



August 21, 2020

Dear St. Michael Catholic Church and School Families,

As we head into the fall, I want to assure you of our commitment to the wellbeing of all our parishioners. This means doing our best to invite everyone to pray, worship and learn together as safely as we can.

This fall, all parish and school programs and activities will abide by the governor's Executive Order (EO) 20-81, which mandates face coverings in public, indoor spaces when social distancing cannot be maintained. EO 20-81 provides some limited flexibility:

- Masks may not be worn in defined situations in which social distancing is possible.
- Face shields can be used as an alternative to masks in some circumstances.
- Individuals who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical or behavioral health condition may be exempt from wearing one.

The parish and school will be using the same exemption form for adults, youth and children. It will require the signature of a health professional (someone authorized to write prescriptions in Minnesota). You can request a form from the school or parish office.

As promised earlier this summer, we will not be questioning people who visit the church without a mask, but with our school and other ministries, we have to be clear and consistent. EO 20-81 may be controversial, but it is not optional. As Catholics we are obliged to follow the laws and orders of legitimate authorities even when we disagree, provided they are not immoral or unjust. This rule is neither.

I continue to ask for an abundance of charity in the face of these challenging circumstances. Please pray for wellbeing of all our families, students, staff and teachers as we head into the fall—and that we may gather together without restriction as soon as possible.

God bless you!

Fr. Brian Park
Pastor



ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Face Covering Exemption Form

For all ministries of Saint Michael Catholic Church including StMCS

As outlined in Executive Order (EO) 20-81 individuals who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical or behavioral health condition may be exempt from wearing one.

Parent/Guardian: Return this form to ministry leads, including the school principal.

Note: An exemption form must be signed by a parent/guardian and a medical authority.

STUDENT/ PARTICIPANT INFORMATION		
Student Last Name	Student First Name	Date of Birth
Home Address	City, State	Zip Code
Parent/Guardian Printed Name	Parent/ Guardian Signature	Date

MEDICAL AUTHORITY	
Medical Authority Printed Name	Medical Authority Signature
Office/ Clinic Address	Office/ Clinic Phone
Choose one option below (A or B)	
A. Can a face shield be worn instead of a mask?	B. Is a medical exemption required (no mask or face shield)?
<input type="checkbox"/> YES (If yes, skip B.)	<input type="checkbox"/> NO (If no, go to B.)
<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
List the medical, developmental or behavioral reason an exemption or face shield is warranted.	

Definitions: See page 3 for important informations

Face Covering Definitions:

- **Face Covering:** a cloth or paper mask, scarf, bandana, or gaiter that covers the mouth and nose.
- **Face Shield:** “A clear plastic barrier that covers the face. It is not known whether face shields provide the same source control for droplets as face masks, but they may be an option in situations where wearing a face mask is problematic. For optimal protection, the shield should extend below the chin and to the ears, and there should be no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield's headpiece.” <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html>
 - EO 20-81 states that “face shields may be used as an alternative to face coverings [...] for students in kindergarten through grade 8 when wearing a face covering is otherwise problematic for the student.” Thus a medical exemption is not required for students within the school who choose to use a shield instead of a mask.
- **Medical Authority:** A medical doctor, psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner (generally a person licensed to write prescriptions in Minnesota).