

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Fort Worth

COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines

The following protocols will be in effect at all schools in the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth for the 2021-2022 academic year. These guidelines will be reviewed and updated as needed throughout the year based on the most up-to-date information available.

FACE COVERINGS – Encouraged, but optional

Masks remain optional for all students, staff, faculty, and visitors regardless of their vaccination status. Campuses will work to ensure all persons are respected whether they choose to wear a mask or not.

IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

Instruction will be provided in-person at all schools within the Diocese.

HAND WASHING & HEALTH PRACTICES

Schools should have students and employees continue with handwashing and health practices related to the prevention of the virus. Schools should encourage appropriate cough and sneeze etiquette throughout the school day.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

A minimum of three feet of distancing between individuals is recommended whenever feasible. Conducting activities outdoors should be considered when possible. Campuses will do their best to accommodate parent requests to ensure their student remains socially distanced, but social distancing may not be possible or feasible in all situations.

Student desks are to be facing one direction in the classroom when possible.

CLEANING SURFACES

Schools will establish cleaning procedures in high-touch areas to include regular cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing of facilities.

VENTILATION

Schools will make efforts to improve ventilation within indoor spaces where possible.

WATER FOUNTAINS

Water fountains will be turned off; water bottle filling stations may be utilized.

MONITOR FOR ANY SYMPTOMS

Parents should monitor their children daily for any symptoms of COVID-19 or other contagious illnesses prior to coming on-campus. Faculty and staff should likewise monitor themselves daily prior to coming on campus.

- If experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or another contagious illness, **please stay home** and consult your physician for further guidance.

SYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF

Students that are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or other contagious illnesses while at school will be isolated from others in the clinic or other designated waiting area until their parent/guardian arrives to pick them up. **Parents must pick up their children within 30 minutes of being contacted by the school.**

Faculty or staff that are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or other contagious illnesses at work will notify their supervisor promptly, isolate themselves from other individuals, and promptly leave the campus.

STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Positive COVID-19 test results for students, faculty, and staff are required to be reported to the school nurse or health representative.

Students and staff who are diagnosed with or test positive for COVID-19 will need to remain home from school until: fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications, respiratory symptoms have improved, and it has been at least 10 full days since symptom onset (or since positive test result if asymptomatic).

When students are excluded from in-person activities, school administration and faculty will work with families to develop plans to keep the students current in their course work.

REQUIREMENTS TO RETURN TO SCHOOL

Students, faculty, and staff who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will be excluded from in-person activities.

Criteria for readmission:

- Note from healthcare provider indicating alternate diagnosis and clearing the individual to return; and a negative COVID test result if one was completed*; or
- 10 full days have passed since onset of symptoms, fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications, and improved respiratory symptoms.

* Consult with Nurse Eder to ensure the negative test will be considered valid by the school based on the date of the test.

CONTACT TRACING & NOTIFICATION OF POSITIVE CASES

Parents and staff will be notified of newly reported cases at the campus through email communication. Schools will conduct contact tracing based on positive cases and, with the assistance of local public health departments, will decide who will need to self-isolate or quarantine. Those who will need to self-isolate or quarantine will be notified by school administration.

CAMPUS VISITORS

Volunteers/visitors will be allowed on campus only after being screened in accordance with the school's screening protocols.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>

NEBULIZED MEDICATIONS

Since nebulized medications are considered an aerosolizing procedure, they will not be administered at school. Parents should contact their physician to obtain medication in a metered dose inhaler (MDI) with a spacer for administration at school.