

Dear Berean Families,

The countdown is on, the school year is about to begin, and our safety plan for the fall semester is attached for your viewing. While we understand why some are disappointed with the emergence of the new [State Education Mandate](#), which obligates both public and private schools to require face coverings in the fall (regardless of vaccination status), we are pleased that the mandate, which was developed according to [worldwide peer-reviewed research](#), allows for wide-ranging normalcy with every other aspect of our school program. As previously stated, normalcy will include a return to our traditional academic offerings, our five days per week “in-person” schedule (no digital option), our weekly chapel services, and all of our typical calendar events. These include All-School Retreat (on-campus this year), Homecoming, Class Socials, and our Junior/Senior Ball. The mandate also allows our 19 athletic teams to return to a regular competition schedule.

And while we expect an exciting return to normalcy, we also recognize that the State’s masking requirement is very frustrating for many in our educational community, especially those who elected to receive a vaccine. But we do not expect the mandate to remain in place for an extended period of time as vaccinations and natural infections have moved [the “herd immunity” percentage in Contra Costa County](#) to approximately 80 percent. Some [epidemiologists have predicted](#) that herd immunity will come when the percentage reaches 85, a number derived with current “delta variant” data in mind. But at the moment, immunity among teenagers is [somewhat lower](#) than the general population in Contra Costa. For that reason, we must consistently and carefully abide by the masking mandate at Berean as it is the principal mitigation health authorities have put in place until the current surge subsides. We do not know precisely how long it will take for the mandate to be removed, but all indications point to it happening sooner than later.

Below you will find the safety measures Berean will have in place to begin the fall semester. These measures accord with the recommendations and mandates from the CDPH. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (925) 945-6464.

There is much to be thankful for and much to look forward to in the days to come. May the Lord bless our efforts to create a safe and exciting space where every student can thrive as they learn and develop into the people He wants them to be!

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” (Ephesians 4:15–16, ESV)

May God bless you and your family,

Nicholas Harris, Principal, Berean Christian High School

Safety Measures for Berean Christian High School

1. Masks

- a. Faculty, staff, and students are required to mask indoors.
- b. Masks are optional outdoors.
- c. Persons exempted from wearing a face-covering due to a medical condition must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a [face shield with a drape](#) on the bottom edge.

2. Physical Distancing

- a. [Recent evidence indicates](#) that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented.

3. Ventilation

- a. Berean will continue to employ .1-micron HEPA air purification in classroom spaces.
- b. Classroom doors and windows will be opened daily to increase ventilation.

4. Recommendations for Staying Home When Sick and Getting Tested

- a. Berean will continue to ask students to use the “*Berean Prescreen App*” (available on Apple and Android) for admission into their first-period classes.
- b. Students should stay home from school and be tested when they have symptoms [consistent with COVID-19](#) and cannot answer “no” to every question on the *Berean Prescreen App*. This will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent possible spreading at school.
- c. Students should not return to Berean for in-person instruction until they have met the following criteria:
 - i. At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; **and**
 - ii. Other symptoms have improved; **and**
 - iii. They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis, OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

5. Screening Testing

- a. Berean will begin the school year by antigen testing (weekly and/or bi-weekly) a portion of our unvaccinated asymptomatic student-athlete population for COVID-19. This will provide a sampling of around 10 to 15 percent of our entire school population, which will help us to detect the virus and prevent outbreaks. Testing in this manner will also fulfill the obligation as required by our athletic league, DAL, and our section, NCS.
- b. If conditions change as the school year progresses (higher case rates or outbreaks in the community), Berean may recommend screening of all unvaccinated individuals.
- c. Families of asymptomatic non-athletes who are not considered “close contacts” may elect to have their children screened (antigen tested) at Berean for COVID-

19. For more information about screening testing at the school, please contact La Shawn Wells at lwells@bereanchristian.com

6. Case Reporting and Contact Tracing

- a. Per AB 86 (2021), and California Code Title 17, section 2500, schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.
- b. For all COVID-19 questions, concerns, and reports, please contact the Berean attendance office at (925) 945-6464. All reports will remain confidential to the extent possible and will only be shared with the school's COVID-19 liaison for contact tracing.

7. Quarantine for Vaccinated Close Contacts

- a. Following a known exposure at Berean, fully vaccinated students and staff will not need to quarantine if asymptomatic. However, proof of vaccination may be required to be eligible for the quarantine exemption.

8. Quarantine for Unvaccinated Students for Exposures When Both Parties Were Wearing a Mask

- a. When both parties were wearing a mask in the indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet indoors) may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:
 - i. Are asymptomatic;
 - ii. Continue to mask appropriately, as required;
 - iii. Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and
 - iv. Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

9. Quarantine recommendations for: unvaccinated close contacts who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the indoor exposure; or unvaccinated students as described in #8 above.

- a. For these contacts, those who remain asymptomatic, meaning they have NOT had any symptoms, may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:
 - i. Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR
 - ii. Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.
- b. To discontinue quarantine before 14 days following last known exposure, asymptomatic close contacts must:
 - i. Continue daily self-monitoring for symptoms through Day 14 from last known exposure; AND
 - ii. Follow all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions (e.g., wearing a mask when around others, hand washing, avoiding crowds) through Day 14 from last known exposure.
- c. If any symptoms develop during this 14-day period, the exposed person must immediately isolate, get tested and contact their healthcare provider with any questions regarding their care.

10. Hand Hygiene Recommendations

- a. Staff and students are asked to (1) wash their hands several times per day (especially before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage), (2) avoid contact with their eyes, nose, and mouth, and (3) cover coughs and sneezes.
- b. Berean will continue to provide automatic hand sanitization devices (located in each classroom) filled with at least 60 percent ethyl alcohol sanitizer.

11. Cleaning Protocols

- a. Berean will continue to sanitize classrooms (desks, chairs, and other surfaces) daily.

12. Snacks and Lunch

- a. Students will not be permitted to eat indoors to begin the school year.
- b. Students are asked to physically distance themselves as much as possible while eating.
- c. Given a very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, the Berean Student Store will no longer limit food service approaches to single-use items and packaged meals.

13. Visitor Policy

- a. At this time, the campus will continue to remain closed to parents and visitors except those who have an appointment for academic and other reasons, those who have received approval from the administration, and those attending scheduled events.

14. Vaccination Status

- a. Berean Christian High School encourages its employees and students to complete a COVID-19 vaccination series and to voluntarily share their vaccination status with the school.
- b. By voluntarily providing proof of completion of student's COVID-19 vaccination to Berean Christian High School, an asymptomatic, vaccinated student may be exempt from quarantine and can likely continue to attend on-campus classes in the event of a student's suspected exposure to a COVID-19 case.
- c. Berean Christian High School is under no obligation to provide a live distance-learning option for any students absent from on-campus classes.

The above safety plan is current as of July 30th, 2021, but remains subject to future revision, whether by government directive or the Berean Christian Administration or Board of Directors.

Safety Measures for Berean Christian High School