



Bettis Preparatory Leadership Academy

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Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 2023-2024

MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY - A school's plan must include how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff, and the extent to which it has adopted policies or practices and a description of any such policies or practices, on each of the CDC's safety recommendations including: universal and correct wearing of masks; modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); hand washing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments; diagnostic and screening testing; efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible; appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies or practices; and coordination with state and local health officials. Description of maintaining health and safety

Keeping students and staff physically and emotionally safe is the number one priority of Bettis Preparatory Leadership Academy (BPLA). The traditional 5-day, face-to-face schedule adheres to the current guidelines from CDC, DHEC, and SDE to the greatest extent possible. The current guidelines strongly recommend social distancing, when possible, preventative health measures, and frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces (door handles, handrails, light switches, etc.). Health & Safety Protocols for Staff 1. The school nurse will remain abreast of the symptoms that could indicate COVID-19 as the CDC and DHEC update these symptoms. 2. All employees should screen for any COVID-related symptoms each day. If employees exhibit symptoms that are related to COVID-19, they should not report to work and should notify the school as soon as possible. 3. All employees will practice social distancing as recommended by the CDC. 4. All faculty/staff will be encouraged to wear a face covering on the school bus. 5. Employees will assist with wiping down community use items and tools and disinfect personal workspaces after use with provided disinfectant. 6. Employees will assist with wiping down commonly touched items used throughout the workday, including but not limited to telephones, copiers, pens/pencils, etc. 7. Office staff should continuously sanitize their area using protocols established by the school administrator. 8. Employees should avoid touching their faces and wash their hands thoroughly and often with soap and water for 20 seconds. In the absence of water, sanitize regularly. 9. Before and after eating, employees should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water. 10. We will promote common disease prevention strategies. 11. Custodians will implement enhanced health and safety protocols for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces in shared areas.

POLICIES OR PRACTICES REGARDING CDC RECOMMENDATIONS - Universal and correct wearing of masks

Given that there is no current mask mandate, mask wearing is optional for faculty, staff, and students.

POLICIES OR PRACTICES REGARDING CDC RECOMMENDATIONS - Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding)

BPLA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and staff by teaching prevention strategies including social distancing to the extent possible, marking the floors to represent 3'feet distance when standing or walking down hallways. ~~Input shields around work areas, and throughout the building for when sitting or needing to be in proximity are required. This expectation pertains to students and staff members in all areas and settings to the greatest extent possible.~~ Visual reminders will be posted throughout school buildings, including signs, tape, etc. as indicators of safe remotes in areas where students congregate or line up (e.g., arrival and departure, hallways, recess lines, libraries, restrooms). Students will keep their grade levels to reduce mixing groups within the building when possible. BPLA will stagger bus loading and unloading, hall passing periods, mealtimes, bathroom breaks, etc. to ensure student and staff safety. Staff and students should abstain from physical contact, including, but not limited to, handshakes, high fives, hugs, etc. Staff break areas will be arranged to facilitate social distancing. Break times will be staggered to minimize eating with masks off near others.



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POLICIES OR PRACTICES REGARDING CDC RECOMMENDATIONS - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

It is recommended that children (and adults) wash their hands routinely and thoroughly throughout the day, particularly before eating, after using the restroom, and after hands are soiled or dirtied. There is no specific recommendation on the frequency or intervals of hand washing. Proper hand hygiene consists of washing hands thoroughly and often with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds. When hand washing is unavailable, students should use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. Hand sanitizing stations will be available in classrooms, meeting areas, and lunchroom and hallways. All people are encouraged, regardless of presumed cause, to cover their nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Adults and students should also use tissues to contain respiratory secretions and dispose of these tissues in the nearest trash can after use. All persons should wash their hands immediately after contact with possible respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.

POLICIES OR PRACTICES REGARDING CDC RECOMMENDATIONS - Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.

Custodial staff will be trained and monitored to follow the infection control practices for cleaning and disinfection, housekeeping and sanitation principles, and universal health precautions. Custodial staff will conduct routine daily cleaning with water and mild detergent sufficient to remove most bacteria and viruses from surfaces, although additional sanitization might be necessary during certain disease outbreaks. (School administrators and childcare providers will consult with local health departments when there is an outbreak.) Disinfectants used will be asthma-safer products. Computers and other electronic devices will not be sprayed directly. The custodian will spray the air over the device and allow the mist to settle. Drinking fountains will be closed, and water stations will be implemented. Routine cleaning will be required. K-4 classrooms will be equipped with individual air purifiers equipped with HEPA and carbon filters, we will gradually work to put them in the other areas. To ensure the health and safety of our students during bus transportation to and from school. Each bus will be cleaned and disinfected using approved disinfectant after completion of each route. Cleaning protocols require drivers to wipe down frequently touched surfaces with disinfectant, including those in the entrance touched by passengers, such as handrails and seat tops as well as those surfaces contacted by the driver (steering wheel, door opening device, etc.).

POLICIES OR PRACTICES REGARDING CDC RECOMMENDATIONS - Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

In accordance with recommendations from SC DHEC, we constantly monitor our school's policies and practices when it comes to contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine. Isolation: School nurses and administrators exclude students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 or have COVID-19 excludable symptoms for which they do not get tested in accordance with the current isolation criteria. Contact Tracing: We have an established contact tracing team which consists of a school administrator, school nurse, and others as designated by the principal. After the case is confirmed, the school contact tracing team identifies students who may have been in close contact with the positive case during their infectious period, as defined by SC DHEC, utilizing bus and classroom seating charts and teacher interviews. All identifying health information is held in strict confidence and shared only with those who need to know to thoroughly complete a contact tracing investigation. Our school nurse will continue to implement quarantine as recommended by DHEC and CDC.

POLICIES OR PRACTICES REGARDING CDC RECOMMENDATIONS - Diagnostic and screening testing

BPLA will continue and expand our partnership opportunities with a local medical facility (Health Connections) for free COVID-19 testing by appointment for students, faculty, and all invested stakeholders as necessary.



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POLICIES OR PRACTICES REGARDING CDC RECOMMENDATIONS - Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible

BPLA will partners with Local Health Authorizing Agencies, such as DHEC, Aiken Regional, Augusta University, and other Agencies during the 2023-2024 school year, to ensure all staff members who want to receive the vaccine know where they can receive the vaccine. In the past many community partners held local vaccination drives, we ensured that all our faculty, staff, and families were aware of the dates and time and provided support as requested. BPLA will continue to provide updated information as received for opportunities for vaccinations and boosters in the area.

POLICIES OR PRACTICES REGARDING CDC RECOMMENDATIONS - Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and practices

Guidance and training will be ongoing as it relates to the continued provision of health and safety regarding accommodation for children with disabilities. Guidance will be issued, and training will be extended to relevant staff based on current CDC and DHEC guidance. All assistive technology and devices used will be cleaned and sanitized.

POLICIES OR PRACTICES REGARDING CDC RECOMMENDATIONS - Coordination with state and local health officials

Bettis Preparatory School nurse and the school principal will continue to work closely in coordination with state and local health officials to ensure the safety of all. In addition, we will meet with health and safety officials as necessary to stay abreast of current recommendations, guidelines, and community levels.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES: Schools must describe how they will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

Bettis Preparatory Leadership Academy plans to ensure continuity of quality academic instruction by providing the option of face-to-face instruction five days per week or e-learning options in the event of a need for student not to report to face-to-face instruction. If students are absent due to quarantine or COVID-19 but can participate in instruction, remote assignments and instruction will be provided virtually and/or through hard copy assignments. If a school or schools must be temporarily closed due to illness or exposure, students will participate in virtual instruction through Microsoft Teams, the District's virtual meeting tool. Students who are enrolled in VirtualSC courses will participate through the VirtualSC platform. Social, emotional, and mental health services will be provided through universal support in those areas through SEL-focused curriculum at each level. Counseling services will be available to students as well as staff through school-based counselors and an employee assistance program. The district will continue to provide targeted support for students who have experienced trauma or who have significant needs through school counselors, special programs counselors, or mental health counselors. In-school dining arrangements will be modified to ensure social distancing. Meals would not be provided on teacher workdays, weekends, or holidays.

PERIODIC REVIEW - Schools are required to review and, as appropriate, revise their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023, including seeking public input and taking such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan.

Bettis Preparatory Leadership Academy will work together to periodically review the plan and make the necessary



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adjustments to ensure that our students receive the best education possible in the safest environment possible. These periodic reviews will occur at least once a semester and follow guidelines from the CDC and SCDHEC. Surveys and opportunities for two-way feedback will be provided throughout the school year as an effort to seek public input. Any changes to the plan will be made public using our messenger system, website and social media. With the posted changes, the public will be given the opportunity to provide feedback.

PUBLIC INPUT - The ARP Act requires that school districts make their Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan available to the public online and that the plans be in an understandable and uniform format; to the extent practicable, are written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Before making its plan publicly available, school districts must seek public comment on the plan and develop the plan after taking into account public comment.

The plan is posted on our school's website at www.bettisprep.org. The plan was made available to parents and students from the office and employees via our internal files. The plan will be shared at the November 17, 2023, board meeting. An opportunity for public comment will be available during the meeting and via email. The plan has been updated on October 30, 2023, to provide guidance for the 2023-2024 school year.