

Borculo Christian School

FAQ

As we are all aware, the COVID-19 situation is continually changing. We are committed to being transparent about any COVID-19 news that will affect the school and your children. This document of FAQ will continue to be updated and resent out as we know more, or at the time when repeated questions arise.

1. Q. What are the Phases of the Return to School Roadmap

- a. Phases 1-3 - Schools do not open for In-Person Learning - Remote Learning
- b. Phase 4 - Schools open for In-Person Learning with more stringent required safety measures
- c. Phase 5 - Schools open for in-Person Learning with moderately required safety protocols
- d. Phase 6 - Schools open for In-Person Learning with minimal required safety protocols

2. Q. As a private school, is BCS required to follow the requirements in the Executive Order and the MI Safe Return to School Roadmap?

- a. Private schools in Michigan are expected to comply with the Governor's Executive Order and MI Safe Return to School Roadmap.
- b. The areas that are "requirements" are required of all Michigan schools; the areas that are "strongly recommended" or "recommended" are at the discretion of the individual schools in consultation/guidance from the local health department. The decision about which Phase of re-opening your school should be in compliance with is based on the 8 regions of the state of Michigan; schools need to comply with the Phase of re-opening that their region is in at the time.

3. Q. What region is BCS in?

- a. Zeeland is located in Region 2.

4. Q. What Phase are we currently in?

- a. We are currently in Phase 4

5. Q. What cleaning and disinfecting protocols will be put in place for the 2020-2021 school year?

- a. We continue to follow the CDC and Ottawa Health Department protocols for cleaning and disinfecting.
- b. We are in the process of hiring a part-time custodian to help clean the school frequently during the school day.

6. With hiring a custodian will parents still be required to take part in cleaning after school, either by cleaning or buying out?

- a. Yes, at this time we plan to have the parents partner with the custodian on cleaning responsibilities at the end of each school day.

7. Q: What about extracurricular activities such as band, choir, orchestra?

- a. Extracurricular activities may continue in Phases 4-6, with some required health and safety protocols.

8. Q: What about sports?

- a. School athletics may continue in Phases 4-6, with some required health and safety protocols. Schools have been directed to follow guidance published by the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

9. Q. Will my child/ren need to wear a mask on the bus?

- a. At this time if Ottawa County is in Phase 4 then yes as this is noted as a required protocol in the Roadmap. We are waiting to receive guidance from Zeeland Public Schools.

10. Q: What is cohorting and why is it important?

- a. A cohort group is a class of students who do not mix with other groups of students. This helps mitigate the spread of the virus.

11. Q. Will my child/ren have to wear a mask all day?

- a. The State of Michigan Return to School does require all students to wear a mask in all common areas. Common areas are hallways, bathrooms, or any other shared space.
- b. Facemasks are not required in the K-5 classrooms as long as the class stays with its cohort.

- c. The State of Michigan Return to School does require grades 6-8 students to wear a mask in all common areas. Due to our students being in a cohort we are seeking clarification if our middle school students have to wear them in class.
- d. All students who are in a cohort do not have to wear a mask outside. For this reason, If the State requires middle school students to wear a mask in all classes, the implementation team will be looking into a way to hold middle school classes outdoors when possible. This will mitigate the amount of time a student is required to wear a mask.

12. Will staff be required to wear a face-covering all day?

- a. Due to the State of Michigan Roadmap, the staff will be required to wear a face-covering at all times, unless they are eating.
- b. We know the importance of students being able to see their teachers face when learning. We are looking into the use of a face-shield, and clear-breathable, facemasks for staff.

13. Q: Regarding face-coverings/masks-how is medically unable defined?

- a. To prove a person is medically unable to wear a face-covering/mask, a letter including the diagnosis and reason/s for not wearing from a doctor or therapist would need to be given to school officials.

14. Q: What happens if a child or staff member gets sick at school?

- a. If a student or staff member becomes ill with symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, they will be quarantined until they can get picked up by a parent or guardian. Staff would be sent home.
- b. Symptomatic students and staff should stay home until they have talked with their PCP and/or tested negative and/or have been released from quarantine

15. Q: What happens if there is a positive case of COVID-19 at school?

- a. School Leadership will be in contact with the Ottawa County Health Department. They will follow their regular health practice and initiate contact tracing to identify those who were in close contact with the individual. Local health officials will give directives about quarantine on a case by case basis once the contact tracing investigation is complete.

16. Q: I disagree with the requirements for schools. Who should I contact?

- a. To effectively promote change, communication needs to be brought to those people who have the power to make changes. Therefore, if you have concerns and opinions about the requirements or the State's Back to School Roadmap, please connect directly with your congressperson, state senator, and Governor Whitmer.

17. Q. How is the school preparing to meet the State of Michigan Return to School Roadmap?

- a. The education committee and the school board sat down for a meeting to read through the recommendations. At this time the school has put together an implementation team that will be working on the details of that plan. We will be communicating throughout that process. As always if you have questions feel free to contact Chris Sievers.