



2022-2023 COVID Safety Plan

Updated April 2023

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.

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](#)

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

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 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 or special event days) 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.
- 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.
 - 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.

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

-
- 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.

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.

Access to COVID19 Testing

- Bethany Lutheran School will provide rapid antigen tests to staff and students who need them.

Students who must stay home due to exposure or illness:

Students who test positive for COVID must stay home for five days. (The day that symptoms begin is Day 0.) After five days, students may return to school if they are fever-free for 24 hours and symptoms are resolving. If students are still testing positive after Day 5, they must wear a mask at school until Day 10.

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.

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

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.)

Visitors

- Visitors to campus must be free from COVID19 symptoms.
- Visitors should enter via the Arbor Road security gate and proceed to the school office for check-in.

Final thoughts

- Our school's journey with COVID has been successful because our Bethany families are vigilant about monitoring their children for signs of COVID, cooperate with school policies and extend grace-upon-grace to staff members and to each other as we weather the pandemic together. Treating each other with patience, love and compassion is what we do best at Bethany and we know this year will be no exception.
- Sending 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.
- 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

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