

# Family FAQ on Reopening Bethel Schools

If you have a question you do not see here, please email [pat.mcgillivray@bethel.k12.or.us](mailto:pat.mcgillivray@bethel.k12.or.us)

## [Health & Safety](#) [Instruction](#)

Click [here](#) to read the updated ODE/OHA reopening guidance (7-22-2020) referenced throughout this document.

Click [here](#) to read Governor's latest executive order, Order 20-29.

Click [here](#) to link to Lane County Public Health. (OCPH)

Click [here](#) to link to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE).

Click [here](#) to link to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

## Health & Safety

Questions	Answers
Can you clarify the rules around student and staff mask wearing?	The newly updated (July 22nd) <a href="#">ODE/OHA guidance</a> requires face coverings for all students (section 1h, p.24-27). Certain accommodations are noted in the guidance. In addition, all staff, contractors, and visitors are required to wear a face covering while in a District building and in the same space as other staff, contractors, or students.
Might Bethel's instruction model change prior to the start of the school year if we continue to see an increased number of COVID-19 cases in Oregon?	Yes, plans could change. We intend to offer Comprehensive Distance Learning regardless of whether our doors open. For now, however, the District will continue to operate based on the latest directives from Governor Kate Brown ( <a href="#">Executive Order 20-29</a> ), and the <a href="#">ODE/OHA Ready Safe Learners Guidance for Reopening Schools</a> . We also are awaiting further guidance regarding newly developed metrics that counties can use to assess the COVID community impact, health, and readiness that we can use to make further determinations. We expect the state guidance and recommendations that have been provided will continue to evolve according to the number of COVID-19 cases; however, this might vary county by county. Another consideration for our instruction model (beyond the need to meet the state requirements in order to open our schools to students) is the District's ability to adequately staff in-school instruction.
What else could cause our model to change?	The ability of Bethel School district to adequately staff its buildings for in-person learning could cause us to delay our current hybrid model of in-person and distance learning.

<p>The CDC is now recommending 3 feet of distance for those with masks. Are we going to be implementing this?</p>	<p>The <a href="#">ODE/OHA guidance</a> (section 1c, p. 20) continues to require at least <b>6</b> feet of distance, to the extent possible, between students, staff, and others in District buildings. While 6 feet is the expectation, the District and ODE recognize some school activities may require closer contact and interactions with/between students and staff.</p>
<p>Why are we not temperature screening and can you explain the visual screening that will occur?</p>	<p>The ODE/OHA guidance (section 1f, p.22-23) requires a visual screening for all students prior to entry to schools, but does not require or recommend temperature screening. LCPH (Lane County Public Health) also does not routinely recommend active temperature taking, at this time. Visual screenings will be performed by trained staff at bus or school entries where they will observe students for: Unusual coloration (flushed pale), Chills, unusual behavior (behavior change, lethargy, unusual fatigue), new or significant coughing, shortness of breath, nasal congestion or runny nose. Student complaints may also include: nausea/vomiting/ diarrhea, sore throat, headache, muscle pain/achiness, fever/chills, loss of taste or smell. If students are positive for any symptoms listed in visual screening or student complaint, they will be separated from other students to be screened further by a health staff member or designated trained staff, at which point the student's temperature may be taken and the process will be followed for exclusion as indicated in the <a href="#">ODE/OHA Communicable Disease Guidance</a> (p.10-11).</p>
<p>If we have a COVID case in a cohort group of students, will we automatically go into quarantine?</p>	<p>If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, then Lane County Public Health (LCPH) will be consulted to review the situation. Under <a href="#">updated ODE/OHA guidance</a> (section 1d, p.21), all members of a stable cohort group will need to quarantine until the contact tracing process is completed. Individuals who were determined to be in close contact (<u>close contact (&lt; 6 feet) for ≥15 minutes or direct contact</u>) with a positive COVID-19 person may be directed to self-quarantine for 14 days after their last exposure. Those exposed who start experiencing symptoms would then follow the guidance from LCPH or their own medical provider for return from COVID-19 illness.</p>
<p>What do we do about student materials and technology cleaning/sharing?</p>	<p>Students' personal items brought from home will be restricted and will be clearly labeled. Technology, such as Chromebooks, will be assigned to specific students and sanitizing protocols will be followed after every use.</p>
<p>Can you explain what is meant by an intact cohort?</p>	<p>An intact cohort is a group of students that stays together throughout the day and avoids mixing with other groups. Some students could be in different cohorts throughout the day, but according to <a href="#">updated ODE/OHA guidance</a> (section 1d, p. 21) students cannot be part of</p>

	<p>multiple cohorts that exceed a total of 100 people within the educational week.</p> <p>Cohorting may look different depending on instructional models at different grade levels and varying instructional needs of students. We will plan to minimize the number of cohort groups a student is in. We are also required to keep track of the various cohorts students and staff may be a part of throughout their day.</p>
Who will make the determination to close in the event of an outbreak?	We will work within the recommendations, and in collaboration with, Lane County Public Health regarding all communicable disease outbreaks and clusters of illness. Based on the recommendations of LCPH, the District will make the determination to close schools.
Will classrooms be shared among teachers? Will we be expecting teachers to rotate classrooms?	It is our intent to minimize the number of different groups or cohorts of students/staff using a given space because of the increased risk of exposure, as well as an increased need to clean and disinfect. That said, this may be dependent on the building or program needs.
Some school facilities will be able to provide more adequate ventilation than other school buildings. Can you speak to what is being done to assess and potentially improve ventilation?	We are reviewing Bethel floor plans and HVAC systems to determine building capabilities and identify areas of need. We will be doing our best to mitigate areas where we have ventilation concerns, including adding fans.
There's a lot of discussion about Music and Band classes and singing/playing instruments and respiratory droplets. Does the District have any feelings/guidance on this?	We still need to consult with Bethel music teachers. Music is very challenging because band and choir are high risk activities, coupled with being among the largest class sizes. And, larger spaces that spread out large groups of students are not conducive to teaching and learning (e.g., gymnasiums).
Will buildings have additional wash stations and hand sanitizer stations? What about students whose skin is irritated by hand sanitizer?	Additional wall-mounted hand sanitizing stations are being installed in each of our schools. The District Nurses are exploring options for those with skin sensitivities.
What is the system for buses? How do we ensure the training and adequate staffing of First Student? How many adults will be on the bus?	At the start of the day, student screenings will be performed prior to entry to the buses by trained staff (not the bus driver). That staff will be trained using LCPH-developed guidance as well as Bethel-specific training, both currently still in process.
How will lunch work?	This is still in the planning process. What we do know is that school cafeterias are not big enough to allow for many students to eat at the same time and still maintain physical distancing between students, so lunch in the cafeteria may not be an option. We are working with our

	Nutrition Services staff to determine how to best serve school-provided meals in different areas, like classrooms, pods, or other common spaces.
How will recess be handled safely?	The Health and Safety Work Group has developed recommendations for recess that will ensure safety to the best of our ability. This will include hand washing before and after use, developing activities that allow for maintaining physical distancing, cleaning/sanitizing between cohorts, providing each cohort with their own set of playground balls, ropes, etc., along with other measures.
Will this be for the whole year? How will the District determine whether and when to return to full-time school?	The one consistent feature of the COVID-19 pandemic is that <i>there is no consistency</i> . It is impossible to know if our instructional model will be implemented for weeks, months, or the entire school year. The District will continue to operate based on the guidance provided by ODE/OHA, the Governor, and Lane County Public Health
How can I find childcare? Will schools that partner to offer child care (such as YMCA, Creative Care, etc.) continue to do so?	A great place to go to identify child care resources and support is <a href="https://www.lanec.edu/qcc/finding-quality-child-care">https://www.lanec.edu/qcc/finding-quality-child-care</a> Once there, you will find a link to a 211 system that may assist your family. We will continue to partner with providers at our school sites, when possible and working within the guidance from the Early Learning Division.

## Instruction

Questions	Answers
Explain Comprehensive Distance Learning. How is it different from the short-term distance learning during the spring?	<p>For the fall, Bethel schools will offer Comprehensive Distance Learning for any student who is unable or does not wish to attend school in person. Distance learning will be taught by Bethel teachers using our curriculum. Students will have access to the same courses and instruction available to students attending in person, including electives. Additionally, students will have daily contact with teachers to check in and get help on assignments. Students may access mental and physical health supports, receive meals at designated sites and will be provided a Chromebook free of charge. Families may opt to return to on-site learning at any time during the year.</p> <p>Short term distance learning this last spring was a rapid response to an emergency. This fall, teachers will have been provided adequate time to learn the tools of teaching remotely and will be fully prepared to create rich and robust learning environments.</p>
Can families choose Comprehensive Distance Learning	Families will be given the choice between a hybrid model that includes in-school instruction two days each week combined with distance

<p>or do they need to prove they are medically fragile?</p>	<p>learning, or Bethel's Comprehensive Distance Learning. There is no burden of proof to take part in 100% comprehensive distance learning.</p>
<p>Will students be able to switch back and forth between full distance learning and hybrid model at their choice? How can we account for flux in in-person attendance?</p>	<p>We are expecting that enrollment will be fluid for some families. We will need a plan that can accommodate student movement between the two models. There is no deadline to let your school know which option you will choose, but the more advance notice you can provide the better. Attendance can be based on participation in-person or through distance learning.</p>
<p>In the hybrid learning model, will my child have the same teacher(s) during in-person and distance learning.</p>	<p>Yes! Additionally, they will have the opportunity for daily contact with their teacher(s), whether it is during in-person or distance days.</p>
<p>What are some ways to support the learning of special populations, such as students with IEPs, emerging bilinguals, those receiving Title services and Kinders?</p>	<p>We are examining the possibility of some special populations of students following a different schedule than the AA-BB model (Student cohort A attending Monday/Tuesday; student cohort B attending Thursday and Friday.). There are many implications of providing this kind of additional learning time for our staffing, our spaces, and our ability to ensure intact cohorting. Our planning is continuing and more information should be available on this soon.</p> <p>We will ensure that the rights of our students are protected and that we are providing services to students who need more individualized supports.</p>
<p>Are we considering having certain classes being 100% distance learning instead of hybrid (thinking high school)? Limiting cross cohort interactions may be more effective if we select certain classes to be online only.</p>	<p>We are considering this idea and we are reaching out to some of these specialists to discuss options and to plan.</p>
<p>Are there other changes to the calendar the district is considering?</p>	<p>Yes. We know we will need more planning and training time at the start of the school year and our instructional planning teams need to get further along in the models prior to making final calendar suggestions for the School Board to consider.</p>
<p>How would cohorting work at the secondary level?</p>	<p>Cohorting is certainly more complicated in grades 6-12. We are looking at ways to consolidate and condense our course offerings to minimize the number of cohorts. The newly updated <a href="#">Ready Safe Learners Guidance for Reopening Schools</a> and resulting revised cohorting limitations make condensed course offerings a good idea.</p>
<p>For distance learning, will attendance and grading look like</p>	<p>It is not likely that attendance and grading will look like they did in the spring. The ODE guidance identifies a more robust model. More</p>

they did in the spring? Will grading continue to be Pass/No Pass?	detailed information about the requirement, and systems to support it, will be coming soon.
Can families choose whether they attend in-person Mon-Tues or Thurs-Fri?	We will attempt to accommodate these requests, paying particular attention to situations where siblings will need to attend on days together or alternating days based on the family's unique needs.
Will there be changes to the bell schedule?	Likely. Schools are in the process of designing their bell schedules. This is another one of those details that each school is still considering.
Will there be pre-recorded materials for at-home learning days?	Teachers will provide a variety of materials for at-home learning, including some recordings, but also including direct outreach to students through email, phone, Zoom and Google Meets. Students engaged in learning at home will have a robust level of support.
Will AP and IB continue?	Yes! We are committed to our rich and varied AP and IB programming at Willamette High School. Students who participate in these programs will continue to have the ability to do so, and we will ensure that the IB Diploma continues to be available.
How will these circumstances affect our student's ability to get into college?	Colleges across the country are aware of the very different circumstances we are in during this pandemic. Our transcripts have been modified to include language reflecting this, and we have been in communication with admissions offices to ensure a seamless application process and transition to 2-year and 4-year programs.
How will the social needs of my child be met in distance learning?	Comprehensive Distance Learning will include frequent opportunities for students to meet and collaborate on school work in Zoom and Google Meets, as well as to remotely attend clubs and affinity groups.
Is there a chance WHS will partner with other online school programs to provide specialized courses?	This is one of the options we are examining. Whether we are able to utilize our own staff to provide these opportunities or whether we need to partner with another agency, we are committed to offering a full range of opportunities.
Will Willamette continue with the A day/ B day schedule?	Though we have not finalized the schedule for WHS, it is unlikely to look like the traditional A day/B day. In order to maintain intact cohorts, we are shifting and rethinking the previous bell schedule. More detailed information about this will soon be available from WHS.
What will Physical Education look like in distance learning?	This could look many different ways, including activity logs with student reflections as well as Zoom-guided activities led by a PE instructor.