

# COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

We enter into this covenant with our Catholic school families in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, to keep students and staff healthy and safe and to promote in person learning. Throughout this plan you will see our *Blue Guy* as a reminder that through this all we are remembering to consider the entire child in mind, body, and soul as a child of God.

## THE BASICS

- ✦ A cohort is considered one classroom.
- ✦ Use hand sanitizer or wash their hands when entering a classroom/office.
- ✦ Keep social distance of at least 3 feet – single file (hallways, lunchroom, etc.) Blue Guys mark spots in the hallway.
- ✦ Please try to limit your entrance into the building throughout the day. If you wish, you are welcome to visit your child’s classroom after school is dismissed.
- ✦ We will continue to use water bottles and not drinking fountains. Students need to bring a water bottle to school that can be refilled at our hydration station and then brought home to be cleaned.
- ✦ Parents are asked to screen their child before sending them to school for any symptoms of COVID and to keep their child home whenever they are ill. Students will not be screened at school. We are asking parents to be honest and vigilant about their children’s health and are depending on them to help make common sense decisions regarding their children’s health. Students and employees are expected to remain at home when they are sick. Schools will promptly send children and employees home when they display symptoms of COVID-19 illness. Parents are expected to monitor health concerns at home.
- ✦ We ask families to follow the latest CDC guidance in determining what to do if your child has a close contact. (See chart) If you want additional guidance, please look at the MN Department of Health’s Decision Tree:  
[www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf)

Per the CDC:

**Close Contact through [proximity and duration of exposure](#):** Someone who was less than [6 feet away from an infected person](#) (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinical diagnosis](#)) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic people, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date).

- **Exception:** In the **K-12 indoor classroom** setting or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed (i.e., holding class outdoors with educator supervision), the close contact definition excludes students who were between 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinical diagnosis](#)) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) [correctly and consistently](#) wore well-fitting [masks](#) the entire time.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

- ✦ Transmission occurs early in the course of illness. Generally, in the 1 to 2 prior to the onset of symptoms and the 2 to 3 days after.

- ✦ **Arrival**

- Students may start arriving at 7:45 through the front door and immediately go to their classroom.

- ✦ **Lunch – prayer in classroom**

- The tables are set up with 4 spots at each table divided with plexi-glass.
- Lunch will be divided into 2 sections.

- ✦ **Computer Room**

- 17 stations are set up.
- After using the computers, the keyboard and mouse need to be wiped down by an adult before being used again.

- ✦ **Blue Bus**

- Everyone wears a mask on the bus.

- ✦ **Church**

- We will sit together in the 2 sections of pews, every other pew.
- We have assigned seating by grade with all students sitting with their classmates. The only exception to this is when students have special ministries and may need to sit in front or by the piano.
- Families are encouraged to join their children for 8:30 Mass each Friday. Students are welcome to sit with their families.

- ✦ **Dismissal**

- Students will wait in their classroom until their bell has been rung.
- Patrollers will need to be sent down at 2:37 p.m. to get ready.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Bell will ring at 2:40 p.m. Walkers and car riders will be released from the classroom out the front door.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bell will ring after the walkers and riders are on their way.

- ✦ **Masks**

- At this time, the Diocese of New Ulm does not require Catholic school students or employees to wear face coverings. It is the decision of the parents to have their child mask or not. Parents will communicate with their child's teacher whether or not he/she should consistently wear a mask.
- Our schools will work to reduce any stigmatization associated with the decision to wear or not wear a face covering. We will continue to foster a community of respect and kindness, whether masked or unmasked.
- School community members may be asked to mask when they are unable to maintain 3 feet of social distance.
- Cases where students are REQUIRED to mask:
  - On buses
  - When returning to school following a positive test (See CDC guidance).
  - When a "close contact" has been determined (See CDC guidance).

- ✦ **Cleaning/Sanitizing Protocols**

- All high touch surfaces will be cleaned a minimum of once per day.
- The kindergarten room will be fogged or tables washed daily.
- The other classrooms will be fogged weekly.
- Student desks and chairs will be cleaned daily.
- Students and staff will sanitize their hands before entering any classroom.
- Students and staff will wash their hands before lunch.

This policy may change as the measures needed to continue with in-person learning change. Every attempt will be made to provide as much notice as possible to any changes, but this may not always be possible.

## Updated CDC Guidance (December 27, 2021)

<p>If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate) <i>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay home for 5 days.</li> <li>• If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.</li> <li>• Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.</li> </ul> <p><i>If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.</i></p>
<p>If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)</p>	<p><b>If you:</b></p> <p>Have been boosted <b>OR</b> Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months <b>OR</b> Completed the primary series of J&amp;J vaccine within the last 2 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear a mask around others for 10 days.</li> <li>• Test on day 5, if possible.</li> </ul> <p><i>If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.</i></p> <p><b>If you:</b></p>

	<p>Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Completed the primary series of J&amp;J over 2 months ago and are not boosted</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Are unvaccinated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.</li><li>• If you can't quarantine, you must wear a mask for 10 days.</li><li>• Test on day 5 if possible.</li></ul> <p><i>If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home</i></p>
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