

UPDATED VERSION JANUARY 1, 2022

MT. BETHEL CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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PLANS FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR



**MT. BETHEL CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY**

COVID Policy Update

The Department of Public Health issued a new Administrative Order for Public Health Control Measures. This updated Administrative Order from Governor Kemp's office contains new isolation and quarantine protocols that align with the updated CDC guidance issued December 27, 2021. So, effective January 3, 2022, here are the new guidelines:

Isolation: If you test positive for COVID-19, everyone (regardless of vaccination status) must:

- Isolate at home for 5 days from the date symptoms first appeared or, if asymptomatic, the date of the positive test. Stay away from others in the household as much as possible during isolation.
- After 5 days, if you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving and you have not had fever for more than 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, you may end isolation and resume normal activity. If symptoms are not improving or fever has not resolved, you should continue isolating until these criteria are met.
- After ending isolation, you should wear a mask around others for 5 days.

Quarantine: If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the home and you are:

- Boosted, or have become fully vaccinated within the last 6 months (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or within the last 2 months (J&J vaccine):
 - You do not need to quarantine at home.
 - You should wear a mask around others for 10 days.
 - If possible, get tested on day 5.
 - If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.
- Unvaccinated, or became fully vaccinated more than 6 months ago (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or more than 2 months ago (J&J vaccine) and have **not** received a booster:
 - You must quarantine at home for 5 days. After that, you should wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
 - If possible, get tested on day 5.
 - If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.

Please err on the side of caution and keep children at home and consult your pediatrician if they exhibit any symptoms that could be flu or COVID related. Those include:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

Color Code Chart

For clarity and ease of reference, we have adopted the following guidelines in determining the mitigation strategies we employ based on the real-time health situation in the school. Any change in status will be announced in a timely manner, based on information that the school receives. Our primary goal is to keep our students, families, and staff healthy and on campus for in-person learning!

Green: 0%-5% Preventative Measures	Yellow: 6%-10% Heightened in-person measures	Red: >11% Adaptive Learning Plan (ALP)
<p>The green represents 0% - 5% current COVID cases per grade level within a 5 day period. We will continue with our ongoing preventative measures, including: daily sanitation, quarantine and testing protocols, visitor requirements, and mask optional. Optional ALP for 5 days remains available to those who receive an exposure letter and wish to quarantine at home out of precaution.</p>	<p>The yellow represents 6% - 10% current COVID cases per grade level within a 5 day period. In addition to the ongoing preventative measures listed in Green, we will require mandatory masking of all students and staff attending in-person for that grade level for 5 days. Optional ALP for 5 days remains available to those who receive an exposure letter. If the COVID rate per grade drops below 6% at the end of 5 days, the status reverts back to Green. If not, masking will continue until the rate has dropped below 6%.</p>	<p>The red represents >11% of current COVID cases per grade level within a 5 day period. Should this situation arise, we will institute mandatory ALP for the grade level for 5 days (including grades JK-2). If the case rate has dropped below 11% after those 5 days, the grade will return under Yellow status, and if the rate has dropped below 6%, the grade will return under Green status.</p>

If a student or staff member tests positive but has not been at school for the previous 48 hours from onset of symptoms, that student/staff member would not be a risk to the grade level, and as a result, will not be included in the determination of percentages.

By providing a weekly update as to where we stand on the color code chart, it is our hope that you feel secure knowing that we are monitoring our community on a daily basis and taking corrective action to keep everyone in the classroom. What we have noticed is that it sometimes appears as if we have a larger problem than we do when one family gets multiple exposure letters. Please understand that it's often the same positive person who triggers multiple letters, as we want to communicate openly. For example, a MS student who plays volleyball and rides the bus testing positive would trigger three exposure letters - one to the grade level, one to all players across grade levels on the volleyball team, and one to anyone on that bus.

Preventative Measures & ALP

The following measures have been in place all year and remain:

- Students who have a fever of 100.4 or higher are not permitted on campus. They must no longer have a fever (for at least 24 hours and without the aid of fever-reducing medication) and have a doctor's note or a negative COVID PCR result to return, or they must quarantine for 5 days.
- Anyone awaiting test results because they are symptomatic should stay home until those results are received. PCR tests are the most accurate and the only ones acceptable to prove negative results.
- Those who wish to optionally quarantine after receiving a notice of exposure may do ALP (grades 3 and up) or have work sent home (grades JK-2) if they choose for up to 5 days. We'll communicate notice of exposure to everyone in the grade level, a sport, or something like ASP/bus.
- We strongly encourage those who are contacted regarding a grade level exposure to wear a mask for 5 days if choosing to stay in school, regardless of vaccination status.
- While we cannot release the name of any positive person that would result in an exposure letter being sent home, as that would violate HIPPA regulations, we strongly recommend that the parents of a child recently diagnosed positive share that information with others they know the child came in contact with, either in class or at outside events like birthday parties, group gatherings, sleepovers, sports, etc.

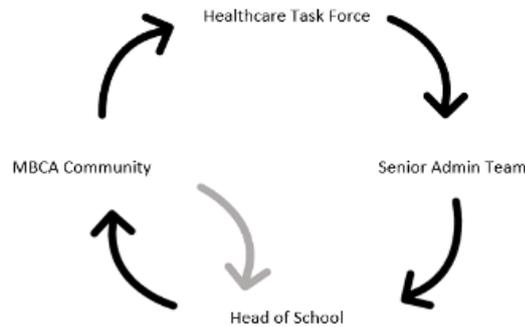
ALP remains an option for students in grades 3-12 who meet any of the following criteria:

- Have been exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID and choose to quarantine at home for 5 days from the date of exposure
- Have experienced symptoms of COVID and are either quarantining at home for 5 days or awaiting test results
- Live in a home with a positive person and are in quarantine for at least 5 days from the date of last exposure

In order for a student to enter ALP, please contact the appropriate homeroom teacher and Division Head to receive instruction, keeping in mind that a response may not always be immediately available, depending on the timing of the notification. Children in JK-2 will be contacted by their homeroom teacher to arrange a time to pick up work. Students who are home sick with something other than COVID do not qualify for ALP; we encourage them to rest and recover in order to return to class as soon as possible.

Please forward any COVID test results to our nursing staff at nurse@mtbethelchristian.org. If a student tested positive over the Christmas break, please send that information as well, so we have the most up to date records.

COVID Policy Decision Matrix



Step 1: Healthcare Task Force (HTF)

Composition of the team: 1 Admin chair, 3 medical professionals, 1 additional Admin Team member. Division Heads and Head of School are ex-officio (non-voting) participants as needed.

Responsibilities:

- The HTF evaluates the COVID health situation in the MBCA community
- The HTF researches all relevant data relating to the situation, including information specific to the MBCA community
- Minutes are recorded for each meeting, whether during a formally scheduled meeting, or informal session
- The HTF makes recommendations to the Admin Team

Step 2: Senior Administrative Team (Admin Team)

Composition of the team: Division Heads, Director of Operations, Athletics Director, Director of Admissions, Director of Development & Communications, Head of School

Responsibilities:

- The Admin Team receives a report from the HTF delivered by the chair of the HTF
- The Admin Team evaluates the current policies and determines whether there should be a change to the policies, and if so, what changes those should be. These decisions will consider the following:
 - Physical health of students, staff, and families
 - Learning & missional objectives
 - Social-emotional health
 - Mental health
- This team will seek consensus, but in the unlikely event that this is not possible, a vote will be taken on any actions.
- Minutes are recorded for each meeting, whether during a formally scheduled meeting, or informal session.

Step 3: Head of School

Responsibilities:

- The Head of School will communicate any COVID policy updates to the whole community (staff, families). This will typically include highlighting changes and re-publishing the COVID policy viewbook.
- The Head of School will also keep the Academy Board informed of all COVID policy actions and give a report at each regularly scheduled board meeting.
- Any questions or concerns may be directed to the Head of School who will pass that along to the HTF and the Admin Team.

Step 4: MBCA Community

Responsibilities:

- Staff and Families will be expected to read and understand the policies, and do their part in acting on them.
- Individual situations and questions about details should be directed to the nurses' office (Lower School/Middle School) or Division Head (Upper School), who will work with each person as necessary.
- Any general questions, concerns, or information should be sent to the Head of School's Executive Assistant. The Head of School will read all communication, respond to those who request a response, and information will be shared with the HTF and Admin Team.