



August 9, 2021

Dear Catholic School Parents, Guardians, and staffs,

This document shall serve as the health and safety guidance for all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Marquette for the 2021-2022 school year. Our primary goal is to ensure a safe and responsible approach to full in-person learning, while providing schools with the tools they need to navigate and appropriately prepare for the school year.

Schools are encouraged to communicate the health and safety policies and practices to their school communities early and often.

Schools remain one of the safest places for students, teachers, and school staff with regards to mitigating COVID-19 exposure. Our goal is to give all students the opportunity for safe, in-person learning, five days a week. Each school should determine if/how services and educational programming will be provided if a student must remain home for short periods of time due to illness, isolation, or quarantine.

Vaccinations

Vaccination against COVID-19 is not required but encouraged for employees and eligible students, as an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good.

The expectations of length of quarantine differ for vaccinated vs. unvaccinated individuals. Therefore, an employee or student may be required to provide proof of their vaccination status to determine appropriate quarantine if they are in close contact with a positive case of COVID-19.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The CDC recommends that all non-vaccinated people continue to wear masks.

At this time and given current health conditions, the Diocese of Marquette will not require the use of masks at school/school events, but schools must allow individuals (students and staff) to wear masks if they choose. This guidance could change in response to local health data over the course of the school year.

Individual schools may put in place additional safety policies, above and beyond Diocese of Marquette guidance, including requiring the use of facial coverings for certain populations and/or in certain scenarios.

Hygiene

Schools should continue to utilize the CDC Guidance for cleaning, disinfection, and hand hygiene.

Spacing, Movement, and Access

Outdoor learning experiences and dining are encouraged whenever possible.

Physical distancing is not required but at least 3-6 feet between students is recommended for indoor activities in shared spaces.

Students and staff may travel between classrooms.

School visitors may enter the school building, but limits should still be considered and determined by each school. A log of all visitors is required. Logs should document the date, contact information, and arrival/departure times.

Screening Students and Staff

Parents/guardians should monitor their children for symptoms of infectious illness every day.

Students who are sick or displaying symptoms of infectious illness should not attend school and seek medical care when necessary.

Staff members should monitor their health for symptoms of infectious illness every day. Staff who are sick or displaying symptoms of infectious illness should remain home and seek medical care when necessary.

At this time, no school-based testing protocols are recommended.

Responding to Positive COVID-19 Cases and Close Contacts

Schools should continue to follow their county Health Department's quarantine recommendations.

Schools will communicate to parents/guardians and staff that they shall notify school administration immediately of any possible case of COVID-19. Families will be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home.

Gatherings and Extracurricular Activities

It is recommended that three feet of distance is maintained between individuals during indoor dining.

Field trips may resume.

Busing and Student Transportation

On school buses, our schools will follow the expectations regarding masks set by their local School District.

Mental & Social-Emotional Health

Schools will foster an environment of Christian charity and respect for others' decisions regarding vaccination status and use of masks.

School personnel will continue to monitor the mental, social, academic, emotional, and spiritual well-being of all students and staff, providing intervention, assistance, and support when needed.

Sincerely,



Mark Salisbury
Superintendent