

Victory Bible Christian School

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VBCS RE-OPENING PLAN

VBCS staff have worked diligently to develop a research-based plan for the safe reopening of our school. Reentry is based on the following:

- In-school learning is most effective for nearly all students; therefore, we cannot just make-do as we had to last year.
- A pandemic is not a six-month event; therefore, we cannot be satisfied with short-term solutions.
- Small schools have fewer obstacles to safe reopening than large schools; therefore, we MAY not follow closing recommendations for local public school districts.
- VBCS believes in obeying government and seeks to be in compliance with all known federal, state, and local regulations concerning schools; therefore, there will be changes to the way school is conducted and the possibility of closure remains.
- Given the current rate of infection locally, there should be strong safety protocols in place.
- Like all schools, VBCS finds itself with conflicting priorities and desires to find the right balance among normalcy for our children, quality education, and health and safety concerns. We will not always get it right, but we will always try our best! Thank you for your patience and input so far.

Will school reopen?

This, of course, is the question on everyone's minds. Unfortunately, we cannot make promises; we can say, however, that we currently plan to reopen on time. The first day of school will be August 19. There will be no open house; grades 7-12 will be notified about orientation on August 18.

What if my child has to quarantine?

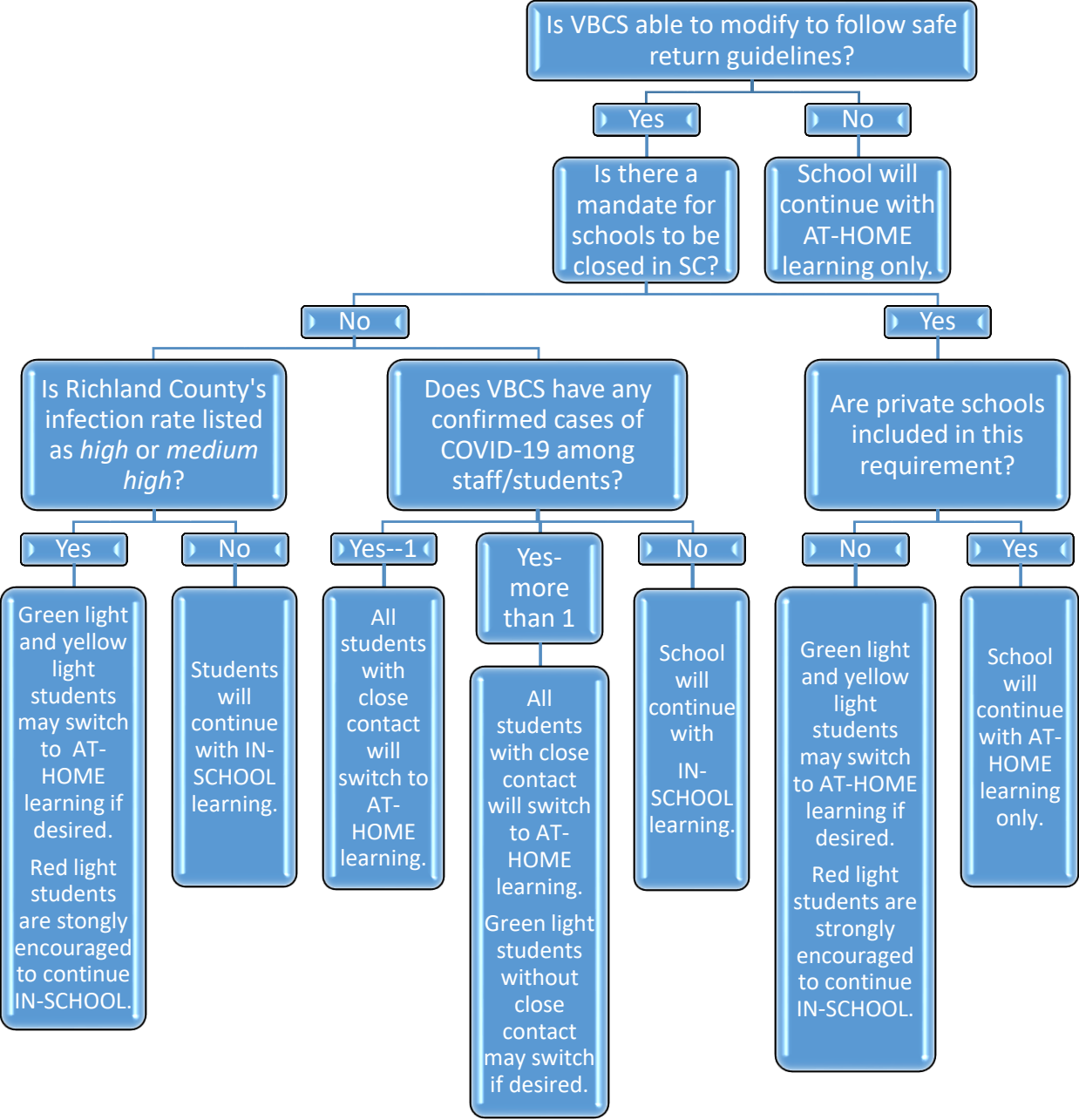
We are well aware of the strong possibility that one or more of our students will need to quarantine at some point, even if they are not sick. We are committed to providing the best in-home education we can for students who are well enough.

I have more questions.

There will be two Zoom meetings for parents to ask questions. These meetings are scheduled for July 28 at 7:00 (Meeting ID: 816 9752 1410; Password: 996214) and July 31 at 4:30 (Meeting ID: 851 9185 2301; Password: 232253). Feel free to join either of them.

DECISION PROCESS:

The following guidelines will be used in determining if the school must re-close.



Please summarize for me!

Sure.

The school will close to all in-school learning if 1. Private schools are mandated to close by the government OR 2. There is widespread infection in our school community.

Green light students will have the OPTION to do at-home learning if any of the following are true: 1. Lexington-Richland District 5 schools close but VBCS elects to remain open; 2. More than one student or teacher tests positive who is not in the student's close contact group; 3. Richland County's infection rate is *high or medium high*.

Green light students WILL switch to at-home learning if there is even 1 COVID-19 case in our school that is in their close contact group.

Yellow light students will have the OPTION to do at-home learning if either of the following is true: 1. Lexington-Richland District 5 schools close but VBCS elects to remain open; 2. Richland County's infection rate is *high or medium high*.

Yellow light students WILL switch to at-home learning if there is even 1 COVID-19 case in our school community that is in their close contact group.

Red light students may switch to at-home learning if 1. Lexington-Richland District 5 schools close but VBCS elects to remain open; 2. Richland County's infections rate is *high or medium high* but are encouraged to remain in school.

Red light students WILL switch to at-home learning if there is 1 COVID-19 case in our school community that is in their close contact group.

What are green, yellow, and red light students?

These categories help us determine which students to send home first if it becomes necessary to have fewer students in-class. Your student's designation is based on several criteria, including but not limited to 1. the presence of a parent or other adult in the home, 2. having a good internet connection and tech equipment available, 3. the student's performance during at-home learning last year, 4. the student's status as an ESL or other specially designated student, 5. the student's age.

Green light students are students we believe will be nearly as successful at home as at school. Yellow light students are students we believe will be successful at home but more successful in school. Red light students are students we believe will be more successful in school than at home.

Please note that no students new to VBCS have started with a green light, although some students may be re-designated at a later time. You will be notified of your student's designation.

What is my student's close contact group?

These are the students and teachers your student must be in close contact with during the school day. While social distancing guidelines are in place, it is not possible to carry these out at all times. Generally, your student's close contact group will be the students and teachers that are in the same classroom.

Are there additional times my student might have to stay home?

Yes. We must follow DHEC's quarantine guidelines for the good of our state. If there is any exposure to any member of your household, please contact us and we can go over these guidelines with you. In addition, students with regular illnesses or symptoms of illness may be excluded from school attendance as a precaution.

AT-HOME LEARNING

Will it be just like last year?

No. Based on our observations and our possible need to run both in-school and at-home learning simultaneously with a small staff, there will be significant changes, including the following:

1. Students will need to be in school uniform and report to their teacher through Zoom at the time school normally begins and will need to complete school on a schedule that matches what their classmates at school are doing. They will be marked tardy or absent according to the same criteria used for at-school students.
2. Students will need to remain in their Zoom room throughout the school day so that they can speak with their teacher and their teacher can speak with them and monitor what they are doing. The school hopes to be able to loan out equipment so that there is enough for each student at home.
3. Parents will need to pick up and drop off work up to twice a week.
4. Students who are well enough to learn but are not well enough to be in school may participate in at-home learning. Parents need to notify teachers they want this option when they fill out the absence note on SchoolCues. Otherwise, the missed day will count toward a student's allowable number of absences.
5. Students may be switched to another teacher to allow all students to have as much personal attention as needed.

If your student did not participate in at-home learning last year, we will provide full instructions when needed.

IN-SCHOOL LEARNING

Please note that changes are for safety reasons. Most policies will revert back to the usual when the COVID-19 spread is over.

Drop off and pick up:

For the 2020-2021 school year only, all grades will begin at 8:15 and end at 2:45. Grades 7-12 should expect study hall time to be reduced or eliminated.

Drop-off

Parents will fill out DAILY SYMPTOM CHECK on the SchoolCues app before leaving their children at school. Students will have temperatures checked before they exit their vehicles.

Parents should drive to the rock lot, where a staff member will take your child's temperature and admit him to the classroom. NO parents or other VISITORS will be admitted to the school buildings between 7 and 5 on days when students are present. If you need a face-to-face meeting with a teacher, please use SchoolCues to arrange one via Zoom.

Pick up

Students will remain in their classrooms until picked up. Again, please pull around to the rock lot and wait for a staff person. If you miss the main pick-up period, ring the new doorbell at the bottom of the stairs leading to the door at the back of the rock lot. After-school charges will begin at 3:15.

Illness:

Any students with ONE of these SYMPTOMS should remain home: fever, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, new or worse cough.

Any students with TWO of these SYMPTOMS should remain home: sore throat, aches, chills, fatigue, headache, congestion or runny nose, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting.

Students who develop symptoms of illness during the school day will be separated from the classroom until picked up by a parent.

Masks:

Staff and students over ten years old will wear MASKS or face shields per the Richland County ordinance as long as this ordinance is in place. When the ordinance is canceled, masks will become optional. Teachers will use an option that leaves their entire face visible to students.

Social distancing:

SOCIAL DISTANCING will be observed within classrooms as much as possible. Students will not be permitted to enter a classroom which is not theirs. Desks will be arranged so that no students are facing each other. Six feet will be maintained between grades if at all possible. Students will always have assigned seats.

Shared items will be eliminated.

Only close contact groups will use the same bathrooms. Students will have bathroom buddies and will never be sent to the bathroom with students not in their buddy group.

Waiting in line has been eliminated where possible.

There will be no school-wide activities or assemblies.

There will be no off-campus outings.

Hand washing:

Students will WASH and/or sanitize HANDS during the day, including before and after recess and before and after lunch.

Hand sanitizing stations will be available.

Food and drink:

Students should bring a WATER BOTTLE labeled with their name. Water fountains will be temporarily closed.

Students will have assigned seating for meals. Seating will be spaced farther apart than usual.

TREATS sent for the class TO SHARE will only be served if they are PRE-PACKAGED. (e.g. no cake that needs to be cut up and served, no dumplings to pass around, etc.)

Teachers who handle student's food items will wear GLOVES.

Outdoor play:

The K5-6th grades will be divided into two age-based play groups and will always play outdoors with the same group. Non-porous items will be used and items such as balls will be sanitized between classes.

The playground will be closed to non-students between 8 and 4 on school days.

Facility Cleaning:

In addition to regularly scheduled cleaning, including daily sanitizing of bathrooms, frequent touch items will be sanitized daily. The lunchroom will be sanitized between classes.