

January 1, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans were able to begin classes again this year on-time and in-person because of the outstanding partnership between schools and parents to ensure that health and safety mandates were followed during this pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, we have maintained the ability to adapt protocols when additional information is presented for consideration. As such we are revising policies and procedures for Catholic schools in our archdiocese. The following guidelines are interim guidelines and shall be updated and revised accordingly. These protocols and procedures are hereby updated for schools effective January 3, 2022.

Updates - Isolation & Quarantine:

Archdiocese of New Orleans Catholic Schools-Interim COVID Guidance Updated January 1, 2022	
Situation	Protocols
Symptoms of COVID-19-No known exposure Stay home - Do NOT come to school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay home and test immediately Masking may be required by school <p>Note: If you test positive at any time, follow guidelines below (Positive for COVID-19; Isolate)</p>
Positive Test for COVID-19: Isolate Regardless of Vaccination Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay home in isolation for 5 days• No symptoms, end isolation• Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days <p><i>If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.</i></p>

Archdiocese of New Orleans Catholic Schools-Interim COVID Guidance Updated January 1, 2022	
<p>Exposed to Someone with COVID-19: No Quarantine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosted <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a mask around others for 10 days • Test on Day 5 and submit negative test results to school to remain in classes. • If symptoms develop, get a test, and remain home until symptom free, following the protocols in this chart and in place at the school
<p>Exposed to Someone with COVID-19: Quarantine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Boosted or Unvaccinated <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay home in quarantine for 5 days. • Test on Day 5 and submit negative test results to school to return to classes. • After that, continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

- **Remote/Virtual/Online Learning:** Students in quarantine or isolation may have the support of virtual or online learning, depending on the school’s policy.
- **Extra-Curricular Activities:** Because there is an increased risk of post-quarantine transmission associated with options to shorten quarantine, individuals who had close contact with infection may not participate in any activities with a higher risk of spreading the virus

(i.e., extra-curricular or co-curricular activities, including sports teams, PE class, music instruction, field trips, etc.) or take part in any activity that cannot maintain a 6-foot physical distancing until 10 days from contact. After 10 days, students and staff members in quarantine may resume all activities provided by the school.

All school activities, including field trips and overnight travel, can be held if current CDC and LDH guidelines are followed. Schools should post signs throughout campus indicating when face masking and physical distancing are in effect.

Note: CSAL and LHSAA schedules for the spring semester will remain in-tact with students playing under the guidelines above.

- **Face masks:** With the exception of schools located in Orleans Parish, there is no universal masking required in schools at this time. Wearing a face mask continues to be optional in general for those not listed above as requiring masking to return to school. For individuals requiring a face mask, their masks must be well-fitted and worn with fidelity.
- **Physical Distancing:** Students should maintain a distance of at least 3-feet apart and adhere to static seating assignments in classrooms. In common areas, including eating areas, all individuals should distance 6-feet apart, to the extent possible. Activities and classes that involve increased exhalation should continue to be held outdoors or in large, well-ventilated spaces, whenever possible. School buses may operate at 100% capacity if all passengers are masked, the windows are open, and assigned seating charts are utilized and enforced.
- **Visitors to Campus:** Non-essential visitors (i.e., volunteers, external groups, organizations, etc.) may not be allowed to visit campus unless required by law or by contract for services or to provide essential services. All visitors are required to wear masks and maintain 6-foot physical distancing from others, to the extent possible. Reschedule gatherings that invite visitors to campus.

The policies listed above come from concern for the safety of all stakeholders. The archdiocese is grateful to pastors, school leaders, faculty, staff, advisory board members, parents, and students for their vigilance in embracing health and safety practices to protect others in the community. Only through care for our brothers and sisters in Christ during this pandemic are we able to continue to experience learning communities that form disciples who witness God's love with joy!