



Archdiocese of Louisville Elementary Catholic Schools
Re-Entry Plan for 2021-22
July 30, 2021

The Archdiocese of Louisville was able to successfully implement in-person instruction for most of the 20-21 school year. Our parish and school communities were able to work together with health experts to ensure that our students received in-person instruction and stayed safe during the pandemic.

During that time, we relied on guidance from many sources at the local, state and national levels to make decisions and provide guidance for our schools. As we approach the beginning of the 21-22 school year, our strategy remains the same. We have relied on the guidance from local, state and national experts to inform our plan for resuming in-person instruction in August. In particular, the recommended 21-22 school re-entry plan for the Archdiocese of Louisville is based on the most recent guidance issued by the Center for Disease and Control released on July 27, 2021 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>) as well as the Kentucky Department of Public Health, which was released on July 29, 2021 (<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/covid19/K-12Guidance.pdf>). Because the majority of the Archdiocese of Louisville schools reside in Jefferson County, Louisville Metro Department of Health and Wellness also has been consulted along with Catholic school leaders.

The purpose of this document is to provide information that will help protect students, teachers and staff to slow the spread of COVID-19. Realizing the guidelines may continue to be revised, this document will be revised in the future to reflect any changes that result from changing conditions or updated guidance. While we all wish none of these prevention strategies would be needed as we start the new school year, we understand the important role we play in keeping our students and all who serve our students safe.

We ask God's blessing on all of our school communities as we begin another school year.

*Dr. Mary Beth Bowling
Superintendent of Schools*

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Layers of protection are recommended when schools open for in-person instruction for the 21-22 school year to maintain safety. Ages of children served by Archdiocese of Louisville schools and associated social and behavioral factors may affect the risk of transmission and also impact implementation of prevention strategies. Knowing that children under the age of 12 currently cannot receive the vaccination, we recommend the following guidelines:

<u>MASKS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Kentucky Department of Public Health recommends masks for all persons while indoors in all classroom and non-classroom settings, unless otherwise exempted. However, KDPH has not made this a requirement. Consequently, <u>parents of students may decide what is most appropriate given this recommendation. Should CDC/KDPH issue a mandate for masking, the Archdiocese of Louisville will cooperate with the mandate.</u>• Masks do not need to be worn outdoors unless there is sustained close contact with unvaccinated individuals.• In accordance with President Biden’s Executive order, those riding school buses must be masked at all times, including the driver even if vaccinated. Buses should use assigned seating to aid with contact tracing.
<u>PHYSICAL DISTANCING</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical distancing of at least 3 feet is recommended in classrooms where not everyone is fully vaccinated. It is recommended that desks are facing the same direction and assigned seating used for purposes of contact tracing. Non-essential furniture should also be removed to allow for adequate physical distancing.• Maximize physical distancing for unvaccinated persons who are eating meals indoors. When able, outdoor space for eating is recommended.• Consider the use of cohorts or pods as an additional strategy that will facilitate more efficient contact tracing and minimize opportunities for transmission.
<u>VENTILATION</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve facility ventilation to the greatest extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air and increase delivery of clean air. Utilize outdoor spaces, where possible.
<u>HYGIENE</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds or use of hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
<u>ISOLATION</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the school day, anyone experiencing the following symptoms should be isolated until at which point they are able to leave the building if exhibiting the following symptoms:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fever or feeling feverish (e.g. chills, sweating)- Difficulty breathing- Vomiting or diarrhea- New cough- Sore throat- New loss of taste or smell- Muscle aches or body aches• Encourage those exhibiting the symptoms of COVID-19 to see a health care provider for further evaluation.• Ensure those testing positive for COVID-19 follow the guidelines recommended by the local health department for isolation.• All adults and students are expected to stay home if they exhibit any of the symptoms above.

QUARANTINE AND CONTACT TRACING

- Schools will continue to work with their local health departments to facilitate case investigation and contact tracing to identify individuals who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Jefferson County Catholic Schools are required to enter any new case into Red Cap to expedite contact tracing. Use of masks will determine level of quarantines needed using the definition of a close contact - 6ft for 15 minutes or more while the infected person was contagious.
- Unvaccinated students, teachers, or staff who are identified as close contacts should be instructed to self-quarantine regardless of whether the exposure was in or outside of the school setting. Quarantine can be discontinued when:
 - The local health department determines the individual is safe to be around others or;
 - After 7 days if the individual is symptom-free and receives a negative COVID test 5 days or later after the last date of exposure to the case;
 - After day 10 without testing if the individual is symptom free.
- Fully vaccinated persons do not need to quarantine following an exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 if he/she is not experiencing symptoms.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

- Improve facility cleaning to the greatest extent possible. Cleaning once a day is enough and sufficient to remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. Consider cleaning high-touch areas more frequently.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Non-essential visitors, volunteers and activities with people who are not fully vaccinated should be limited, if there is a moderate to high COVID-19 transmission in the community.
- Because we are returning to full in-person instruction, those students who are sick or quarantining will not be able to follow class on-line in real time. As with any absence, students will be able to access information and obtain missed work as is outlined in each school's handbook.
- Archdiocese of Louisville Secondary Schools should be consulted individually for more information about their re-entry plans.