



FAITH • LEADERSHIP • SERVICE

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES AND ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

February 10, 2022

Dear St. Joseph's Families,

In our Monthly Covid Update Letter on the January 20th we shared the most recent Quarantine Protocols from the Diocese of Crookston which mirror the recommendations of the CDC and MDH. These protocols were promulgated by the diocese on January 14th along with an updated Covid Mitigation Matrix which we have included in this email. Where the description of the mitigation within the levels will look familiar, going forward, the criteria for moving within levels will be based on Covid cases within our school.

At the same time we were preparing to implement this new matrix, the COVID positives in our community increased substantially and we felt it would be prudent for us to delay moving to the new matrix until community numbers started to decrease. As community numbers are decreasing, our neighboring schools proceed in lifting their mask mandates, and our school is experiencing minimal new Covid cases. We will adopt the new matrix, moving away from focusing on community numbers to focusing on cases within our school, beginning this Monday. We will continue to inform families of the level for the week and their corresponding criteria in our Thursday parent email.

For the Week beginning February 14th, we will be in Level II, with face covering determined by family choice.

Where the diocese provides the baseline for mitigation, each school can implement additional "operational practices." As we adopt the new matrix, for the time being, we will maintain our cohorts even in Level II and have our students wear their face coverings during Mass when all of the students are together. We will continue to evaluate our local practices as we monitor the status of Covid positives in our school and will communicate changes as soon as they happen.

Please know that the health and wellness of our students is always a priority. We encourage all families to continue to monitor for symptoms, stay home when sick, and get tested when symptoms arise. We also encourage checking with your family doctor/pediatrician on vaccination opportunities. As always, please let us know if you have any questions. We will continue to pray for all of your physical and especially spiritual health.

In Christ,
Fr. Vincent Miller
Superintendent

Laurie Johnson
Principal



Diocese of Crookston Catholic Schools Isolation and Quarantine Protocols

Isolation: The Diocese of Crookston Catholic Schools will follow CDC guidelines for isolating lab confirmed positive COVID-19 cases.

Quarantine: The Diocese of Crookston Catholic Schools will not be quarantining students who were potentially close contacts during school or school related activities at this time. Schools will contact trace and communicate with families regarding the potential close contact, those students will be placed on an “in-house” monitoring list for symptoms for 10 days.

The Diocese of Crookston Catholic Schools is only requiring students and staff to quarantine if a member of the household has a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 and will follow the CDC guidelines outlined. If you or your child has a known exposure from the community, please monitor for symptoms, it is highly recommended to get tested after 5 days and wear a well fitted mask for 10 days.

WHEN TO STAY HOME

ISOLATION: If you Tested positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms, regardless of vaccination status

Isolate by staying home for at least 5 days:

- Stay home for 5 days and isolate from others in your home.
- Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home.
- End isolation after 5 full days if you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and your symptoms are improving.
- **If you were severely ill with COVID-19** You should isolate for at least 10 days. Consult your doctor before ending isolation.
- Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.

CALCULATING ISOLATION: Day 0 is your first day of symptoms or a positive viral test. **Day 1 is the first full day after your symptoms developed or your test specimen was collected.** If you have COVID-19 or have symptoms, isolate for at least 5 days.

QUARANTINE: If you were exposed to COVID-19 in the home: AND are NOT vaccinated for COVID-19

Quarantine for at least 5 days:

- Stay home and quarantine for at least 5 full days.
- Wear a well-fitted mask if you must be around others in your home.
- Even if you don't develop symptoms, you are encouraged to get tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

After quarantine:

- Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19, students will be placed on the “in-house” symptom monitoring list
- Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.

NO QUARANTINE REQUIRED: If you were exposed to COVID-19 in the home AND are vaccinated OR had confirmed COVID-19 within the past 90 days

No quarantine guidelines:

- You do not need to stay home **unless** you develop symptoms.
- Even if you don’t develop symptoms, get tested at least 5 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- Watch for symptoms until 10 days after you last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- Wear a well-fitted mask for 10 full days any time you are around others inside your home or in public. Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask.

CALCULATING QUARANTINE:

The date of your exposure is considered day 0. **Day 1 is the first full day after your last contact with a person who has had COVID-19.** Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days.

DEFINITIONS

Exposure: contact with someone infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in a way that increases the likelihood of getting infected with the virus (anyone with a positive case in the home would be considered here).

Close Contacts: someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Quarantine: a strategy used to prevent transmission of COVID-19 by keeping people who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 apart from others.

Isolation: used to separate people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 from those without COVID-19. People who are in isolation should stay home until it’s safe for them to be around others. At home, anyone sick or infected should separate from others, or wear a well-fitting mask when they need to be around others.

Quarantine



If you were exposed

You [quarantine](#) and stay away from others when you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.



Isolate

If you are sick or test positive

You [isolate](#) when you are sick or when you have been infected with the virus, even if you don’t have symptoms.

[Full document](#) updated by CDC January 9, 2022

1/14/2022



Diocese of Crookston Catholic Schools

1/14/2022

The levels listed below will be changed in consultation with the local COVID-19 team. Levels are identified by each local school. A school may determine the level based on where criteria exists at the highest level. For example, if a criteria statement exists within level 2 but not in level 3, the school will identify in level 2 and implement mitigation responses accordingly. The school will identify and communicate through regular updates, the level of which they are operating.

Level	Criteria	Mitigation Response	Operational Practice
LEVEL 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No positive COVID cases identified within the school community over a 14-day period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks / Face Covering - Required during all bus/public transportation (federal mandate). Parent / Guardian decision for masking during the school day. Quarantine / Isolation - Implementation of CDC protocols for students / staff that are symptomatic due to close contact in the home only. Shortened quarantine option available with affirmation of appropriate testing. Health Screening - Household affirms child(ren) are not <u>symptomatic of COVID</u> before attending school. Cleaning / Disinfecting - Implementation of disinfecting and personal hygiene best practices in each school. Guests and Visitors - Welcome in the school and Mass with health screening in place. 	Operational Practice
LEVEL 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than 5% positive with COVID over a 7-day period a student cohort or grade. Increasing lack of compliance for keeping child(ren) home if presenting symptoms of illness related to COVID and/or fulfilling quarantine guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks / Face Covering - Required during all bus/public transportation (federal mandate). Parent / Guardian decision for masking during school day. Quarantine / Isolation - Implementation of CDC protocols for students / staff that are symptomatic due to close contact in the home only. Shortened quarantine option available with affirmation of appropriate testing. Health Screening - Household affirms that child(ren) are not <u>symptomatic of COVID</u> before attending school. Cleaning / Disinfecting - Implementation of disinfecting and personal hygiene best practices in school. Guests and Visitors - Limited to essential school operation, health screening in place. 	<p>Classroom Cohorts</p> <p>Mask at School Mass</p>
LEVEL 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% or more of a student cohort or grade are positive with COVID-19 and/or 3 students from any one classroom/cohort are diagnosed in a 7 - day window. Lack of compliance for keeping child(ren) home if presenting symptoms of illness related to COVID and/or fulfilling quarantine guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks / Face Covering - Required during all bus/public transportation (federal mandate) and during the school day for the cohort of students, and staff, above 5% or 3 in a classroom as determined by the local COVID team. Exceptions are during lunch/snack, physical activity, and when outdoors. Quarantine / Isolation - Implementation of CDC protocols for students / staff that are symptomatic due to close contact in the home only. Shortened quarantine option available with affirmation of appropriate testing. Health Screening - Household affirms child(ren) are not <u>symptomatic of COVID</u> before attending school. Cohorting - Implemented at the local school to meet needs and varying scenarios. Cleaning / Disinfecting - Implementation of disinfecting and personal hygiene best practices in each school. COVID Testing Option - Students / Families who would like to have COVID screening test completed, the school will offer information on how and where to obtain testing. Some schools may offer an onsite option through a grant at the MDH. Testing type will depend on availability. 	<p>Classroom Cohorts</p> <p>Mask at Mass</p> <p>No parishioners at School Mass</p>