

CBCA COVID Procedures for Fall 2020 (Updated)

We are excited to welcome students back to campus at Calvary Baptist Church Academy at the end of August. To prepare we have sought guidance from scientists, physicians and other state and national officials and have considered various modes of education. The following procedures are based upon current information and may be updated going forward as conditions or information changes.

We are mindful of the serious nature of the coronavirus, but the data has shown that children and young adults have virtually no risk of serious illness, and data further suggests that children do not appear to commonly transmit the virus to each other or to adults. Several countries have successfully reopened their schools without spread. As the American Academy of Pediatrics recently stated, “all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.” Further, Dr. Redfield of the CDC publicly stated earlier this month that the CDC never actually recommended the closure of schools. Rather than keeping schools closed, many scientists and officials recommend opening with some modifications. Our plan is to prayerfully follow this guidance. Our limited school population and smaller class sizes gives us the flexibility to plan accordingly. While we cannot eliminate all risk, we want to minimize family exposure by following some key procedures.

As a community we rely on each other to maintain the safety of our environment. **First and foremost, if a student or staff member is not feeling well (temperature of 100.4 or more, coughing, sneezing, vomiting, etc.), he must stay home.** Please do not give your child a fever reducer such as Tylenol and send him to school. Please wait until he shows no indications of sickness before you send him back. Teachers will make accommodations for students who are ill so that they may stay up to date on their school work and do any necessary make up assignments.

Our procedures include:

Frequent Handwashing – Teachers will oversee proper hand hygiene throughout the day to minimize spread of colds, flus and viruses. Hand sanitizer will be stationed throughout the school as well.

Enhanced Cleaning – Throughout the school day, bathrooms and surfaces will be disinfected. Teachers, also, will disinfect desks and other surfaces regularly.

Social Distancing – Preschool and elementary classes will maintain separation by class or grade. By keeping each class essentially separate (cohorting) during the day, we limit spread in the event of an individual case. The middle and high school students will isolate from the preschool and elementary to limit possible spread among the various student populations. No middle/high school classes will be held in the elementary building to minimize interaction. Within the classroom, each teacher will arrange student desks and other furniture to maximize distance between students while maintaining a proper learning environment. With the reduced class sizes, classrooms offer an average of more than 50 square feet per student. Students will observe flow patterns in the hallway.

Prescreening Questions – Parents will self screen and screen their children and family members using the provided screening questions so that those who are sick or have been in contact with someone who has been sick take the proper isolation steps.

Temperature Screening – Students and staff will be screened upon arrival to the classroom each day. Students with temperatures of 100.4 or more will be isolated until they can be picked up.

Common Areas – To assist distancing efforts, common areas such as the cafeteria and auditorium will not be used during the school day. Students will eat lunch in their classrooms or outdoors with lunch orders delivered to them.

Face Coverings – All students age 5 and above must wear a cloth face covering during arrival to school and when social distancing is not possible. Masks (face coverings) and face shields are provided for all staff and are available for students and visitors. Middle and high school students and staff must wear cloth face coverings at arrival and dismissal and between classes when in the hallway or using the restroom – in other words, at times when they may be in closer contact with each other and are not able to socially distance. Parents or other adults who visit the school for any necessary reason must wear a cloth face covering.

Parents, students and staff have received communication of the expectation for face coverings and the proper use. Signs at entrances and in the building reinforce the policy.

Arrival – Students in preschool and elementary will report directly to their rooms upon arrival (7:45 – 8:00). Students in K5 and 1st grade will enter at the drop off door on their hallway. Students in 2nd - 5th grades will enter at the double doors at the base of the stairs that lead to their rooms. Middle and high school students will enter at the doors across from the office in their building. Please **do not** drop off your child before 7:45

unless he is enrolled in morning care.

Parent Interaction – While we usually welcome parents into our buildings, under current conditions, classrooms are closed to parents and we ask parents to restrict their visits to the offices to 9AM – 2PM when students are generally in their classrooms. Parents may schedule appointments with teachers after 3:30 PM.

Morning and Extended Care – To maintain distances, preschool morning and aftercare will be held in the preschool building, middle/high school care will be held in high school room 7, and only elementary morning and extended care will be located in the cafeteria and back area. Students in elementary care will be separated by class. Different cohorts (classes) will maintain at least a 6-foot distance from each other. Parents should drop off and pick up students at the desk and should not enter classrooms.

Suspended Activities – For the fall, we have not planned any large gatherings such as Grandparents' Day, a Christmas Concert or Jog-a-thon, but hope to be able to host some of these events in the spring. We will not have our overnight fall retreat and will limit field trips. Further, we will not conduct elementary or high school choirs or bands in the fall since these activities could promote easier transmission of virus.

Recess/P.E./Outside Instruction - Students will continue to enjoy recess and P.E. outside as the weather permits. Open air activities have been shown to be among the safest. Teachers will take opportunities to bring students outdoors in good weather for instruction and lunch.

Dismissal – Parents who pick up students after school (3:00-3:15) will form a car line along the sidewalk in front of the church/elementary building. Parents must display the student pick up card (front window) which indicates the student they are picking up. When they are in the “pick up zone,” their children will be called from their classes to meet them in the car. **Parents should remain in the car** until their children arrive and then drive around to exit. Parents picking up preschoolers will drive to the preschool lot to meet their children at their classrooms. Parents picking up only middle/high school students may drive directly to the back (preschool) lot to pick up their students.

Positive Test/Contact Tracing – If a student or staff member tests positive, that family must notify the office immediately. When a school is informed of a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 in a student or school staff member, regardless of whether the person has symptoms, the school will begin the process for identifying close contacts and begin the notification process in collaboration with the local health department. We

will work with the local health department on contact tracing and specific matters of quarantine. We will notify close contacts and the health department immediately. Generally, we will ask the teacher and students in that class to quarantine for 2 weeks. If the student who tested positive has any siblings in the school, those siblings should also quarantine. Teaching for that class will move to the online format for the 2 weeks that students are out of school. All the families of the school and health department will be notified of the positive case. Since tests are readily available in Maryland, families may want to have any children in that class tested.

The classroom will be thoroughly cleaned in the class's absence. If an immediate family member of a student (someone the student lives with) tests positive, the student should quarantine and his teacher will make accommodations for him. We will strive to keep him current with his schoolwork while he is at home.

Sick at School – If a child becomes ill at school, he will be separated safely from his class and his family will be contacted so that he may be dismissed as soon as possible. He should stay home until he is well. He must be fever free without a fever reduce for at least 24 hours before he returns.

Asthma – Inhaler/Nebulizer Breathing Treatments – Asthma treatments using inhalers with spacers (according to each student's treatment plan) are preferred to nebulizer treatments whenever possible. Since it is uncertain whether aerosols generated by nebulizer are potentially infectious, nebulizer treatments are reserved for those students who cannot use or do not have access to an inhaler. In such as case, proper PPE would be used by the staff administering the treatment and no others would be present in the room.

School Shutdown – In the event of a mandated shutdown, we will convert to online learning. Middle and high school students will be enrolled in Google Classroom so that all of their classes will flow through one portal. Other classes may use Google Classroom or an alternate portal to facilitate the distribution and acquisition of school work. Live classes will be held through Zoom or Google Meets daily. Last year's experience has taught us a great deal about online learning and has allowed us to develop a plan going forward. Students will have set times and procedures if we need to utilize distance learning.

Signage – Signage is placed throughout the building reminding staff and students to social distance, wear masks, wash hands and take precautions. CDC Signs remind parents and students not to enter with a fever or other symptoms of COVID.

Parents and staff have agreed together to follow the guidance and policies listed for a safe environment.

Respectfully,
George Kirychuk
Administrator