

Saint Joseph School Re-entry Plan
During COVID-19 Pandemic
Updated August 12, 2021

- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed.
- The virus spreads from person to person:
 - Between people who are in close contact with one another
 - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks
 - These droplets can land in the mouths, noses or eyes of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs
 - These droplets can also land on surfaces and be transmitted when touched

- At this time, the vaccine is not required for staff or students. Medical information **of any kind is CONFIDENTIAL**. Neither employees nor parents are required to share such information.

Parent Support

- Parents should not send their children to school if they have a fever (100.4 degrees or higher), cough, trouble breathing, sore throat, belly pain, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, dizziness or if they just don't feel well. Parents should contact their family physician to talk about whether their children need a test for coronavirus.

Healthy Hygiene:

- Wash your hands often.
- Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Daily Routines for Grades Pre-K to 8:

- Similar to last year, we will continue to use our curbside drop-off and pickup approach. Staff will greet parents/students at the door.
- For pre-K only: Parents will sign children in and out with the staff member at the door.
- All students in grades K-8 will attend Mass at the church on Tuesday mornings. Social-distancing requirements may result in grade levels alternating weeks they attend Mass.
- Families who choose to have their children wear masks may do so.
- At this time, per the Berkeley-Morgan Health Department, we will require masks for all students in grades K-8, as well as staff and visitors, whenever the seven-day rolling average of new COVID-19 cases, on the Friday of the week before, goes above substantial (50 to 99 cases per 100,000 people). Families will be notified via text when this happens. When/if this happens, please send your child to school with a mask.
- Pre-kindergartners are not obligated to wear masks, per CDC and state guidelines.
- K-8 desks will be spaced 3 feet apart.

- Outside breaks and/or classes are recommended when the weather cooperates.
- We intend to start taking class field trips again this year.

Lunchtime/Cafeteria:

- Pre-kindergarten students will eat in their classrooms.
- Lunch for K-8 will be served at the following times:
 - a. 11 to 11:30 a.m.: kindergarten, first and second grades
 - b. 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.: third, fourth and fifth grades
 - c. 12:30 to 1 p.m.: sixth, seventh and eighth grades
- The children will go through the lunch line to pick up their trays.
- There will be no assigned seating.
- We cannot yet invite parents to have lunch dates with their children. Parents cannot bring food from restaurants into school for their children unless they have made arrangements with a classroom teacher to provide it for an entire class. Such treats will be eaten in classrooms, not the cafeteria.

Front Office/Visitors:

- We are still limiting the number of parents and guests allowed in the school, with the exception of special occasions such as Grandparents Day, the book fair and open houses.
- Visitors only need to wear a mask if we are in a period of substantial transmission rate. See guidelines above.
- Visitors are always welcome to wear masks, even if they are not required.
- For classroom parties, only the homeroom parents (and one or two others, depending on what is needed) will be allowed in the classrooms.

Hours for Ours:

- We are restarting this program. Each family needs to donate 30 volunteer hours per year (15 hours before Christmas break), or they will be billed. More information will be shared with parents after school starts.
- Families must log their hours on the FACTS website under the parent portal.
- Although we are limiting visitors in the school this year, there will be plenty of ways to earn hours, including buying food and other items for parties or class projects; being a classroom parent; helping at a school function (book fair, Trunk or Treat); and serving as a chaperone on a field trip.

Cleanliness around the School:

- High-touch surfaces such as desks, tables/chairs, banisters, light switches and door handles will be cleaned throughout the day.
- Additional bathroom and room cleaning will occur after students are dismissed.

When Staff or Students have symptoms:

- Individuals will be sent to the nurse's office to be assessed.
- If children are symptomatic, parents will be called to pick them up.
- Staff members who are symptomatic will be sent home.
- Students are not required to take a COVID test after leaving school. It is recommended, but it is ultimately the parents' decision.
- If a student does not get tested, he/she must remain home for 10 days.

- If a person has a negative test, he/she may return when symptom-free (including fever) for 24 hours, without the use of medication.
- If a person has a negative test and is asymptomatic, but has been exposed* to someone with a positive case of COVID-19, he/she must remain home for seven days.
- Students/staff members who test positive will stay home until they can answer “yes” to all of the following questions:
 - Has it been at least 10 days since the individual first had symptoms?
 - Has it been at least three days since the individual had a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication)?
 - Has it been at least three days since the individual’s symptoms have improved, including cough and shortness of breath?

* Exposed means an unvaccinated person was within 3 feet of an infected person for more than 15 minutes while not wearing masks.

Specific Guidelines for Quarantining:

- If a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19, he or she must remain home for 10 days. If the student has a sibling attending Saint Joseph School who lives in the same household, the sibling also must stay home.
- Only unvaccinated students who were within 3 feet of an infected person while not wearing masks must be quarantined, as opposed to an entire class.

****Due to the fluid nature of COVID-19, requirements and recommendations on all protocols are subject to change.**

All recommendations and guidelines have been taken from the following sources:

2021 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

<https://dwc.org/covid-19/>

2021 American Academy of Pediatrics

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

2021 Berkeley-Morgan County Board of Health

<http://www.bchealthdept.org/covid-19-information.html>

2021 WVDOE School Recovery and Guidance Document

<https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/School-Recovery-and-Guidance-Document-FALL-2021.pdf>

2021 CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

2021 CDC Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/child-care-guidance.html>