

Holy Spirit Catholic School Covid-19 Response Plan 2021-2022



Holy Spirit Catholic School

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Karianne Earnest, Principal

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A message from our Principal...

Dear Families,

This school year presents with a unique opportunity to grow in the virtue of fortitude. Although, a COVID-19 vaccine is available for some age groups, we continue to have many in our community burdened with illness from this disease. Therefore, a continuation of our Covid-19 response protocols is necessary to protect the health and safety of our learners and contribute proactively to the health of the larger community.



I am very proud of the diligence that was shown by our entire school in protecting the health of our students and staff last year and I am confident that we will continue to respond to any new challenges in a thoughtful and Christ-like way.

HSCS families can rest assured that the school will continue to take every safety precaution possible: enhanced regular cleaning and disinfecting of high contact areas, hand-sanitizer stations, student and employee health screenings, personal space dividers in classrooms and cafeteria, free self-administered Covid testing, and the mandatory use of cloth face covers or face shields inside the building for students, staff, and visitors.

Our Covid-19 response plan was developed with the school's mission in mind and is informed by community health experts. At Holy Spirit, we believe that we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves and that one of the most important ways we can do that right now is with the diligent practice and execution of this plan. As always, our number one priority is to deliver the high-quality educational experience that is the hallmark of Holy Spirit in the safest way possible.

I am looking forward to another FAITH-filled year!

Blessings,

Karianne Earnest, Ed.S.
Principal – Holy Spirit Catholic School

GOALS OF THE REOPENING PLAN

- Prioritize the health and safety of students and staff.
- Maintain our Catholic identity (through morning assembly, Masses, and instruction in the faith).
- Keep students engaged in learning.
- Teach students essential skills for the grade.
- Maintain strong relationships with families and the larger community.
- Provide clear and proactive communication with families about their health, safety, and education at school.



HSCS START DATE & SCHEDULES

- Holy Spirit students will return to school on September 7th. The first bell rings at 7:55.
- Families will submit a COVID-19 symptom check through their Plus Portal account each day.
- Every family will be supplied with a self-administered Covid-19 test. If anyone in your household begins to show symptoms, use the test to determine if further treatment for Covid is needed.
- All families will be given a symptom-check decision tree at back-to-school night.
- *Children who have symptoms must be kept home.* Keeping sick children home is essential to stop the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses and to help keep our school safe.
- HSCS will follow a regular Monday-Friday schedule for in person instruction. Although we will not be offering a hybrid learning option this year, remote learning options are available on a case-by-case basis for serious health concerns. Please contact the school principal for more information.
- HSCS will continue to offer afterschool care, sports, and extracurricular activities. The health and safety protocols used during the school day will also apply to after school activities and events.

3-TIER HSCS REOPENING

****The following category designations refer to levels of transmission within HSCS****

No/Low Spread Traditional Learning Model

- School operations as normal pre-COVID-19
- Standard sanitization protocols, education on handwashing, promotion of vaccines.

Minimal/Moderate Spread Traditional Learning Model

- Physical distancing will be encouraged to the extent possible
- All students and staff required to wear cloth face coverings indoors per CDC recommendations
- Hand sanitizer stations in each classroom and at all entrances
- Strict daily cleaning protocols & limited sharing of classroom materials
- Staggered lunch & recess times
- No parents/visitors in building without advanced notice
- Transparent personal space dividers will be used on desks and in cafeteria
- Classes/lunch held outside as much as possible (weather permitting)
- Air purification systems will be used to improve indoor air quality
- Testing & screening protocols for students and staff
- An isolation area for anyone who develops symptoms while at school.
- Continuous monitoring of level of illness in the school and larger community.

Substantial Spread Alternative Learning Model

- Short term class or building closure.
- Teachers will use remote learning methods.
- All assignments will be posted on online platform
- Teachers will use individualized learning plans for each student
- Teachers will provide one-on-one teaching sessions
- Classes will attend live streamed masses
- Traditional grading policies will be used
- Daily live streamed "Morning Meeting" will take place
- Any teachers/staff coming into the building will be required to sign in

3-TIER HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC SCHOOL COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN

This draft is fluid and is subject to change based on updates from local health authorities.

**** Category designations refer to level of Covid-19 transmission within the school community.****

	Category 1 No/Low Spread	Category 2 Minimal/Moderate Spread	Category 3 Substantial Spread
Capacity of classrooms	<p>< 24</p> <p>See Family Handbook for class sizes in a typical school year.</p>	<p>< 22</p> <p>Desks: We will use clear plastic personal space dividers for desks and tables to aid in physical distancing</p> <p>Classroom Air Quality: Each classroom is equipped with a new air conditioner/heating unit as well as an air purifier.</p> <p>Student Belongings: Personal belongings and materials will be kept separate from other students.</p>	<p>*Short term class or building closure may be necessary*</p> <p>< 12</p> <p>Students will receive instruction in small groups following a modified bell schedule.</p> <p>Small Group Classroom Instruction Group 1: 8-11 am Group 2: 12-3 pm</p> <p>Online Assignments & Enrichment Group 1: 12-3 pm Group 2: 8-11 am</p> <p>Lunch outside (weather permitting) or in classrooms</p>
Masks/PPE	<p>Masks are recommended, but optional.</p>	<p>Masks or face shields will be a required part of the uniform expectation. Students will be expected to wear them while indoors.</p> <p>Certain accommodations may be made for students with</p>	<p>See adjacent column.</p>

		<p>sensory/respiratory difficulties. This situation will be handled on a case-by-case basis and a physician's note will be required. Teachers, staff, parents, or volunteers will be required wear masks while onsite.</p>	
<p>Monitoring health of students and staff (i.e. temp checks, nursing needs)</p>	<p>Students and staff are encouraged to monitor themselves for any symptoms of illness and to stay home when sick.</p>	<p>We are asking that all families and staff complete temperature checks and daily health screening surveys prior to arrival at school.</p> <p>We will follow the Idaho State Department of Health & Welfare Return to School Flowchart to inform our absence/sickness policy. See appendix A.</p> <p>We will have a private isolation area for anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms who is waiting to be picked up.</p> <p>Staff will receive additional training on reducing illness in schools.</p> <p>We will follow local health authorities and CDC guidance in implementing a communication and response plan for any potential exposure or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the school.</p> <p>It will be the duty of the administration to coordinate our efforts with the public health department.</p>	<p>See adjacent column</p>
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Standard Operating Procedures</p>	<p>We will not be taking large group field</p>	<p>No bussing, walking field trips to</p>

(especially if buses are used)		trips unless we can transport in smaller groups and the venue is large enough to maintain social distance. If using the bus, students will sit one to a seat, wear masks and the windows of the bus must be open. The bus will be properly sanitized in between groups of students.	outdoor venues may be allowed.
Cleaning schools (who/how)	All teachers/staff will use disinfecting machines at the end of each school day to sanitize the classrooms. Common surfaces will be cleaned throughout the day. Communal spaces (e.g. hallways and bathrooms) will be cleaned nightly by janitorial staff)	See first column	The school will be deep-cleaned and certain areas will be closed to staff who might be in the building to prepare lessons during a closure.
Equity in instruction (in-person, hybrid, online, access to technology, support at home, learning needs)	<p>Individualized learning plans will be developed at the beginning of the year for all students based on assessment data.</p> <p>These plans as well as ongoing skill assessment will drive curriculum planning during remote instruction.</p> <p>Traditional grading and assessments will be used</p> <p>All learners will have access to a school provided Chromebook or PC.</p>	See first column	<p>Small group instruction will focus on only one or two core subjects each day, with the typical number of instructional minutes in reading and math achieved over the course of a school week.</p> <p>The focus of each instructional day will be skill based and derived from state and diocesan standards.</p> <p>Technology will be incorporated into instruction during any periods of school closure.</p>
PE	Standard operating procedure. Masks will not be required outside.	Will take place outdoors. Students will sanitize hands upon exiting the building to go to PE, and participate in activities that limit the use of shared equipment (ping pong, jump rope etc.)	PE department will provide online lessons and activities for students who are learning from home

		During cold weather the gym will be utilized, and students will rotate through activity centers to ensure physical distancing.	
SEL (of staff and students)	<p>We will have an all-school morning assembly to start each day. We will gather in the gym to do announcements, prayer, pledge etc. Teachers will take 15 minutes every morning to focus explicitly on social and emotional wellbeing with students using the Responsive Classroom approach.</p> <p>Staff will have access to the Diocesan Employee Assistance Program and emotional and spiritual support throughout the year via retreats and professional development opportunities.</p>	Same as first column.	During short term classroom or building closure, streaming of morning assembly, masses, and other school events will be made available.
Start/stop times	Standard operating procedures.	See first column	
Weekly schedule	Standard operating procedures.	See first column	TBD if short term classroom or building closure is necessary.
Food services	Standard operating procedures.	Staggered lunch times in the cafeteria (or outside, weather permitting) in small groups with physical distancing and personal space dividers on tables. Students will wear masks while getting food from the line. Physical distancing will be maintained with clear signage and assigned seating will be used	Hot lunch program still available. Students will use disposable to go boxes and eat lunch in classrooms or grab and go if at home during a short-term closure.
Recess	Standard operating procedure	Small groups-outside in designated areas.	
Mass	Standard operating procedures	K thru 8 th grade to attend school mass	Broadcast weekly school Mass

		on Wednesday mornings at 8:15. School masses are closed to the public. Physical distancing and sanitization measures will be in place.	
Field trips/other special gatherings	Standard operating procedures	Out of county field trips will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. All required health and safety protocols will be required during all school field trips or events.	Virtual tours only
Volunteers in the school/classroom	Yes, masks recommended, but optional	Yes, with advanced notice, health screening and proper PPE.	Campus is closed to visitors/volunteers working with student groups. Volunteer opportunities available after school hours or from home
Plan for absenteeism	Standard operating procedures, traditional policies for absenteeism will be followed.	We will modify our attendance policies/penalties to account for potential increases in absenteeism due to suspected or confirmed cases of illness.	Same as adjacent column
Plan for confirmed case of COVID-19	See Appendix B	Same as first column	

References:

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

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

Idaho State Department of Education Back to School Guidance:

<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/re-opening/index.html>

Appendices:

Appendix A: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Return to School Flowchart

<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/re-opening/files/operations/COVID-19-Return-To-School-Flow-Chart.PDF>

Appendix B: Possible Scenarios for school response to positive case of COVID-19

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bRT1a-2wLtfATA_G8-6BTv1eJyWzNMOi/view