

Saint Joseph School Re-entry Plan
During COVID-19 Pandemic
Updated February 28, 2022

- 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 now attend Mass in the church on Tuesday mornings. Social-distancing requirements are in place.
- Families who choose to have their children wear masks may do so.
- At this time, per the Berkeley-Morgan Health Department, we do not require masks for students, staff or visitors. However, if the weekly percentage of positive cases in our school reaches 10% or greater of students and staff, a universal mask requirement order

will be issued by the principal until the percentage positive falls below 10%.

Pre-kindergartners are not obligated to wear masks, per CDC and state guidelines.

- Outside breaks and/or classes are recommended when the weather cooperates.
- We have restarted 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.
- We are utilizing set-apart seating so children have their personal space to eat their lunch while still being able to socialize.
- 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 above 10% in positive COVID-19 cases. 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 whether testing is done is ultimately the parents' decision.
- 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 has been exposed** to someone with a positive case of COVID-19, he/she may return, as long as he/she remains asymptomatic. As soon as symptoms develop, he/she must stay home.
- For students who have been exposed, the best time to get tested is 4-5 days after exposure.
- 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 5 days since the individual first had symptoms?
 - Has it been at least 24 hours since the individual had a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication)?
 - Has the individual's symptoms been improving, including cough and shortness of breath?

*Symptomatic includes fever, constant cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, headache, loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, and nausea or vomiting.

** Exposed means a person was within 3 feet of an infected person for more than 15 minutes while not wearing masks (regardless of vaccination status).

Specific Guidelines for Isolating:

- If a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19, he or she must remain home for 5 days. Day zero is the start of symptoms or, if asymptomatic, it is the day of their positive test results.
- If the COVID-positive student has a family member attending Saint Joseph School who lives in the same household, the family may continue in-person learning, as long as he/she remains asymptomatic.
- After 5 days of isolation, the student may return to school, but must wear a mask for days 6-10.
- Pre-K students who have been out because they tested positive for COVID will have two options upon returning. They either have to extend their quarantine an additional 5 days

at home or mask for 5 days at school, if they are able. Parents need to send multiple masks for their students.

New Berkeley County Guidelines as of 2/21/22:

If you test positive for COVID-19, you must isolate.

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

- Stays home for 5 days.
- Day zero is the start of symptoms or the date of the positive test for asymptomatic individuals.
- Continues to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever goes away.

If you were exposed to someone with COVID-19, you no longer need to quarantine, but:

- Self-monitor for symptoms
- Test on day zero and day 5, if possible.
- If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home.
- Students may continue in-person learning, as long as they are asymptomatic.

****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:

2022 Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston:

<https://dwc.org/02-24-22-bishop-brennan-updates-masking-protocols-at-churches-in-the-diocese-of-wheeling-charleston/>

2022 Berkeley-Morgan County Health Departments:

<https://www.bchealthdept.org/covid-information>

2022 W.Va. Department of Education School Recovery and Guidance Document:

<https://wvde.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/School-Recovery-and-Guidance-Documents-022422-v1.pdf>

2022 CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools:

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

2022 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>

