

Holy Infant School

Back to School Plan 2021-2022

as of August 5, 2021

Introduction

We are incredibly grateful that our Holy Infant School Community will be together on campus again very soon. The 2020-21 school year is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. As we draw near to that day, we are grateful to the members of our dedicated COVID-19 School Task Force for helping us prepare these guidelines. We have put much effort into drawing up these guidelines which aim to afford us the greatest possible opportunity to have classes in session on campus this year while also assuring safety, as much as possible, for our students, faculty and staff during the ongoing evolution of the pandemic. The Task Force members are: Fr. Ed Stanger, Pastor; Mrs. Becky McQuaide, Principal; Dr. Dominic Sanford, M.D., parent; Dr. Angela Sanford, M.D., parent; Mrs. Jennifer Knapp, R.N., parent; Mr. Tom Rafferty, parent and School Board President; Mrs. Barb Ford, R.N., School Nurse; Ms. Shari Brinker, Faculty Member, Mr. Adam Meeseey, Technology Coordinator; and Mrs. Sandy Hughes, Parish Office Manager.

Last year, under the guidance of the Task Force, we had amazing success and were able to have in-person learning for all 175 days of our school year! Our faculty and staff have been preparing for this coming school year. We have learned some things from last year and are modifying some of our guidelines. Our masking policy is the same policy from the July 2020 guidelines that the Task Force sent out before the county changed their mandate. It is the same policy that we began school with last August.

Some interesting statistics from last year:

- only 5 student cases affected our school community
- roughly 20 students were quarantined because of school cases
- 0 known cases due to school spread

Last year our Task Force used the information that was available at that time and planned a course of action that led to an extremely successful school year. We are hopeful that this year will be the same.

What follows here are the protocols that will be in place at the outset of this coming school year as education resumes on campus. Please be mindful that as the circumstances of the pandemic continue to evolve, it may become necessary to make adjustments to the protocols as we progress through the year. In other words, these guidelines are fluid. In formulating these protocols, our Task Force took into account the norms that have been provided by the State of Missouri, St. Louis County, and the Archdiocese of St. Louis as well as guidance that has been published regarding school settings by the CDC, the local Department of Health, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Preparing to Come to School Each Day

We feel that one of the big reasons that we were able to be in-person last year was that our community was mindful of each other. If your child is ill, please keep him/her home from school until you communicate with Mrs. Ford and/or your pediatrician.

It will be necessary for every child's health and well-being to be assessed daily prior to entering the school building. This process begins at home and will be verified when you arrive on campus each morning. The following are the component parts of that process:

BEFORE ARRIVING TO SCHOOL, PARENTS:

1. Will take the temperature of each child AND assess for the symptoms listed below:
 - Temperature (must be below 100.4 F without the intervention of any medication in the prior 6 hours)
 - Chills
 - New, persistent cough
 - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste and/or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea and/or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

If one or more of the following symptoms is present, the child will need to remain at home for the day and parents should contact their pediatrician for further guidance. The school's absence policy will be relaxed to take into consideration the need for precautionary and quarantined absences this year. During extended absences, teachers will work with parents to put a plan in place for continued learning for the student.

2. Every morning, parents will receive an email with a link to a short Google health assessment form that parents will need to complete prior to the students leaving for school. Results of the assessment will be automatically forwarded to school. This year our screening will be brief.

SCHOOL:

- Every person who seeks to enter the school building (such as clergy, parish staff) will be screened for symptoms associated with COVID-19 and temperatures will be checked.

Morning Drop-Off

Drop-off procedures are being adjusted in order to easily and quickly facilitate the above-mentioned health screening process and to eliminate congestion of foot traffic as students are entering the building. We will adhere to the following:

- Drop-off will begin at 7:15 AM
- Upon arrival, students will exit their cars wearing their masks. Faculty members will be present to check the family's completed health assessment and verify students are symptom-free and able to enter the school building. Anyone who hasn't completed the screening process will be sent to Mrs. Ford to be assessed.
- Staff will be outside to assist students into the building. Students should go directly to their classrooms. Drivers are to exit campus. There can be no lingering or congregating during morning drop-off and parents will not be able to enter the building.
- Those who are late arriving to school should call the School Office from your vehicle when you arrive. A school staff member will verify that the health screening has been completed.

Appointments

Those who need to sign students out at various times during the course of the day will be asked to call the School Office when you arrive. A school staff member will record your name and the time of your arrival to pick up the child and will escort the child to meet you outside the main entrance of school.

When symptoms are present

- During the course of a school day, if anyone presents symptoms, the student, faculty, or staff member will immediately be separated from others. Symptomatic staff members will be sent home with no further interaction on campus. Symptomatic students will be isolated in a private and safe space adjacent to the School Office until they are picked up by a parent or guardian.
- If there is an instance in which someone who has been at school tests positive for COVID-19, the Department of Health will be contacted immediately and all directives set forth by the Department of Health will be followed without exception or leeway. This includes making the circumstance known, conducting contact tracing, imposing restrictions on any others who have been exposed, and any and all other directives which the Health Department requires or advises.
- If your child must quarantine due to exposure, Mrs. Rose Aschenbrenner, the Virtual Learning Coordinator, will be in contact with you to see what supplies or books are needed.

Returning to School after exclusion:

Please see the flowcharts below to determine when your child(ren) can return to school after being absent due to Covid-19 exposure or symptoms.

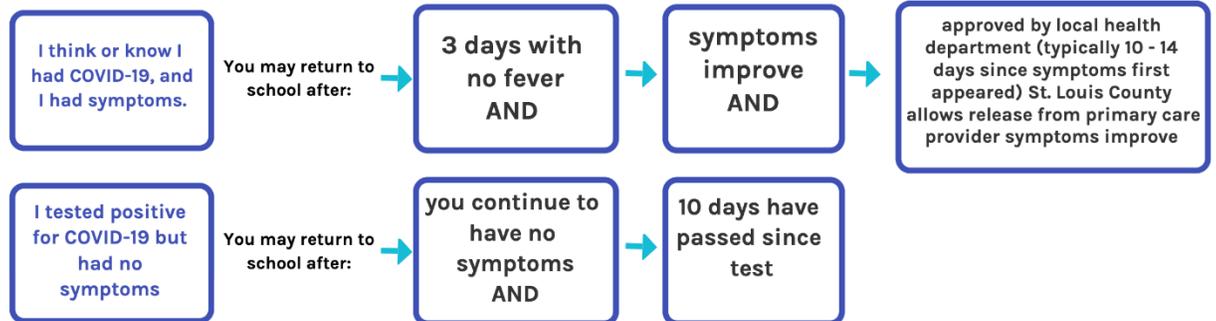


Health Guidance: Return to School After Exclusion



As of July 9, 2020

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC and the local Health Department.



Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might get tested to see if you still have COVID-19. If you will be tested, you can be around other after you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

Students may also return if they are approved to do so, in writing, by the student's health care provider.

Siblings or Other Students in the Household

If a student is excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms or has had a positive COVID-19 test, his or her siblings or other students living in the same household will also be excluded from school.



Health Guidance: Return to School After Exclusion

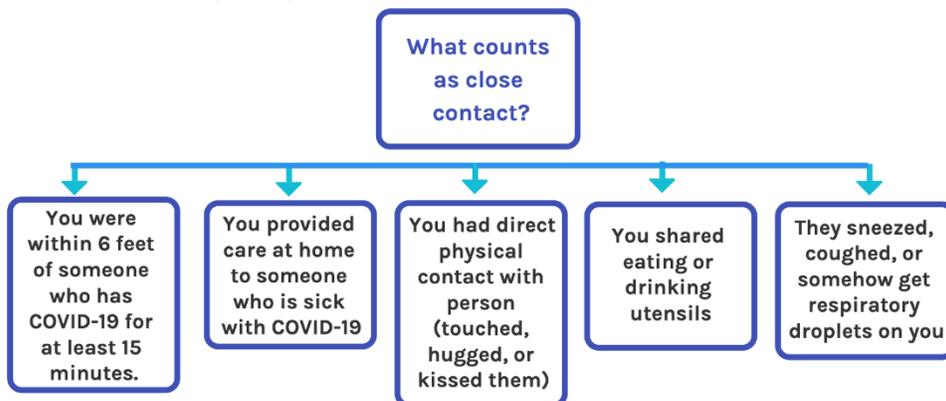
As of July 9, 2020



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Self-Quarantine

Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19. This includes people who previously had COVID-19 and people who have taken a serologic (antibody) test and have antibodies to the virus.



Steps to take

- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19
- Watch for fever (100.4 degrees or greater), shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19
- If possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19

Masks

It has been asserted by experts that wearing a mask/face covering over the nose and mouth impedes the spread of COVID-19, primarily as a means of protecting others from infection which the person wearing the mask may unknowingly have. It is likewise clear that in an instructional setting the wearing of a mask for a significantly extended period of time can, for some, become obstructive to concentration and learning (e.g. for those who wear eyeglasses which fog up and impede vision) and, for others, can present significant challenges due to asthma, anxiety issues, and other factors that some people live with. The protocols regarding masks for school will be the following:

- All persons (including pre-school through grade 8) entering the building will be required to wear a mask over the nose and mouth in order to be admitted. Please be certain that the design content of the mask is appropriate

for the school setting and that it is consistent with our values as a Christian community.

- Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to wear a mask for as much of the day as possible understanding that, as mentioned above, there may be good reason at certain specific times to remove it. In particular, we will adhere to the following:

- Students will wear a mask at all times when entering and exiting school to and from their family cars and when moving from their homeroom to any other location on campus.
- When in their homeroom during any instructional time which is lecture-based or presentation-based or while working individually at their desks, students may remove their masks in order to concentrate and focus on the lesson being taught or the project being worked on.
- The school supports parents who make the decision to have their students wear a mask at all times.
- When any student needs to interact one-on-one in proximity with a teacher or vice-versa, both will resume wearing their masks before the interaction begins.
- When students are seated and ready to begin eating in the cafeteria, the mask may be removed.
- Masks can be removed during recess outdoors and when PE involves physical exertion. Social distancing will be maintained as much as possible.
- Parents are asked to send extra masks to school for their children.

Cleanliness and Sanitation

It is the normal course of school cleanliness and sanitation that the entire school is cleaned nightly by our dedicated sanitation and cleaning crew. This will continue, with the additional requirement that all school areas will be disinfected using an industrial grade, food-service approved, kitchen disinfectant mist. Additionally, we will adhere to the following:

- Classrooms will be furnished with the above-mentioned disinfectant in spray bottle form so that a teacher has it at his or her disposal whenever needed throughout the day.
- Classrooms will be sanitized at the end of the school day.

- Routine hand hygiene will be taught and emphasized. Each classroom has been equipped with a hand sanitizer station immediately inside the classroom door.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be located at the entrances to each of our buildings on campus.
- Restrooms will be sanitized by our maintenance staff at various intervals throughout the school day.
- The cafeteria will be sanitized between lunch periods in addition to our regular lunchroom cleaning procedures.

End of Day Dismissal

- Pre-school and half-day Junior Kindergarten will be dismissed per teacher directives. Social distancing will be maintained.
- Full day Junior Kindergarten through 8th grade students will be dismissed one class at a time.
- Drivers are to remain in their cars. The playground will be closed throughout the dismissal process.
- Teachers will assist students in locating their vehicles.

Eucharist and Worship

The Celebration of Eucharist and other forms of worship are the bedrock of a Catholic community and a Catholic school. The school children will continue to participate in Eucharist weekly as well as in other worship experiences as liturgical seasons dictate. In particular:

- Students will participate at Eucharist weekly at grade-level Masses either in-person or virtual, as capacity limits allow.
- Students will be seated in church in homeroom groupings distanced from other homerooms and distanced among themselves as seating in church facilities.
- At this time, all-school liturgies will be livestreamed to our classrooms.

Homerooms

- Desks will be arranged to assure social distancing and spaced the required minimum of 3 feet according to class size. Desks will all face the same direction.
- At this time, students will go to the Art, Computer, Library, and Music classrooms. This is subject to change.
- Grades 5-8 will also switch classes to accommodate student learning needs. Students will maintain the same seating arrangement as they move from class to class.
- PE will take place outdoors or in the gymnasium depending on the activity.
- Outdoor spaces will be utilized for classroom instruction.

Hallways and Lockers

- Students and staff will wear masks while in the hallways. Foot-traffic in hallways will be single file with each student at least an arm's length behind the other. Efforts will be made to avoid congestion in the hallways.
- Lockers will be used minimally to reduce congestion.

Restrooms/Drinking Fountains

- Teachers will increase the frequency of restroom breaks for the entire class. A regular schedule for hand hygiene above and beyond what is usually followed will be conducted.
- Procedures will be put in place to limit student interaction in the bathrooms.
- Students will each have their own refillable water bottle. Students will not be allowed to drink from water fountains. Water fountains will only be used to refill water bottles.

Cafeteria/Recess

- Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria.
- Students will be escorted by a faculty member to the cafeteria and practice social distancing in the lunch line.

- Students may bring their lunch from home. The hot lunch program will continue to be available. For students who would like a salad, a boxed salad will be available. We will no longer offer a self-serve salad bar.
- Cafeteria tables will be spaced appropriately and seating at each table will be limited to assure distancing while the students are eating.
- Students will wash hands in the restroom or use hand sanitizer before and after eating. Hand sanitizer will be available in the cafeteria at the head of the lunch line and at the exit to the building.
- Once seated at a lunch table, students will remove their mask to eat. Before students can leave their table for recess, they will be instructed to put on their masks.
- Recess will be outside as much as possible. Parent volunteers who sign up for mid-day recreation will supervise students for outside recess only.
- Playground and other recess areas will be zoned for use by specific grade levels.
- This year, students will be allowed to play as a grade level when outside for recess.

After School Activities

- At this time, there will **not** be after school Band, Choir, or Bellarmine Speech. As conditions improve, we hope to phase in these after school activities.

After Care

- After-care will continue to be available with necessary modifications to comply with these guidelines.

Our goal last year was to get our kids back to school and keep them in school. We were extremely successful. Our goal this year is the same. We know that our school community working together can do this!