

COVID Prevention Plan for Lincoln-area Catholic Schools Re-opening 2021-2022

Masks

- Masks are required for all school personnel, students and visitors when inside the school building.
- Masks can only be removed under the following conditions:
 1. When actively eating or drinking.
 2. When actively engaged in exercising.
 3. When outdoors.
- Medical exemptions will be granted with a note from a health care provider stating that the student or staff member cannot wear a mask indoors at school because he/she has a specified medical condition, mental health condition, or disability. Exemption letters will be confidential and kept in the student or staff members file.

Close Contact Exposure

- A close contact exposure is defined as a COVID-19 positive individual being within 6 feet of another individual for a cumulative time of 15 minutes within the last 24 hours.
 - If this is the case, the one exposed must quarantine for 7-14 days depending on testing and those test results.
- If a vaccinated person has a close contact exposure, then he/she must self-monitor for symptoms.
- If an unvaccinated person has a close contact exposure, then he/she must quarantine following the exclusion guidelines of St. Michael School.
- In the K-12 indoor classroom setting if a close contact exposure occurs and both persons were wearing a mask, then the one exposed must self-monitor for symptoms.
- If a close contact exposure occurs to a person who has tested positive for COVID in the last 90 days, then the one exposed must self-monitor for symptoms.

Testing

- A test will be highly recommended if one loses the sense of smell/taste or has had a close contact exposure with a positive case.
- One can quarantine for 10 days from the onset of loss of sense of smell/taste in lieu of a test.
- One can quarantine for 14 days after a close contact exposure in lieu of a test.

Distance Learning for Those Quarantining

- There will be distance learning offered via *Microsoft Teams* for grades 4-8 during core classes at teacher discretion depending on content and delivery style.
- There will be limited distance learning offered via *Microsoft Teams* for grades 2-3 at teacher discretion depending on content and delivery style.
- There will be no distance learning offered for PK-1 due to delivery, attention span, and to minimize screen time for young children.
- Please note: there will be no long-term distance learning offered for non-quarantine cases.

Major Changes from Last Year's Plan

- All will attend daily Mass.
- Drinking fountains will be turned on for use.
- There will be no cohorting of classes.
- Desks can be arranged in groups/pods.
- Lunchrooms will return to more normal operations.
- Permanent distance learning will not be offered by our Catholic schools.

COVID Vaccination Policy

The Diocese of Lincoln does not require anyone to receive the COVID vaccination. We understand this is a personal, medical decision. Nor does the diocese require anyone to disclose whether one has received a COVID vaccination.

Changing Circumstances

We are eager to have students in school with fewer restrictions while also keeping foremost in mind their safety and the safety of our faculty and staff. Safety is crucial to us all. Keep in mind that as the COVID tides change for better or worse, this plan may also change. The rate of change in the last few weeks has been considerable compared to earlier this summer. As with last year, our Lincoln-area schools will rely on the guidance and direction of the medical and public health officials at the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department in decision making relative to COVID. May God bless us all as we enter another unique year.