



August 4, 2021

St. James Catholic School Re-opening Plan 2021-2022

Masks

- Masks in school, in church, and outside are optional, not required.
- Students riding the bus must wear masks while on the bus.
- Any child or adult in the building showing COVID-like symptoms, must wear a mask on a day-to-day basis until symptoms subside. A physician's note stating the non-COVID cause of the symptoms may be submitted to the school in lieu of wearing a mask.
- Masks are highly **recommended** for all unvaccinated school visitors and are **required** for unvaccinated visitors who will work in close contact with students. An honor system will be used regarding vaccination status.

Close Contact Exposure

- A close contact exposure is defined as an unmasked positive individual being within 6 feet of another unmasked/unvaccinated person with a cumulative time of 15 minutes within the last 24 hours.
 - If this is the case, the one exposed must quarantine for 7-14 days depending on testing and test results.
- If a vaccinated person has a close contact exposure, then he/she must self-monitor for symptoms.
- If a close contact exposure occurs and one or both persons were wearing a mask, then the one exposed must self-monitor for symptoms.
- If a close contact exposure occurs to a person who has tested positive for COVID in the last 90 days, then the one exposed must self-monitor for symptoms.

Testing

- A test will be highly recommended if one loses the sense of smell/taste or if there was a close contact exposure with a positive case.

Distance Learning for those on quarantine

- St. James School will discuss on an individual basis the possibility of distance learning for students in grades 3-6 needing to quarantine.
- There will be no distance learning offered for PK-2 children due to delivery, attention span, and to minimize screen time for young children.
- Please note: there will be no long term distance learning offered for non-quarantine cases.

Major changes from Last Year's Plan

- Masks are not required. They are optional.
- Drinking fountains will be turned on for use.

- There will be no cohorting of classes.
- Desks can be arranged in closer proximity.
- Lunchrooms will return to more normal operations.

COVID Vaccination Policy

The Diocese of Lincoln does not require anyone to receive the COVID vaccination. We understand this is a personal, medical decision. Nor does the diocese require anyone to disclose whether one has received a COVID vaccination.

Changing Circumstances

We are eager to have students in school with fewer restrictions while also keeping in mind their safety and the safety of our faculty and staff. Please keep in mind that as the COVID tides change for better or worse, this plan may also change. The rate of change in the last few weeks has been considerable compared to earlier this summer. As with last year, St. James School will rely on the guidance and direction of the medical and public health officials at the Saline County Public Health Solutions in decision making relative to COVID.

May God bless us all!

Sister Mary Alma, C.K.