



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC SCHOOL

COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

UPDATED August 4, 2020 ~~July 22, 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 school where employees, students, and families feel safe and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to St. Patrick School. 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. **UPDATED:** As recommended by the CDC and the St. Charles County Health Department, St. Patrick School will require face coverings for students in grades 3 through grade 8 to be worn throughout the day. Preschool through grade 2 will not wear masks inside the classroom. If a parent wants their child (PS-2 gr) to wear a mask all day, let the teacher know. Masks will not be worn by any class during lunch, outdoor recess, or outdoor PE. Each student must have 2 masks at school (1 for backup kept in Ziploc bag in backpack). Please put names on both masks! Non-distracting masks, shields, and gaiters are acceptable.
- Upon entering the building, the student's temperature will be taken. If no fever, the student will go directly to his/her classroom.
- Parents of preschool/pre-kindergarten children ONLY may escort their child to the door of his/her child's classroom. They may not enter the classroom, and a mask must be worn.
- Students will wash hands/hand sanitize throughout the day, before and after lunch, and have scheduled bathroom breaks to ensure hands are washed. 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.
- Homeroom classes will: remain together and not rotate classrooms, have PE outside (weather permitting) or in the classroom, have recess in designated areas separate from other homerooms, and use the bathroom facilities as a group.
- 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** - Students will attend Mass once a week, following the parish social distancing guidelines.
- **Morning Care** - When dropping off students at morning care, parents and students must wear a mask. Students will sit with homeroom classmates.
- **Lunch** - Students will eat in the cafeteria with their homeroom. All homerooms will be spaced apart. The cafeteria will be sanitized between each lunch period and the most recent Health & Safety Serving Guidelines will be followed. For Hot Lunch purchased from the school there will be: No salad bar; trays prepared with entrée and options of pre-made salad, hot or cold vegetable, fruit; seconds on main entrée only; utensils, napkin and straw placed on tray ahead of time; choice of milk/juice as usual; snack bar available (cafeteria person to hand chosen snack to the student); ice cream offered on designated days as before. For Lunch from Home: parents must provide items students are able to open on their own; staff will not be able to assist.
- **Dismissal** - Because a limited number of students will be allowed in the safety box at one time, parents will be required to sign up for a dismissal pick up time. Students will be dismissed according to those times. For example, Carpool #1 will be dismissed first at 3:00 pm, Carpool #2 will be called following Carpool #1's dismissal, then Carpool #3. Parents not arriving for their designated carpool will need to park and wait until all students have been dismissed. A sign-up schedule will be offered at a later date.
- **Aftercare** - Students attending aftercare will be required to wear a mask when we are unable to social distance. Parents must wear a mask into the building to pick up and sign the students out. This process will take place in the cafeteria (new location).
- **Virtual Learning** - We understand there may be families who have children who are immunocompromised; therefore, we are offering a limited virtual instruction option. For more information, please contact the school office.

CLEANING PROCEDURES

- Disinfectant spray will be used each time a class needs to leave a room and before a new class can enter.
- High traffic areas of the building will be cleaned more frequently. Student desks, chairs, and other surfaces will be cleaned daily.
- Cafeteria: Masks and gloves worn during food prep with frequent hand sanitization. Cafeteria will be cleaned/sanitized between each lunch period and the kitchen will be cleaned daily.

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 CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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 school (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=EV4lcXlpxcM>. NOTE: We are asking that parents send a back-up mask to be kept in the student's backpack.

Q - Regarding dismissal, are the sign ups going to be daily or for longer periods of time?

A - Parents will sign up for a carpool time for the entire year. Changes may be made when necessary and if possible.

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 - Students will be included in the virtual learning option if they need to be out for an extended period of time.

Q - Are the classes being organized to account for the accelerated math students?

A - The middle school students are being grouped according to math groups and accommodations are being made for students in grades Kdg - 5.

Q - Are the teachers switching for middle school?

A - Yes, for middle school, the teachers are moving from class to class instead of the students, and the Specials teachers will be going to the classrooms as well. PE will go outside weather permitting.

Q - I noticed that in the guidelines it states that students must wear mask to and from classrooms. Does this pertain to pre-school and pre-K as well?

A - Yes, because our younger students will be around older students at various times, we are going to start with having our preschool and pre-kindergarten 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 - Since masks do not have to be worn in the classrooms, 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 except the 7th grade which has the most students and is closer to 2 feet apart. All classrooms have the desks facing forward.

Q - Is the church large enough to fit 400+ students and staff for a weekly Mass while allowing for social distancing or will kids be spread out over several weekly Masses?

A - We will not be having all school Masses in the church. The students will be attending Mass throughout the week; however, they will be broken down into grade levels, to ensure we can socially distance. We will do our all school special Masses via livestream in the classrooms.

Q - Will masks be required during Mass or just to enter church?

A - Masks will be required into and out of the church, but not while they are seated in the pews because they will be socially distanced.

Q - How many lunch periods will there be?

A - There are three lunch periods and the students will have assigned seating within their homeroom. They will be about 2 feet apart from each other and sitting opposite across the tables. They will not be sitting with other homerooms; however, there will be other homerooms in the cafeteria at the same time.

Q - My son has a peanut allergy. During lunch, would he be sitting at the peanut-free table with kids from other homerooms?

A - No. Students with allergies will be sitting at the designated allergy table for their own homeroom only, where they will also be distanced apart from other students. If there is no one else with an allergy, we will have students who do not have any peanuts products in their lunch, so he is not sitting alone.

Q - Since instruments are shared and singing spreads droplets, will they still have music class?

A - Yes, we are having our music teacher push into the classrooms; however, there will not be any instruments. We are working on creative ways to have music without singing, but with the students facing forward we are hoping they will be able to do some singing. (still brainstorming)

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 - What about students who see the counselor, receive extra help from the resource teachers or participate in the gifted program?

A - Those students will still go. They will wear their mask to transition and in class only when necessary.

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 - Would the guidance on masks not being worn in the classrooms change? I assume it would if St. Charles county mandated it. But would the school consider a change without that mandate?

A - Yes, we would certainly go to requiring masks if the St Charles County Health Department mandated it, and yes, I believe we would consider a change without the mandate, but right now, we feel comfortable with this decision.

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

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 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 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!