

January 2, 2022

Dear Friends,

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge were able to begin classes again this year on-time and in-person because of the outstanding partnership between schools and parents to ensure that health and safety guidelines were followed during this pandemic. As promised by Bishop Duca, additional information and developing situations would be considered in revision of policy and procedures for Catholic schools in our diocese. In alignment with the bishop’s direction, the following guidelines regarding isolation and quarantine procedures are hereby updated for schools effective January 3, 2022.

Since COVID testing is not widely available at this time, the isolation and quarantine protocols have been updated to reflect that reality. As soon as testing is more widely available, Day 5 testing may be required of anyone wishing to return to school after infection or close contact.

Updates - Isolation & Quarantine:

- [CDC Updates and Shortens Recommended Isolation and Quarantine Period for General Population](#) | [CDC Online Newsroom](#) | [CDC](#)

Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Schools Updated January 2, 2022	
Situation	Protocols
Symptomatic for COVID-19 DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay home for 5 Days• Test on Day 5 or later, if testing is available, and submit the results to the school• May return to school after Day 5, providing there is a negative test result and/or all symptoms have resolved <p>Note: If you test positive at any time, follow guidelines below (Positive for COVID-19; Isolate)</p>
Positive Test for COVID-19: Isolate Regardless of Vaccination Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay home in isolation for 5 days• No symptoms, end isolation• Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days

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<i>If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.</i>	
<p>Exposed to Someone with COVID-19: Quarantine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosted <p align="center">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months <p align="center">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a mask around others for 10 days • Test on Day 5, if testing is available, and submit negative test results to school to remain in classes. • If symptoms develop, get a test, and remain home until symptom-free, following the protocols in this chart and in place at the school
<p>Exposed to Someone with COVID-19: Quarantine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Boosted or Unvaccinated <p align="center">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted <p align="center">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay home in quarantine for 5 days. • Test on Day 5, if testing is available, and submit negative test results to school to return to classes. • After that, continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

- **Virtual or Online Learning:** Students in quarantine or isolation may have the support of virtual or online learning, depending on the school’s policy.
- **Extra-Curricular Activities:** Because there is an increased risk of post-quarantine transmission associated with options to shorten quarantine, individuals who had close contact with infection may not participate in any activities with a higher risk of spreading the virus (i.e., extra-curricular or co-curricular activities, including sports teams, PE class, music instruction, field trips, etc.) or take part in any activity that cannot maintain a 6-foot physical

distancing until 10 days from contact. After 10 days, students and staff members in quarantine may resume all activities provided by the school.

All schools activities, including field trips and overnight travel, can be held if current CDC and LDH guidelines are followed. Schools should post signs throughout campus indicating when face masking and physical distancing are in effect.

Note: CSAA and LHSAA schedules for the spring semester will remain in-tact with students playing under the guidelines above.

- **Face masks:** There is no universal masking required in schools at this time. Wearing a face mask continues to be optional in general for those not listed above as requiring masking to return to school. For individuals requiring a face mask, their masks must be well-fitted and worn with fidelity.
- **Physical Distancing:** Students need to maintain a distance of at least 3-feet apart and adhere to static seating assignments in classrooms. In common areas, including eating areas, all individuals should distance 6-feet apart as much as possible. Activities and classes that involve increased exhalation should continue to be held outdoors or in large, well-ventilated spaces, whenever possible. School buses may operate at 100% capacity if all passengers are masked, the windows are open, and assigned seating charts are utilized and enforced.
- **Visitors to Campus:** Non-essential visitors (i.e., volunteers, external groups, organizations, etc.) may not be allowed to visit campus unless required by law or by contract for services or considered essential. All visitors are required to wear masks and maintain 6-feet physical distancing from others.
- **Child Nutrition Program:** Breakfast, lunch, and after-school meals continue to be provided at no cost to all students during the 2021–2022 school year. Grab-n-go packaged meals such as cereal bars, pop tarts, muffins, fruit, juice, and milk will be available for breakfast. Students will be afforded a main dish and/or menu choices for lunch, which will be provided through the cafeteria serving line. Extra items may also be purchased through the student’s cafeteria account, which can be funded through www.myschoolbucks.com. After-school meals will be distributed to the program director at each site. Principals are to determine where students eat lunch within state guidelines.

The policies listed above come from concern for the safety of all stakeholders. The Diocese is grateful to pastors, school leaders, faculty, staff, advisory board members, parents, and students for their vigilance in embracing health and safety practices to protect others in the community. Only through care for our brothers and sisters in Christ during this pandemic are we able to continue to enjoy learning communities that *Evangelize Hearts, Educate Minds, Encourage Talent, and Embrace the Future.*