Hourly wipe downs of restrooms.

- Routine daily cleaning of any shared supplies before another student uses the supplies.

Extracurricular Events

Athletics

- The NCCSA strongly recommends that athletes, coaches, staff, and participants wear a face covering when not actively engaged in physical activity.
- If a school transitions to online-only learning because (1) COVID-19 cases increase statewide and Governor Cooper orders a “stay-at-home” executive order, or (2) faculty, staff, or students contract COVID-19, any NCCSA games during this time will be canceled and re-scheduled once the school and the opponent are meeting onsite for teaching/learning.
- BBA will conduct medical screening before each practice.
- Practices will be limited to safe numbers for indoor and outdoor areas.
- Competition will begin when the state moves to Stage 3 of the Governor’s Reopening Plan.
- Spectator size will be determined by NCCSA guidance being provided at that time.

Field Trips

- Field trips are an important part of learning and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Programs

- Many school programs will be determined by the current situation weeks before the event. All decisions will be made early enough to avoid parental expenses for special clothing or supplies.

Online/Remote Learning Option

- BBA encourages students to attend classes, on campus. However, we understand that not every student may not be comfortable, or able to return to a physical classroom learning environment. Therefore, parents may opt to participate in remote learning.
- **Learning Platform** – BBA will use Google Classroom in grades K-12 to extend the reach of the classroom by providing students access to their classrooms remotely to maintain their daily learning schedule. Full teaching sessions will be made available to students via Google Classroom (Meet) and posted recordings of those live sessions. Sessions will be taught by their assigned teacher.
- **Attendance** –
 - Elementary students learning remotely will be required to participate in a pre-scheduled daily checkup time with their teacher. Attendance will be taken daily based on their live participation.
 - Upper School students will be required to attend the live session of their classes and to communicate with their teachers daily. Attendance will be taken daily based on their live participation.
- **Homework** – All work must be submitted on the designated due date and will be subject to the school’s late policy.

- **Tests/Examinations** – Any major examination normally given in class will require remote learning students to schedule a time to receive a proctored exam.

References

Center for Disease Control - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>

COVID Fact Sheet - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

NC Department of Health and Human Services. "Public Health Toolkit (K-12)." Published June 8, 2020 and updated June 24, 2020

NC Department of Public Instruction. "Lighting Our Way Forward: North Carolina's Guidebook for Reopening Public Schools." Updated July 15, 2020.

Parental Feedback Surveys from BBA parents.