

Holy Spirit Catholic School Plans for Returning to School Under COVID-19

Plan for Safely Learning On Campus

These plans have been designed based on the current guidelines from the St. Louis County Department of Public Health. As scientific understandings of how COVID-19 is transmitted change, and as levels of COVID-19 in our community change, these guidelines may change, and our plans will change accordingly.

Arrival Screenings

Students - main building

All students will be screened before entering the building each morning. Large signs with screening questions will be posted at the drop-off line for parents to review. Three staff members will be at the drop off line to take temperatures and get confirmation from parents that the answer to all screening questions is no. **Parents must get confirmation from the staff member that the students have passed the health screening before cars can drive away.** We will keep the same drop off time window, which should allow enough time to screen all students as they arrive.

Late Arrivals

All late arriving students must be accompanied by parents to the school office where they will have their temperature taken and parents will review and confirm health screening questions before students will be allowed to go to class. Only one family at a time will be allowed in the office for the screening. Other parents arriving at the same time will wait outside for their turn.

Students - preschool building

All students will be screened before entering the building each morning. A large sign with screening questions will be posted by the door. Parents will not enter the building. A teacher or aide will meet the parents at the door to take the student's temperature and get confirmation from parents that the answer to all screening questions is no. Then the staff member will take the child to the classroom. If another family is arriving at the same time, they will wait in their car for their turn.

Staff

All staff will fill out the screening questionnaire each morning and turn it in upon arrival at the building. Staff temperatures will be checked when they arrive.

Visitors

Screening questions will be posted on a sign at the office door, instructing people not to enter if they answer yes to any of the questions. If a visitor will be staying, like for lunch duty, their temperature will be checked. Visitors will also complete a screening questionnaire.

Masks/PPE

Adults

Staff members are required to wear cloth face masks when in public areas, but if a teacher is alone in his/her own classroom, he/she may then remove the mask. All adults who are not staff members must wear face masks at all times while in the building.

Students in Grades 4-8

Students in grades four through eight are required to wear cloth face masks throughout the day. Face masks will not be required during periods of physical exertion, but they must be worn outside when physical distancing is not possible.

Students in Grades K-3

Students in kindergarten through third grade are *encouraged* to wear cloth face masks throughout the day. Students in kindergarten through third grade are *required* to wear cloth face masks during times when physical distancing is not possible.

Preschool Students

Preschool students will not be required to wear face masks, but they may wear them if their families choose to use them.

Social Distancing/Physical Distancing

Arrival time

If the weather allows, students will wait, supervised, in the courtyard until it is time to go to their classrooms. If it is raining or too cold, students will wait, supervised, in the gym. Markings on the floor will indicate 6-foot spacing for students while they wait.

Lockers/Coat hooks

Students grades 5-8 will keep their coats and backpacks in lockers in the hallway. There will be a schedule of when each class will go to lockers, and lockers will be assigned so that students from the same class are spaced out.

In classrooms with many closely-spaced coat hooks, coat hooks that are in use will be spaced out with empty hooks in between. All students should have an assigned coat hook to avoid accidental crowding of student belongings.

In Classrooms

Students will stay in their own classrooms for all instruction. Except for PE, specials teachers will come to the homerooms to teach. Upper-grade teachers will move from room to room instead of having students switch rooms.

Because students will not have much movement built into their day, it will be important to have some “brain breaks” incorporated into the school day when students will get up and move while staying in their socially distanced places.

All students will sit at desks, and tables will be moved into storage. Desks will be spaced as close as possible to 6 feet apart. Our largest grades are split into two classes to allow for spacing.

Mass

Students will attend Mass in these groupings: K-2 (56 students), 3-5 (65 students), 6-8 (67 students). School masses will be closed to the general public. Preschoolers will not attend Mass during school. There will be no all-school Masses.

Specials Classes

Art, music, library, and technology teachers will travel to the homerooms. A cart or shelf for storing materials can be kept in each hall for these teachers. Materials used by multiple classes will need to be disinfected between classes, and when possible, the students’ own supplies should be used.

PE will have class outside if possible, or in the gym. During periods of physical exertion, students will not be required to wear face masks..

Specials teachers will not visit the preschool building. This will reduce any spread of germs between the preschool and K-8 populations.

Lunch

Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria, and families will be able to purchase school lunches, although the salad bar will not be available.

Extra tables will be used to space the students at least 6 feet apart. Tables and seats will be sanitized between lunch periods. A gap will be scheduled between lunches to allow time for sanitizing.

Recess

Lines will be marked on the parking lot to mark areas for the different classes to play in. Students will not mix between grade levels at recess.

People coming to the building during the day

Parents picking up students during the school day will wait in a designated location.

Non-essential visitors will not be allowed in the building. Parents will only be allowed into the building to complete necessary volunteer work, including lunch or recess duty. All volunteers will complete a health screening when they arrive, and they must wear face masks. We will keep a log of all people who enter the building, for contact tracing purposes.

Buddies, Assemblies, and Other Special Events

Classes will not get together with other classes in person. Buddy classes can meet virtually or communicate with one another through cards, drawings, or notes.

We will have no all-school assemblies, in-person whole-school prayer services, or performances because of the inability to social distance during these events.

Restrooms

We will limit the number of students in the restrooms. High-touch surfaces will be wiped down during the day, and a log of when the cleaning takes place will be kept to assist with contact tracing.

Dismissal Time

Students will go directly to their cars during dismissal. We will have two bells ring a few minutes apart for students to leave the building with less crowding.

Food and Drink

Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria. Extra tables will be used to make sure students are able to be spaced out. Meals may be purchased from the cafeteria, but options may be different. For example, we may have pre-made salads instead of using the salad bar. Parents are also encouraged to send food in packages that students are able to open independently.

Students will not be allowed to drink from the drinking fountains. Drinking fountains are being adapted to include a touchless water bottle filler. Students should bring water bottles which can be refilled during the day if necessary.

Cleaning

On top of our usual daily cleaning, all parts of the main school building and annex will be disinfected after school each day. High-touch surfaces will also be disinfected during the day each day.

Students will use their own school supplies instead of sharing classroom supplies whenever possible. If shared supplies do need to be used, they will be disinfected between uses by different students. Students will each have their own chromebooks for use at school or in distance learning.

Adapting to Possible County Regulations

Our goal is to have in-person school five full days a week. However, we are ready to adjust if county regulations require us to do so.

If the county places a limit on in-person class size, we will adjust to a hybrid plan, with two groups of students each attending two days a week in person and distance learning three days. All students in each family will be kept on the same schedule. (Groupings will be decided after families select in-person or distance learning.)

If the county closes school buildings, we will adjust to distance learning for all. Please see the separate document about distance learning plans for details.

If Someone Gets Sick

Staff members with COVID-like symptoms will leave the building immediately. Students with COVID-like symptoms will be isolated in the nurse's room until they are picked up. Staff members working with a child with COVID-like symptoms will wear medical-grade face masks, eye protection, and a protective gown.

Anyone with COVID-like symptoms should contact a healthcare provider to determine if the symptoms are the result of a COVID-19 infection or other health issues.

If a case of COVID-19 is identified within the school, we will follow guidance of the health department for contact tracing, sanitizing protocols, school closure, etc.

Returning to School After COVID-19 Symptoms or Exposure

Below is the current guidance from the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the St. Louis County Department of Public Health for returning to school after possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection. (current as of July 9, 2020)

If you think or know you had COVID-19, and you had symptoms, you may return to school after:

- 3 days with no fever
- AND symptoms improved
- AND approved by local health department (10 – 14 days since symptoms first appeared).
Students may also return if they are approved to do so, in writing, by the student's health care provider.

If you tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms, you may return to school if:

- you continue to have no symptoms
- AND 10 days have passed since test

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 others after you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

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.

Self-Quarantine Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or who has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a COVID-19 "hot spot." This includes people who previously had COVID-19 and people who have taken a serologic (antibody) test and have antibodies to the virus.

What counts as close contact?

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

Steps to take

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

Source Documents

- CDC
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>
- St. Louis County Department of Public Health
<https://stlcorona.com/dr-pages-messages/covid-19-safe-operating-protocols/return-to-school-guidance/>
- American Academy of Pediatrics
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>