COVID-19 School Requirements
2021-2022 School Year
Updated May 2022

The Department of Catholic Schools has created the "COVID-19 School Requirements" document for schools to follow in the event of COVID-19 cases or activity in the school community. In order to maintain a healthy school environment, these protocols must be followed by all staff, students, visitors, and families. The most recent changes were made in response to updated guidance communicated by the CDC, community transmission levels, low case counts in our school communities, and data gathered from our schools.

These protocols are subject to change based on new guidance, government orders, or diocesan case data which will be reviewed and communicated to schools should that occur. A key factor in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and all illnesses is to keep children home when they are exhibiting symptoms and continue teaching general illness prevention strategies such as frequent hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes.

School Activity	Diocesan Requirements
Student Learning	- Schools will offer in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. - In the event that a student is required to isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19, the school will include the learner in daily instruction using the procedures established by the school.
Mask Requirements	- Masks are optional in all schools. - Schools will continue to support students, staff, or visitors who choose to wear a mask. - Schools who are seeing increasing illness in their school community may return to a temporary mask recommendation or requirement until cases decrease. - Messages or images on masks must align with the Catholic faith and school dress code requirements. Schools determine acceptable masks.
School Sponsored Athletics	High schools and high school athletes must follow the KHSAA guidelines.
Reporting COVID-19 Positive Cases	Parents must report to the school when their child tests positive for COVID-19. Schools will report each positive staff or student case to the Diocese in order to monitor case activity.
Contact Tracing	Schools will no longer conduct contact tracing.
Communication	If a school begins to see increasing COVID-19 cases, the school administration will inform the community so families may choose to take extra precautions.

Isolation Procedures

COVID-19 Situation	Procedures
Positive COVID-19 Test *(With symptoms)*	- Stay home and isolate for 10 days from the date symptoms began - Isolation may be shortened if symptoms fully resolve - You may resume activities after day 5 on the first day without symptoms (Must be fever free for 24 hours) - Wear a mask for 10 days since the start of symptoms
Positive COVID-19 Test *(No symptoms)*	- Stay home and isolate for 5 days from the date of your test - Wear a mask for an additional 5 days
Exposure to COVID-19	- Continue school, work, or activities if symptom-free - Monitor for symptoms for 10 days following the close contact exposure - Wear a mask for 10 days following exposure - If symptoms develop, isolate and get a COVID-19 test

COVID-19 School Questions

Q1. What are the symptoms of COVID-19? The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified a wide-range of symptoms that can be mild to severe and symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with the following symptoms may have COVID-19:   fever (above 100.4°F), chills, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea and a new, uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing. Follow this link to check your symptoms.

Q2. What should a parent do if a child has illness symptoms? If your child shows illness symptoms that could be COVID-19, you should contact your doctor. Your doctor may ask that your child participate in a COVID-19 test. You must alert your school's main office and do not send your child to school. Your child may return to school when he/she has been symptom and fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication or your child's doctor has provided an alternative diagnosis.

Q3. What should I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19? You must contact your child's school immediately to report the positive case. You should work with your child's primary care physician for treatment and follow the guidance above on when your child may return to school and activities.

Q4. Can I use an at-home test kit to determine if my child or household member has COVID-19? A family may choose to use a home test kit to determine whether a possible case is positive or negative. In some situations, schools may require official test results from a medical provider or state approved testing site if the administration deems it necessary.