**Briarcrest Christian School COVID-19 Handbook**

**2020-2021**

*\*ANY MODIFICATIONS IN THIS HANDBOOK SUPERSEDE THE PARENT HANDBOOK*

*\*INFORMATION IN THIS HANDBOOK IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

It is our intention to be on campus this school year. With this goal, we are attempting to minimize risks to the extent feasible and reasonable. The following guidelines will assist you in doing your part during this unprecedented time.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages. With that said, research from the CDC and others, has found that while children can be infected with COVID-19 and some severe outcomes have been reported in children, relatively few children with this virus are hospitalized or have severe symptoms. The American Academy of Pediatrics notes that the risks of this virus must be balanced with the need for children to attend school in person. At BCS, we are attempting to minimize risks realizing that it is not possible to eliminate them completely.

**General Policies**

Hygiene and COVID-19 Education for Students-We will provide education for our students the first few days of school on effective hygiene practices and why this is important with COVID-19. The education will be tailored to the grade level of the students. Effective hygiene strategies will be encouraged throughout the school year. We will also have a health page where you may find additional information.

Health and Hygiene Practices:

* Students, faculty and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds frequently during the school day. We have multiple locations for handwashing and provide anti-bacterial soap. We will have a video of proper handwashing and other effective hygiene strategies on the BCS Health Services page on the website.
* When handwashing is not possible, we have hand-sanitizer stations located throughout the school that contain at least 60% alcohol sanitizing solution.
* Students, faculty, staff and visitors should be encouraged to cover coughs, sneezes, etc. with a tissue, and when finished, to dispose of it properly and wash their hands.
* We have disinfectant wipes in all classrooms.
* We will be cleaning high-touch surfaces around the buildings and in the classrooms.
* We will also use an electrostatic sprayer with an approved disinfectant throughout the campus.

COVID-19 Health Screenings

* All faculty and staff are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to work each morning. Taking your temperature and asking the questions are required for the self-assessment.
* Parents will conduct the COVID-19 self-screening for his/her student(s) each morning. Taking your child’s temperature and asking the questions are required for the assessment. *We all need to minimize risks for one another, and this has to become part of our morning routine.*
	+ Have you had a fever in the last 24 hours?
	+ Have you taken medicine to reduce your fever in the last 24 hours?
	+ Have you been in close contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
	+ Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat?
	+ Have you had a new loss of taste or smell?
	+ Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
	+ Are you awaiting test results for COVID-19?
* If you answer “YES” to any of the questions, you must stay home.

High-risk contacts will be determined, based on facts and circumstances, by our medical professionals using the guidance from the public health authorities.

Sick Students During the School Day

* BCS has three RNs on campus. Should a student become ill at school, he/she will be assessed immediately for COVID-19 symptoms. Should a student have symptoms, he/she will be taken to an isolation room. Our isolation rooms are equipped with negative pressure. It is imperative that the student be picked up within 30 minutes. Our BCS nurse will provide information of the assessment, and you will be advised to contact your pediatrician. You will need to contact the BCS nurse with the information you gained from the doctor for us to make a determination about your child’s re-admittance to school. Different situations may have different facts, and we will work through these on an individual basis.

Student with a confirmed case of COVID-19 and displaying symptoms:

* The student should have already shifted to remote learning, as he/she would have most likely been awaiting test results. Please communicate the test result to the principal and continue remote learning until you meet the following criteria as defined by the CDC:
	+ 24 hours with no fever and
	+ Decreased respiratory symptoms and
	+ 10 days since symptoms first appeared
* Our nurses will review the situation, including contact tracing, and contact the public health authorities for guidance.
* The classroom(s) will be cleaned thoroughly.

Student with a confirmed case of COVID-19 with no symptoms:

* If a student continues to have no symptoms, he/she may return to school 10 days from the date the test was administered. If you develop symptoms after testing positive, follow the guidance in the question above.

Communication of a confirmed case of COVID-19:

* Our nurses will review the situation, including contact tracing, and contact the public health authorities for guidance.
* The parents of the students in the room(s) in which the student who tested positive will be notified of the COVID-19 case. They will be advised to watch for symptoms and to contact their pediatrician if necessary. Your student will be able to remain in school, unless otherwise notified by our nurse or administration.
* High-risk contacts will be determined, based on facts and circumstances, by our medical professionals using the guidance from the public health authorities. If there has been no determination of a high-risk contact, we will not have to quarantine other students.

Student with a member of his/her household has a confirmed case of COVID-19: *(Revised 12/2/2020 according to CDC Guidelines)*

* If a member of your household has a confirmed case of COVID-19, please call your principal. The student will shift to remote learning. If the affected family member is completely isolating, the student may return to school *7 days from the last contact/exposure with a negative test or 10 days from the last contact/exposure with no test*. If the affected family member is not completely isolating, the student follows the same procedure as above, but the 7-10 days does not begin until the affected family member meets the following criteria as defined by the CDC and if the student shows no symptoms:
	+ 24 hours with no fever and
	+ Decreased respiratory symptoms and
	+ 10 days since symptoms first appeared

Students who are quarantined: (*Revised 12/2/2020 according to CDC Guidelines)*

* If a student has been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19, please call your principal. The student will shift to remote learning. The student may return to school *7 days from the last contact/exposure with a negative test or 10 days from the last contact/exposure with no test.*

Students with a possible case of COVID-19:

* If a student has a symptom(s) and/or has reason to believe he/she was exposed to COVID-19, please call your pediatrician for guidance. If there is no other diagnosed reason for the symptoms, the student will need to shift to remote learning. Please call the principal to let him or her know of the situation. The student may return to school after the following criteria is met:
	+ 24 hours with no fever and
	+ Decreased respiratory symptoms and
	+ 10 days since symptoms first appeared

Illness Dismissal and Re-Admission Policy

* Symptoms Re-Admission
	+ Fever 48 hours
	+ Shortness of breath (not asthma related) 7 days after with a negative test/10 days/school

 nurse approval/pediatrician’s note

* + Cough and/or sore throat (not asthma related) 7 days after with a negative test/10 days/school

 nurse approval/pediatrician’s note

COVID-19 policies for faculty and staff:

* The applicable COVID-19 protocols will be followed for faculty and staff.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING-Physical distancing in early childhood will be achieved by limiting the mixing of students in classrooms, encouraging outdoor activities and allowing for some activities that promote individual play. “Airplane wings” will be used to encourage spacing between students in hallways and/or common areas. All classrooms will allow for approximately 36 square feet per student. Our 1st through 12th grade classrooms will have all the desks facing the front of the room. Hallway traffic will promote physical distancing and utilize one-way traffic or walking on a designated side. Staggering of classes, bathroom breaks and limiting transitions will help reduce the number of students in common areas.

Absences-Principals will work through absences that exceed the maximum amount on a case by case basis. Masks with one-way valves or vents should not be worn. This can allow exhaled respiratory droplets to reach others and potentially spread COVID-19.

Water Bottles and Water Bottle Refill Stations- Water bottle refill stations have been installed throughout the school. Students will also be able to use the sinks in the science labs. Principals will provide additional information on water bottles and what to do if your child forgets to bring one.

Lunch- Sodexo will be offering a limited menu. Hot lunches will not be a part of the limited menu, and students will not have access to microwaves. You will be able to order weekly or individual days, but all orders must be placed by Thursday of the prior week. **No cash will be accepted.** Please see the information on the webpage. Students may bring their own lunches and snacks, but no fast-food may be brought in until further notice.

Deliveries of Flowers/Gifts-Deliveries of flowers and gifts will not be accepted during this unprecedented time. We will provide contact information for the parent of the student to the delivery company.

PTF Meetings-These meetings will be held using a technology platform until further notice.

Visitors- We will need time to navigate the flow of the school day, as well as limit the number of non-essential people in the building. Currently, we will be utilizing technology to the extent possible for parent communication. We will not have lunch visitors. All visitors will have a temperature screening and be asked the COVID-19 questions. Our hope is that we will be able to open the school to visitors soon, as we are proud of our school and want you to join us!

Library Books-Our students will be reading books in school and E-Books are available thru the BCS Library. We will resume student check out of hard copy books when appropriate.

Lost and Found-We will try to help students locate items that are lost as quickly as possible. It is imperative that you write your student’s name on his/her belongings, as we will not keep large amounts of lost and found items.

Athletics-High school athletics are subject to TSSAA and the availability of leagues, etc. It is our desire to participate in as many sports as possible and we will continue to monitor the situation. If leagues are available, we will play middle school and elementary sports to the extent possible.

Choir and Band-Our Fine Arts Director, Dr. JD Frizzell, has done a great deal of research and will be communicating with our Fine Arts parents. We will be physically distancing and using pop filters in choir, along with the HEPA filters in the room. We will utilize other barriers with instruments and allow for participation in Fine Arts to the extent possible.

**Elementary**

Class parties-Details will be provided as we approach the occasion. We will have elementary classroom parties to celebrate, but parent participation will most likely be limited.

Field Trips-Field Trips will resume when feasible.

**Middle School**

Activity Period-This time has been reallocated to the classes with a ten-minute break provided for snack.

Field Trips-Field Trips will resume when feasible.

**High School**

Activity Period-This time has been reallocated to a class period break. Students may bring a snack.

Senior Exam Exemption-All seniors with an A in a class will be exempted from the exam. This does not include AP and DE Exams.

Senior Lunch Out and Senior Lunch In-These will be evaluated and resumed when feasible.