



**Notre Dame Catholic School
COVID-19 Response Model
2021-2022**

Notre Dame Catholic School will be welcoming students and staff back to campus this fall while putting students and staff safety first. Students and staff will return with in-school classes with near-normal operations using health measures. The information contained in this document is subject to change at any given time pending COVID-19 and the most appropriate information provided. Any changes made to this document will be communicated to our staff, students, families, and community. This document and changes made are based upon the mandates made by the Superintendent of Schools for Indiana, the Indiana Department of Education, our local health department and in accordance with the guidelines of the Catholic Diocese of Gary.

Diocesan Statement for all Catholic Schools

“Coronavirus and COVID-19 Warning: The risk of exposure to coronavirus exists anywhere that people (and even pets) are present, especially in larger groups. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the virus spreads easily between people and can cause severe illness and even death. The risk is higher for certain people. Risk factors include being 65 years of age or older or having serious underlying medical conditions. By attending a Diocese of Gary School, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to viruses, including the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. Enhanced health and safety measures have been recommended to protect each of us. You must follow all posted instructions while attending a Diocese of Gary School.”

General Building Maintenance and Sanitation

- A thorough cleaning of the school facilities will be completed prior to the start of the school year.
- School facilities will be cleaned at the end of each school day or before the next school day begins.
- NDCS will utilize industrial sanitizing equipment to help facilitate sanitation needs.
- High-touch or high contact surfaces such as bathroom facilities, desks, entryways, doorknobs and door handles will be sanitized regularly throughout the day.

- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed in entrances and exits around the school including classrooms.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be maintained and filled on a regular basis.

Prevention

- The priority for preventing the spread of disease in the school setting is to insist that sick employees and students stay home. Additionally, students and employees, who are not vaccinated, should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19. Please inform the school principal, Natasha Magnuson immediately if this is the case: nmagnuson@notredameparish.net
- Hand washing/sanitizing and avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth are also important steps a person can take to avoid becoming sick or spreading germs to others.

Screening

- Parents and families of Notre Dame students and staff should self-screen every day prior to the start of school. Please see the below for information regarding the symptoms of COVID-19. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, will be sent home immediately.
- Attendance will be handled on a case-by-case basis to ensure the safety and health of our students and staff.

Symptoms Impacting Consideration for Exclusion from School

Symptoms of COVID-19 (Does not include all possible symptoms)

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher (or school board policy if threshold is lower)
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/ asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- New loss of taste or smell

COVID-19 Screening for Parents

Every morning before you send your child to school please check for signs of illness:

<input type="checkbox"/>	 FEVER 100.4* OR CHILLS <small>*for school board policy if threshold is lower</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 SORE THROAT	<input type="checkbox"/>	 COUGH* OR SHORTNESS OF BREATH <small>*especially new onset, uncontrolled cough</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 DIARRHEA, NAUSEA OR VOMITING, ABDOMINAL PAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	 HEADACHE* <small>*particularly new onset of severe headache, especially with fever</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 NEW LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL

**May present with more than one symptom. This list does not include all possible symptoms.*

- 1 Does your child have any sign of illness above?
 - 2 Were you in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with anyone confirmed with COVID-19?
 - 3 If the answer is **YES** to any of the questions, **DO NOT** send your student to school. Instead, begin isolation of your child and contact your healthcare provider. Have you been tested for COVID-19? Only a positive test or provider diagnosis can confirm if someone has a current infection.
 - 4 Please keep your student home until they meet the criteria on the chart on back of the page.
-  If you have trouble breathing, chest pain, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake or bluish lips or face **CALL 911!**



Contact Tracing and Quarantine

- Students and employees will be excluded from school if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 based on CDC Guidance that is not otherwise explained.
- Students and employees in close contact with positive cases will be required to quarantine based on CDC recommendation unless such person is vaccinated.
- All persons considered to be close contacts or who have tested positive for COVID-19 must inform the school principal, Natasha Magnuson immediately.

Prevention Strategies

- Currently, universal indoor mask usage is recommended by the CDC for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. NDCS, therefore, also encourages mask usage while on campus. At this time, no such mandates exist, at any level, requiring mask usage.
- Students and staff shall wear face coverings while entering and exiting the building, in transition from one place to another, between classes, or when there isn't the possibility of reasonable social distance.

- Students and staff are recommended to wear face coverings while indoors by the CDC but it will not be mandated while in their homeroom classroom.
- If internal or county-based positivity rates rise to a pre-determined rate, NDCS reserves the right to require masks for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status.
- Spare masks will continue to be available at the main office while supplies last.
- The Diocese of Gary recognizes the seriousness of the pandemic and the effect it has had on many of those in our community. We believe that the vaccine is the best way to protect against the pandemic but also recognize the variety of factors that may cause someone to choose not to be vaccinated and we respect that choice.

Vaccination

- Vaccination continues to be encouraged by the Diocese of Gary
- Notre Dame Catholic School will not require the COVID vaccine for students, employees, or visitors to return to campus for the fall semester of 2021.
- The Diocese of Gary recognizes the seriousness of the pandemic and the effect it has had on many of those in our community. We believe that the vaccine is the best way to protect against the pandemic but also recognize the variety of factors that may cause someone to choose not to be vaccinated and we respect that choice.

In The Classroom and School

- Open air instruction will be utilized when possible.
- Students will have assigned seats in every class.
- Teachers will oversee daily wipe downs of student desks, tables, and other hard surfaces during the school day.

Virtual Learning Days

- Virtual Learning Days (VLD) may be utilized to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as directed by official authorities of Indiana, the Diocese of Gary and/or Notre Dame Catholic School.

Access to Campus

- Visitors, outside of necessary personnel, during the school day will be kept to a minimum.
- Email, phone calls, and Zoom calls will be used for communication needs.
- Families who are dropping-off or picking up students outside of normal school hours will need to report to the main school door for a visibility check and remain outside until their student is ready.

Athletics and Physical Education

- Director of Athletics Joe Bobillo will be providing guidelines to athletic coaches, student-athletes, and families before the start of athletic events in accordance with the PAC.

Events On and Off Campus

- All off campus field trips, service trips, or retreats will follow required guidelines of such venue.
- For scheduled masses, NDCS will follow the guidelines provided by Notre Dame Parish.
- Scheduled events such as plays, performances, banquets, etc. will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- Prior to an event there will be guidelines and instructions sent and shared with parents, students, and staff. This is an ever evolving situation, so we want to be sure to provide our students with the best possible opportunities, based on the most updated information and guidance.

Transportation

- All students will be required to wear masks during transit to and from school and outside events via school transportation

COVID-19 SUPPORT CENTER

- [Porter County Health Department Coronavirus Information](#)
- [Lake County Health Department COVID-19 Information](#)
- [LaPorte County Health Department COVID-19 Information](#)
- [Indiana High School Athletic Association \(IHSAA\) Spectator Restriction Announcement](#)
- [Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives](#)
- [CDC - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information](#)
- [Daily Screening Guide & Face Coverings](#)
- [Indiana Department of Health – Back to School Guidance 2021](#)
- [Indiana State Department of Health - COVID-19 Dashboard and Map](#)
- [Indiana State Dept. of Health Color-Coded Guide](#) (PreK-12 Recommendations)
- [Indiana Department of Education - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information](#)
- [CDC - Coronavirus Information for Travel Restrictions](#)
- [Talking to Children About COVID-19: A Parent Resource](#)
- [Talking with Children about the Coronavirus - CDC](#)
- [Symptoms of COVID-19 - CDC](#)
- [What You Need To Know About COVID-19 - CDC](#)
- [Coronavirus Cases in the U.S. - CDC](#)
- [Franciscan Health COVID-19 Information](#)
- [Community Healthcare System Coronavirus Information](#)

Diocese of Gary Schools

COVID-19 Response Model (2021-2022)

*Data for weekly 2-metric score and positivity rate can be found [here](#)
This information is subject to change if conditions require it and/or if mandates are released.

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Based on the weekly 2-metric score and the positivity rate*, schools decide to close as a precautionary measure due to increased cases. All students will participate in remote (at-home) learning.

3

Based on the weekly 2-metric score and the positivity rate*, face coverings are recommended for in-person learning.

2

Based on the weekly 2-metric score and the positivity rate*, face coverings are recommended when three feet of social distancing cannot be maintained.

1

Based on the weekly 2-metric score and the positivity rate*, in-person learning will emphasize good hygiene and reasonable social distancing. Face covering use is optional.