

**SPRINGS
BAPTIST
ACADEMY**



**2020 COVID
RESPONSE
PLAN**

August 2020

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents:

With the onset of COVID-19, our entire world has been upended. Every norm that we have operated by has either been suspended or modified as we work to contain the virus. One of the effects of the virus was that we ended the prior school year at home with online learning. It was quite an experience, to say the least.

As our leaders and scientists grapple with what to do in response to COVID, our society muddles through a sea of unknowns and uneasiness. As with any emerging virus, it will take some time for us to fully understand the ramifications of both its effect upon individuals and the effects of our mitigation efforts. This communication is an effort to give you guidance on how our school will be operating in this new environment.

First, let me say that we have a lot of unknowns in regards to this virus. New data is coming forward daily and it is astounding to see the rate at which scientists and doctors have studied the virus. As this data comes out, we will see contradictory outcomes at times. This is bound to happen with the rapid deployment and studying being done right now. Eventually, we will learn enough to make informed decisions. I would ask each of you to understand that as things may change throughout the year as we gain more information.

Second, let me tell you what we do know so far. Recently, an article was published in the [*Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics*](#) that provided commentary on several studies that have occurred since March of this year. What they found is that transmission among children (child-to-child/child-to-adult/adult-to-child) was uncommon in school settings. It can happen, but COVID seems to have a smaller effect on children. This leads me to believe that our children are at minimal risk for contracting and displaying symptoms of COVID when compared to other demographics, hence the lower burden of mitigation for children in public health orders.

Third, however low it may be, transmission can still happen, so we are implementing some precautionary measures to mitigate the spread of COVID in our school community. Along with this guidance, you may receive additional items from our teachers that relate more directly to their classrooms. I understand that this can be a scary time for us, but we can get through this together with some effort and agility on our part.

MITIGATION EFFORTS

CLASSROOMS AND GENERAL SPACES

- Complete daily sanitation for all general areas used by students and staff (Hallways, cafeteria, bathrooms, entrances, etc.)
- Floor areas will be cleaned daily with a disinfectant solution.
- Community contact areas (playground equipment, door and sink handles, etc.) will be sanitized as needed throughout the day.
- Students will be expected to use their own supplies.
- Students will store their supplies and equipment in provided bins. All personal items will need to be placed in the bins or taken home at the end of the day.
- Students will be discouraged from bringing plush or upholstered items.
- Locker and cubby use will be limited.
- Hallways will be arranged to accommodate flow.

CAFETERIA

- Classes will be required to eat separately from one another. Spacing between students will be observed as much as possible.
- Lunch options will still be available. All lunch orders will need to be placed with the school office each morning via your Praxischool portal. All purchased items and warm-ups will be picked up and distributed by the teacher for each class.
- Each class will be responsible for cleaning their eating areas prior to leaving lunch period.
- If you are bringing food for any events, please arrange for it to be delivered at the beginning of the day. We are discouraging folks from bringing food during lunch periods to minimize movement around the building.
- Please pack lunch items in containers for individual use. We are asking that students do not share food or utensils.
- Food preparation will be done with adequate sanitary and food safety protocols by all service workers.

PHYSICAL CONTACT

- Students and staff are expected to maintain minimal contact, including handshakes, hugging, and high fives.
- Staff and students will be encouraged to maintain proper handwashing protocols throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer will be available to staff and students.
- When possible, social distancing will occur, including spacing in the hallways and in the lunchroom. We have requested students to maintain masks for when close contact indoors cannot be avoided.
- When sharing items becomes unavoidable, students will clean their hands before and after use. Shared items will be sanitized after use.

Entrance to School

- Daily temperature and symptom checks will be conducted on all personnel entering the school. We ask that you self assess for symptoms and fever over 100.4 degrees prior to leaving your house.
- Only students, staff, and approved volunteers will be allowed to enter the school during school hours. Parents and visitors will be allowed access to the office area but are discouraged from using the hallways and classroom spaces unless prior permission is given from the school administration.
- Anyone entering through the office will be subject to temperature and symptom checks. Please self assess prior to entering the building.
- We ask you to refrain from coming to campus if you or anyone in close contact with you is experiencing symptoms of COVID.
- Special events will be coordinated using proper distancing and sanitation protocols.

EXPOSURE TO COVID

- In the case of known exposure, we will dismiss in-person learning for classes that were exposed and conduct online learning for a term prescribed by the health department.
- All personnel and students that were exposed will be contacted by the school administration and health department to discuss guidance for returning to school.
- Sanitation protocols as prescribed by the health department will be conducted on the building.
- Teachers will notify parents through electronic communications on the manner that they will be conducting class while online.

As the environment changes, we will let you know of any changes that may have to be implemented. Please remember to stay safe and if you feel you are at risk, please take steps to protect yourself. We're looking forward to a great school year.

COMMUNICATION EFFORTS

THE SBA OFFICE WILL COMMUNICATE ALL NECESSARY INFORMATION TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Any changes to our response plan or any information regarding infections, outbreaks, or developments pertaining to the virus will be communicated by the school office through the Praxischool platform. Please ensure your contact information (email, phone number, service provider) are up to date at all times.

Teachers may occasionally send information and requests home that pertain to their classrooms. This information will be sent home through normal classroom communication channels (folders, memoes), so please check those on a regular basis.

Q & A's

What will happen if someone tests positive for COVID? If someone in the school population (students, staff, or immediate contacts) tests positive for COVID, we will dismiss in-person learning and conduct online learning while we work with the health department to determine the best option for return to campus. We will notify parents of the situation and instructions will be delivered electronically to all affected families.

How will this affect my child and their attendance? While we will be doing what we can, the virus is invisible to us. The best guidance that we have seen is to practice social distancing. However, the reality of the situation is that distancing is impractical in most of our classrooms. In those cases, we will take appropriate action on a case by case basis. We will not prohibit a student from coming on campus unless they are displaying clustered symptoms of COVID or have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive. If a student is required to stay home due to the virus, those school days will be counted as long as the assigned work is completed.

Will SBA conduct online learning? We will only move to online learning as mentioned above or for snow days. It is our belief that the best platform for learning is done in person. One of the benefits of the last quarter from last year was that we learned we can do some off-campus learning, and we will be taking those lessons into the winter if the weather becomes inclement.

What if my child just has a cold or allergies? COVID-19 is a coronavirus, a family of viruses that cause respiratory infections. Since we cannot quickly distinguish between a cold or COVID, anyone displaying a cluster of symptoms will require a "negative" test result before returning to school. If you are showing symptoms of COVID, we will require you and any affected family members to stay home until negative test results are returned.

How soon will I need to notify someone if I suspect my child or I may have come in contact with COVID? Please notify the school office and your child's teacher as soon as possible.