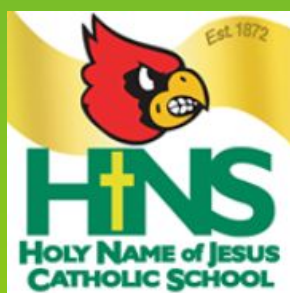


Holy Name of Jesus Catholic School



2020-2021

Return to School Preparedness and Response Plan

Please note: Information contained in this document is evolving and may be updated as additional guidance is released at the diocesan, national, state, or local level for returning to school.

Diocese of Owensboro Travel Advisory



DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO
Catholic Schools Office

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September 1, 2020

Parents and Guardians,

On July 20, 2020 the Kentucky Department for Public Health issued a travel advisory with the recommendation of a **14-day self-quarantine** for travelers who went to any of the states reporting positive testing rate equal to or greater than 15 percent-of COVID-19 testing.

It was also recommended by the state to use extra precaution traveling to states reporting positive testing rate equal to or greater than 10 percent-of COVID-19 testing.

In following these recommendations the Diocese of Owensboro has included the following policy in its "Return to Work and School" document:

If you have traveled to a state with a positivity rate for COVID-19 at or above 15%, you must quarantine at home for 14 days. Or, you may quarantine for 5 days and then take a COVID-19 test. Upon testing negative for COVID-19, you may then return to work or school, staying masked and socially distanced for the remaining 14 days at work and school.

The positivity rate in each state is constantly changing. Therefore we want to families to be aware that if you are planning a trip, there may be a possibility that the state you are planning on visiting could fall under the list of those with a 15% or higher positivity rate. These states are updated on the KY COVID-19 website: <https://govstatus.e.gov.com/kycovid19> It is essential for everyone to take this into account as they continue to plan for the future.

We are still asking you to be patient as we continually work together for the best possible school year for our students and families. We are committed to this and we will all get through this together!

God Bless,

David Kessler
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Diocese of Owensboro



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August 13, 2020

Parents and Families,

As you are all now aware, the Diocese of Owensboro has made the commitment to return our students back to school, in person, five days a week. I want to truly thank Bishop William Medley and the other Bishops in the Catholic Conference of Kentucky for taking a huge leap of faith and moving forward with the recommendations of their superintendents and administration to return to school. This was not an easy decision and one that was thoughtfully and spiritually thought out from all angles. We are all truly blessed to witness such great leadership in a time that we so desperately need it.

In the next few weeks, we will enter into a whole new era of what the school day will look like for our parents, students, and faculty. There will be new procedures and guidelines that we have never been faced with before. Each one of our schools has worked tirelessly since the end of the last school year to create a safe environment for our students, faculty, and staff. The problem still very evident is the “uncertainty” of this virus and the new information that is learned about it each and every day. As a community, we all have to be flexible and willing to adapt to changes as we work through the school year. With all that being said, there are two major components of this pandemic we are going to have to accept to ensure our schools can open soon and remain open.

First, we as a Catholic school community have to accept that fact that we are going to encounter cases of COVID-19. This is an inevitable fact we all have to come to terms with. The positive part of this is the diocese and our local schools are in constant contact with our local health departments and are ready to deal with situations as they arise. Our goal is the same as it would be for any sick child or employee. We want them follow the proper procedures, get well, and return to school as soon as it is safe to do so.

Secondly, we need every single person in our Catholic school community to be committed to making this work. We can create the greatest plans in the world, but if we don't have the complete honest buy-in from our community, those daily school procedures and guidelines won't matter much. We need students and parents to make responsible choices outside of school hours to keep us from being forced to an NTI situation. We are “all” going to have to make sacrifices in order for this to happen. During my media interviews yesterday, I emphatically informed them that our parents were 100 percent invested in making this work. Please help me keep my word.

Finally, we are asking our families to be patient with our principals, faculty, and staff as we continually work together for the best possible return to school for our students and families. We are committed to this and we will all get through this together!

God Bless,

David Kessler
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

School Re-opening Plan

The Catholic Schools Office in collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Education, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, local health officials, administrators, and other diocesan staff, has worked diligently to develop a school re-opening plan that allows students to return to campus in a manner that reduces health-related risks while maintaining an environment in which we focus on the education of the whole child.

COVID-19 Screening

Students, teachers and staff need to self-screen at home prior to heading to school. Student, teachers and staff will be required to be temperature-checked daily upon arrival. Those who have a fever of 100 F or higher, and/or two or more COVID-19 symptoms, should immediately isolate and contact their medical provider or use telehealth for further instructions. Those individuals residing in the same residence with the individual with COVID-19 symptoms also need to immediately isolate and wait for direction of the medical provider. Individuals with symptoms may return to school or work, when symptom-free and fever-free for at least 72 hours (without fever reducing medication) and with a health care provider's work or school clearance determining they do not have Covid-19. Other individuals in the household may return to school after a health care provider has determined COVID-19 is not present in the home.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Enhanced cleaning protocols have been established to disinfect the campuses daily. High touch surfaces will be regularly disinfected throughout the school day. Teachers and staff will be provided the necessary cleaning and disinfecting materials. Hand sanitizers will be provided throughout the building and the classrooms.

Face Masks

Face coverings are required for students in grades K-8 and all staff while on school property. Face masks should be school appropriate and fit properly. Masks should **not** contain political figures, political images, or political slogans. Face masks are expected to be cleaned and sanitized regularly. Gaiters are not acceptable face coverings

Visitors/Volunteers

At this time, the use of campus volunteers will be at the discretion of the principal. Visitors will not be permitted on the campus during the school day other than the front office. This recommendation is made based on the need to limit the exposure of our students, teachers and staff.

Physical Distancing

Classroom seating will be arranged to maximize strategic physical distancing and to limit face-to-face contact, which will allow for some opportunity for masks to be removed. Classes will alternate use of the cafeteria and other campus areas such as outdoor spaces to maintain reduced capacity and strategic physical distancing protocols.

Large Gatherings

School Masses will follow the protocols in place by the diocese. All athletic sporting events must adhere to state and local guidelines. Strategic physical distancing for all large gatherings on campus, inside and outside of the schools' facilities, will be observed, as well as state guidelines.

COVID-19 in the Workplace and Schools

If you have traveled to a state with a positivity rate for COVID-19 at or above 15%, you must quarantine at home for 14 days. Or, you may quarantine for 5 days then take a COVID-19 test. Upon testing negative for COVID-19, you may then return to work or school, staying masked and physically distanced for the 14 days at work and school.

1. You are not sick and have not been in contact with someone with COVID-19:

Guidelines to be at school:

- ▷ COVID-19 health pre-screenings must be conducted before attending work or school.
- ▷ Temperature checks will be required daily upon arrival.
- ▷ A face mask must be worn unless in your own office space or instructed by the teacher to remove your mask. This includes remaining masked at a meetings, regardless if social distance can be maintained.
- ▷ Stay at least 6 feet away from co-workers, visitors and classmates.
- ▷ Must wash/sanitize hands frequently and sanitize and clean frequently touched items, etc.

2. You are not sick but someone in your household does not feel well:

Guidelines for staying home or returning to school:

- ▷ If the household member does **not** have COVID-19 symptoms (see list of symptoms below), follow section 1.
- ▷ If the household member **has** symptoms of COVID-19, follow section 3.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing

Fever

Shortness of Breath

Chills

Headache

Muscle Pain

Diarrhea

Nausea

Vomiting

Sore Throat

Loss of taste or smell

Contact with COVID-19 or COVID-19 Symptoms

3. You were in close **and** direct contact with someone with COVID-19 or Covid-19 Symptoms but you are **not** sick or showing signs or symptoms:

Guidelines for staying home or returning to school:

- ▷ Notify the school.
- ▷ You, and those individuals residing in the same residence, must quarantine at home for 14 days from the last contact with the positive case. Isolate yourself from others in your household and do not share anything (utensils, phone, etc.) during this time. Contact the school after completing your quarantine and before returning to school.
- ▷ Individuals in quarantine should self-monitor for signs and symptoms of illness. If symptoms occur, they should contact their medical provider and follow section 4. .
- ▷ You may do school or work from home during the 14 day quarantine.

Direct Contact

Defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected COVID-19 person for at least 15 minutes with no mask starting from 48 hours before the person began feeling sick.

4. You are sick with COVID-19 symptoms but have not been tested for COVID-19:

Guidelines for staying home or returning to school:

- ▷ Those who have a fever of 100 F or higher or only two COVID-19 symptoms, should immediately isolate and contact their medical provider or use telehealth for further instructions. Those individuals residing in the same residence with the individual with the fever only or two COVID-19 symptoms, DO NOT have to isolate. The individual with the symptoms must be symptom-free for 48 hours without fever reducing medication before returning to work or school.
- ▷ Those who have 3 or more COVID-19 symptoms, should immediately isolate and contact their medical provider or use telehealth for further instructions. Those individuals that reside in the same residence with the individual with COVID-19 symptoms also need to isolate and wait for the directions of the medical provider. Individuals with symptoms may return to school when symptom-free and fever-free for at least 48 hours (without fever reducing medication) and with a healthcare provider's work or school clearance. Other individuals in the household may return to work or school after a healthcare provider has provided an alternative diagnosis (i.e. strep throat, sinus infection, ear infection, etc.) for the ill individual. All must have a work or school clearance to return to work or school.

5. You are positive for COVID-19 (based on lab test or symptoms)

Guidelines to be at home:

- ▷ Notify the school.
- ▷ Those who test positive must provide complete information to the public health department for contact tracing purposes.
- ▷ Those who are tested for COVID-19 must stay in constant contact with the COVID-19 testing location so that the public health department can be notified immediately of any positive results so contact tracing can start right away.
- ▷ Separate yourself from others in your household, do not share anything (utensils, phone, etc.), and isolate as follows:
 - Test positive but never had symptoms can end isolation after 10 days.
 - Test positive and have moderate to mild symptoms can end isolation after 10 days if at least 24 hours have passed without a fever and other symptoms have improved.
 - Test positive and have severe illness may need to continue isolation for a full 20 days.
 - Those who were exposed to the virus, but were never tested and have no symptoms should continue to quarantine for the full 14 days.
 - Those who have been exposed to the virus and have no symptoms and test negative should continue to quarantine for the full 14 days.
- ▷ You may work or do school work from home if you are able.

Guidelines to be at school:

- ▷ Those who test positive for COVID-19 must receive work or school clearance from the local health department. You should bring a copy of your work or school clearance to the school.