

The Bishop's School COVID-19 Policies

These updated COVID-19 policies are written to align with policies and guidance from the local, state and federal level.

Mitigating the Risk of Transmission: A layered approach

Since it was first discovered in December 2019, the world has learned a lot about the virus that causes COVID-19. One of the most important lessons learned is that by implementing a layered approach towards mitigating transmission, schools and businesses can safely open and not be sources of outbreaks. The goal of our COVID-19 policies is to open the School fully for in-person learning while limiting the opportunity for viral transmission.

Vaccinations

Several vaccines have proven to be highly effective at preventing serious illness if an individual is exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus. At Bishop's, we strongly encourage every community member who is eligible to receive the vaccine to do so. High vaccination rates are the single most effective way to reduce the incidence of COVID-19 in our community. School employees are required to verify their vaccination status. As stated in the School's Vaccination Verification Policy, all unvaccinated or partially vaccinated employees are required to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing. Families have been asked to submit the vaccination status of their student(s) via the Magnus Health Portal. Doing so will assist the School in our contact tracing efforts.

Check for Signs, Symptoms and Exposures

Before coming to campus each morning, all students, families and employees must check for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. If a student or an employee is experiencing any symptoms, they should plan to get tested for COVID-19 and may not come to campus without first speaking with either their supervisor or School Nurse Susie Fournier (fourniers@bishops.com or 858-875-0742).

COVID-19 symptoms typically appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell

- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

There are additional, more concerning symptoms that require immediate medical attention. Call 911 immediately if you are experiencing any of these symptoms:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone

If a Student Becomes Ill on Campus

Students exhibiting one or more symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be sent home as soon as possible. The School will separate the student from others in a designated isolation room/area, direct the student to wear a face covering or medical mask if feasible and will notify the student's family. Students who are sent home due to exhibiting symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be provided with extensions to turn in assignments, and they may be allowed to view classes virtually, on a case-by-case basis.

The School may seek emergency medical attention on behalf of the student if the student's COVID-19 symptoms become severe, including persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, distress, or bluish lips or face.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, the School shall notify the Bishop's community without disclosing any personal information that identifies the student. In addition, the School will consult with the local county department of public health to determine necessary next steps.

The student may return to campus in accordance with the San Diego County Health and Human Services [decision tree](#).

If an Employee Becomes Ill on Campus

Employees exhibiting one or more symptoms associated with COVID-19 must distance themselves from students and other employees, put on a face mask, and report symptoms to their supervisor and the school nurse by phone or email as soon as possible so that they can be relieved from work and sent home.

The School may seek emergency medical attention on behalf of an employee if symptoms associated with COVID-19 become severe, including persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, or bluish lips or face. The School may also arrange for an emergency contact to pick up the employee if the employee is not able to drive home. An employee exhibiting one or more symptoms associated with COVID-19 who is not able to leave campus on their own, will be required to wait in the isolation area near the nurse's office while the employee waits for transport home or to a healthcare facility.

If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, the School shall notify the Bishop's community without disclosing any personal information that identifies the employee. In addition, the School will consult with the local county department of public health to determine necessary next steps.

The employee may return to work in accordance with the San Diego County Health and Human Services [decision tree](#). During this absence, employees may be eligible for a leave of absence, pursuant to the School's policies. Employees should contact the School's Human Resources office to discuss their options.

Decision Tree

The San Diego County Office of Education, along with the Health and Human Services Agency, Live Well San Diego, the San Diego Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Pediatrics have put together a [decision tree](#) to inform schools, students and families when individuals may return to school following an exposure or COVID-19 symptoms. Bishop's will consult and follow the guidance from the decision tree when determining when it is safe for a symptomatic individual or an individual who has been exposed to COVID-19 to return to campus.

Contact Tracing

When there is a case of COVID-19 within our community, the School will conduct contact tracing as needed for school-related events. Faculty members have been asked to maintain seating charts for all classes to ensure that our contact tracing efforts are as accurate (and limited in scope) as possible. Individuals who are identified as close contacts will be asked to quarantine in accordance with the [decision tree](#).

Testing

COVID-19 testing is available at no cost to students and employees with COVID-19 symptoms and/or those who have been exposed to the virus.

Masks and Face Coverings

In accordance with the California Department of Public Health guidance, face coverings or masks are strongly recommended while indoors on campus, regardless of an

individual's vaccination status. Outdoors, wearing a mask or face covering is optional. Bullying and harassment regarding mask use will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action. The School will provide clean, undamaged face coverings to those who request them.

We will not prevent any individual from wearing a face covering when it is not required unless it would create a safety hazard, such as interfering with the safe operation of equipment.

Visitors, Families and Volunteers

Visitors must check in at the front desk and receive a badge for entry. All visitors will be asked to self-screen for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. If an individual has signs or symptoms of COVID-19 they may not come to campus.

Improved Ventilation

When possible, windows and doors should be kept open, in order to increase fresh air coming indoors. The School has adjusted its heating, ventilation and air-conditioning controllers to ensure that fresh air can be maximized. Where possible, the School has improved the rating of the filters in its HVAC units to MERV 13. In addition, the School has purchased standalone air filtration systems that will clean and change out the classroom air supply several times each hour. These units have a six-stage cleaning and filtration process that is specifically designed to disable and destroy viruses and bacteria.

Healthy Hand Hygiene

Good hand hygiene is an easy way to effectively prevent the spread of disease. Washing hands physically removes pathogens and reduces the likelihood for illness within a community. In moments when washing hands with soap and water is not possible, the use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol is a safe and effective way to slow disease spread. All community members should wash their hands at the beginning of the day, before and after meals, after using the restroom, and after coughing or sneezing. Individuals should use a tissue to wipe their nose and to cough or sneeze into a tissue or into their elbow.

Cleaning and Disinfection

A regular cleaning and disinfecting schedule has been set for all School buildings, facilities, grounds and vehicles in order to promote a safe and healthy School campus and to minimize the possibility of under- and over-using cleaning and disinfectant products. Specifically, the School will clean and disinfect restrooms and all restroom surfaces frequently throughout the school day.

Transportation

Windows on school vans and buses will be open when feasible. School vehicles, including all frequently-touched surfaces within School vehicles, will be cleaned once a day. The School will also increase circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors to the extent possible and safe.