



ST. PATRICK PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR) COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

August 7, 2020 *Subject to change as regulations and guidelines change

GENERAL PROCEDURES AND PRECAUTIONS - The following guidelines are to aid in navigating the reestablishment of our community where catechists, students, and families feel safe and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to St. Patrick PSR. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), St. Charles County Health Department, and Archdiocese of St. Louis.

BEFORE SCHOOL PRECAUTIONS

- Parents should monitor their children for any symptoms that are associated with the COVID-19 virus. **Students experiencing fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headaches, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose (not allergy related), nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea should not be brought to school.**
- Parents are encouraged to check their child's temperature daily. Per the recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics, any child with a temperature of 100° or higher should remain at home.
- Students who have come into contact with someone who is known or suspected of being COVID-19 positive may not come to school until they can satisfy the sick policy below.

DAILY PRECAUTIONS

- Masks are required for ALL students when entering or exiting the building, in the hallways, and other designated times when there is a need determined by administration and/or teacher. As recommended by the CDC and the St. Charles County Health Department, St. Patrick PSR will require face coverings for students in grades 3 through grade 8 to be worn throughout PSR. If a parent wants their child (1-2gr) to wear a mask the entirety of PSR, let the teacher know.
- Upon entering the building, the student's temperature will be taken. If no fever, the student will go directly to his/her classroom.
- Parents may not escort their children inside the building.
- Students will wash hands/hand sanitize upon arrival. Stations will be in every classroom and the cafeteria. Social distancing will be observed whenever possible.
- Students will have their own school supplies - No community sharing.
- Students may bring a clear, wide-mouth water bottle, labeled with their name. Water fountains will operate on auto bottle fill only.
- Only essential visitors will be allowed in the building and must wear a mask.
- If a student becomes sick at school, they will be placed in a supervised quarantine area until a parent can pick them up.
- **Mass** - we will be following the parish social distancing guidelines.
- **Dismissal** - Because of limited space in the safety boxes we will not be using them this year. Students will be dismissed at 6:15 by class directly to the parking lot. (eg: 4th grade will be called after 3rd grade is out of the hallway and will walk directly to their cars.) Any student who cannot find his/her car will go to the safety boxes to wait. Any adult who arrives after 6:15 will be asked to wait outside of the dismissal parking lot. Once all children are in cars, the first round of cars will leave and the second round may come into the dismissal parking lot. Any children waiting will be dismissed to their cars.
- **At home Learning** - We understand there may be families who have children who are immunocompromised; therefore, we are offering a homeschool option. For more information, please contact the PSR office.

CLEANING PROCEDURES

The school will be cleaned throughout the day, after school, and after PSR.

SICK POLICY - Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment due to COVID-19, they may return to school once they have satisfied the policy listed below. Students may also return if they are approved to do so, in writing, by the student's health care provider.

UNTESTED - Anyone who has not been tested proving or disproving the presence of COVID-19 but who experience symptoms, may return ONLY if these three conditions are met:

1. At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appear.
2. No fever for at least 72 hours without medication.
3. Other symptoms have improved.

TESTED - Anyone who has experienced symptoms and has been tested for COVID-19 may return to school if the following three conditions are met:

1. No fever without medication.
2. Other symptoms have improved.
3. Two negative tests in a row at least 24 hours apart have been received.

Anyone who has not had symptoms but tests positive for COVID-19 may return when they have gone 7 days without symptoms and have been released by a physician.

HOUSEHOLDS - If a student is excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms, his or her siblings and anyone else living in the household will also be excluded from school.

If a student or employee recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms, or who has traveled from somewhere considered a "hot spot" by the CDC, the school may exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine for 14 days.



ST. PATRICK PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR) COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

July 28, 2020

Regarding the questions received, we would like to share the answers with everyone in hopes to help you better understand. Below we have provided this information in a Question and Answer format. The following are in no particular order:

Q - Is there a specific style of mask that is preferred, before I order a whole bunch?

A - We ask that the mask meet the guidelines from the health department. Masks and gaiters are acceptable and there are no restrictions on colors/designs; HOWEVER, they should be appropriate for PSR (not a distraction). There is a YouTube video out by Bill Nye the Science Guy that has a fairly good explanation regarding how to know if it is an effective mask. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EV4IcXlpxcM>.

Q - If any student has to be home due to the Covid-19 illness will there be a virtual environment provided or how will they keep up with their studies especially if they aren't the ones sick but still having to be quarantined?

A - All families will be included in the virtual family activities and you are able to keep up with your books at home.

Q - I noticed that in the guidelines it states that students must wear masks to and from classrooms. Does this pertain to 1st & 2nd grades as well?

A - Yes, because our younger students will be around older students at various times, we are going to start with having our 1st and 2nd grade students wear masks into the building, when going upstairs, and exiting the building. Other than that, they will not need to wear one unless a parent requests it.

Q - Is there enough space for desks to be arranged for adequate social distancing?

A - The recommendation is up to 6 feet apart. We are able to space desks about 3 feet apart in all classrooms. All classrooms have the desks facing forward.

Q - What would the backup plan look like if local conditions worsen?

A - We will follow the directives of the St. Charles County Health Department and if mandated, we will go to full virtual learning.

Q - Will the teachers have to wear a mask while teaching in the classroom?

A - Yes, the teachers will be wearing a mask or a shield while in the presence of the students or other adults.

Q - Will students still be able to bring a water bottle to PSR?

A - Yes, they will be. The drinking fountains have been turned off; therefore, the only way for the students to get drinks would be through the use of a CLEAR water bottle brought from home. We will have two bottle filling stations in the building. One in the primary hallway and one in the middle school hallway.

Q - Are all catholic schools/PSR programs following these same guidelines or is this our particular schools guidelines?

A - The St. Charles region principals meet once a week and have been since April. We agreed to do our best to stay similar, but we also agreed that each of our school communities are different, and that we need to do what is best for our families. We are keeping policies as similar as possible for everyone at St. Patrick.

We would like to thank the members on our Task Force for dedicating so much of their time to help plan for the school year. While the Archdiocese of St. Louis provided us with some guidelines, as mentioned earlier in the summer, it was left up to the schools to follow our county guidelines and create a plan. Our Task Force went above and beyond for our school community, and we are very grateful for the assistance with making the decisions.

We're sure there will be many more questions and we will do our best to answer them to the best of our ability and in a timely manner. More than anything we appreciate your support and your understanding. Stay tuned for more information to come regarding the new school year! Have a blessed day!