

Health and Safety Plan 2021-2022 School Year

Message to Our School Community

Our plan for the 2021-22 school year is to offer full, five-day, in-person instruction. This plan is to help navigate the safe reopening of our school for the 2021-2022 school year. Our plan aims to keep everyone safe and keep our school open and provide our students with a quality Catholic educational experience.

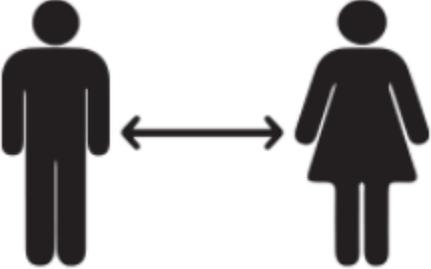
The Health and Safety Plan was developed following a review of the available information from the Pennsylvania Department of Health [DOH], the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). As has been the case throughout the pandemic, we will monitor any updates regarding COVID-19 and thus we view this plan as a fluid document and one that will further develop and change over time.

As long as communicable diseases like COVID-19 exist in our community, revisions to this Health & Safety Plan may be necessary to meet public health requirements.

We will continue to review state and local guidance and implement appropriate prevention and mitigation protocols in response to the level of community spread in our state, county and in our local community. Our goal has been and continues to be to maximize the amount of in-person learning for our students in the safest manner. Some ways to achieve this goal may be found below:

- Use local and state health officials as a resource.
- Participate in contact tracing efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible and practical).
- Post appropriate signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread.

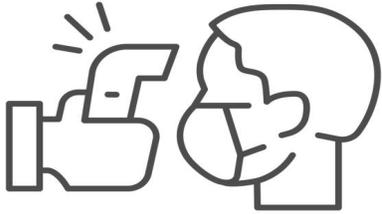
- Be aware of and communicate COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.
- Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they are in school.

<p style="text-align: center;">Face Coverings</p> 	<p>Masks are required for all students, teachers, staff, and visitors in our school buildings regardless of vaccination status. Students/Teachers/Staff/Visitors who come to school without a mask will be provided one.</p> <p>Masks do not need to be worn outdoors while proper social distancing protocols are being followed.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Physical Distancing, Social Distancing and Supplies</p> 	<p>Students and staff will maintain 3 to 6 feet of physical distancing to the maximum extent feasible and practical.</p> <p>Seating charts will be maintained as any necessary quarantine situations will be limited to only the students in closest proximity to any COVID-19 positive student.</p> <p>Grade-level classes will be returning to their regular classroom spaces. Desks will all be facing the same direction and UltraBoard Micro Barriers (clear-front sanitizable privacy shields) will be used as needed in the classrooms.</p> <p>We are again asking students to have one reusable shopping bag to keep at school. This will be folded and kept in their seat sack. It will be used if we are dismissed from school for a period of time and students need to carry all of their books home.</p> <p>Movement in the hallways will be partially limited. Middle school teachers will be switching rooms for most classes, not the students, and specialist teachers including Spanish, Music and Technology will travel from class to class. Some grades will be returning to the art room for class.</p>

	<p>Social distancing decals and safety protocol signs will be used throughout the building to assist students with remembering to keep a safe social distance when outside of the classroom.</p> <p>Students will need to have their own school supplies. Students will not be sharing materials with classmates. At their desk, each student will have their own box of tissues, ziplock bag to dispose of tissues, and a small tube of hand sanitizer. This will cut down on movement throughout the classroom.</p>
<p>Health and Hygiene Practice</p>	<p>The school community will continue to focus on teaching and reinforcing proper hygiene practices. Hand washing will take place during the day including before eating lunch (portable sinks are in each classroom). Hand Sanitizer will be used whenever students enter or exit a room or when soap and water are not available.</p> <p>Restrooms will be occupied by a limited number of students at a time and a tag system will be used to monitor. Social distancing floor decals will be used to assist students with keeping at a safe social distance when outside of the classroom.</p> <p>Signs reinforcing proper hygiene are located in highly visible locations.</p>
<p>Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Ventilation</p> 	<p>The School will maintain a daily cleaning procedure for desks and high traffic areas during the school year. The school is stocked with cleaning items and supplies including an atomizer backpack sprayer which will be used to disinfect classrooms and communal spaces. Each classroom has their own cleaning supplies that will be used throughout the day.</p> <p>The procedures of cleaning, sanitation, and disinfecting will take place throughout the day. Maintenance staff, teachers, aides and students</p>

	<p>will all contribute to keeping the school clean throughout the day. In addition to our traditional cleaning supplies, the school also has a supply of Portable UV-C Light Sterilizer handheld devices that emit a specialized UV-C light that kills 99.99% of bacteria, mold, viruses and germs. Deep cleaning will be conducted twice a week and additionally as necessary.</p> <p>Other cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and ventilation practices include, the addition of air purifiers in all classroom spaces, windows being opened periodically to bring in fresh air and water fountains being disabled (students will bring their own water bottle daily).</p>
<p>Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine</p> 	<p>Seating charts will be maintained as any necessary quarantine situations will be limited to only the students in closest proximity to any COVID-19 positive student</p> <p>In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore masks the entire time. (from the CDC website)</p> <p>Fully vaccinated people who have had a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested 2-5 days after exposure, and should wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test. Regardless of vaccination status, any person with new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 still needs to be isolated and be evaluated for SARS-CoV-2 testing.</p> <p>Unvaccinated individuals with close contact with confirmed Covid-19, should quarantine for 10 days as long as they are symptom free. Individuals could return to school after day 7 with a negative test on day 5 or after.</p>

Screening



Symptom screening should be done by parents/guardians at home each morning before school. Students with COVID-19 symptoms should not be put on a bus or sent to school. Temperature checks will not be conducted during morning arrival. Hand sanitizer is to be used upon arrival by all staff and students. Hand sanitizer will be available at all entry points.

STUDENTS WHO ARE ILL OR ARE EXPERIENCING COVID-19-LIKE SYMPTOMS MUST STAY HOME. If a student develops symptoms during the school day, the parents will be contacted, and the student will need to be picked up as soon as possible. The student will wait in the isolation area until picked up by the parent. Symptomatic individuals will be asked to contact their physician or appropriate healthcare professional for further directions.

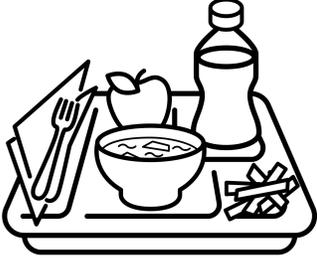
Parents should report a positive diagnosis of a student, household member or close contact case of COVID-19 to the school administrative team by calling the school office immediately. Guidance from the CDC/PA Department of Health guidelines will be used concerning quarantines.

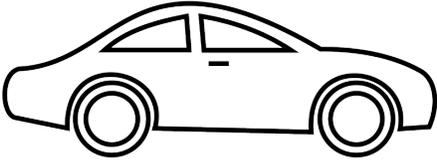
We will follow recommendations of the Department of Health at the local and state level and guidance from the Diocese of Allentown in notifying staff, families, and the public of confirmed staff or student illness, school closures and within-school year changes in safety protocols.

Vaccinations



Per the CDC, vaccinations are currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Per guidance, fully vaccinated students, teachers, and staff with no COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure to someone with COVID-19, but should get tested 2-5 days after exposure. In addition, vaccinated students and staff who were exposed to a positive COVID-19 case should wear a mask in other indoor public settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test.

<p style="text-align: center;">Bus Transportation</p> 	<p>The School will continue to follow the protocols determined by the sending public school district. For students, this will mean wearing a face covering on the bus.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Lunch Procedures/Water Fountains</p> 	<p>In order to properly distance students in the lunchroom we have added lunch periods to the schedule. Students will have assigned seats at lunch. Students can opt to bring their lunch or receive a hot lunch from Pro Lunches. Students will not be allowed to share food and/or utensils. In between the lunch periods, all tables will be cleaned and sanitized while the students are at recess.</p> <p>Water fountains will remain disabled this year. Students will need to bring a water bottle with them daily. Water bottles should be clearly marked with the student's name. Bottles may not be refilled from any source of water in the school; therefore students should plan accordingly.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Volunteers and Visitors</p> 	<p>Limit, to the extent practical, visitors in the buildings, during the instructional day. All visitor and volunteer visits must be scheduled. Hand sanitizer will be available to visitors at all entry points.</p> <p>Require all school visitors and volunteers, during the instructional day, to wear a face covering.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Gym/Recess/ Activities</p> 	<p>Weather permitting, recess, physical education, and some classroom instruction will take place outside. Gym and recess will continue but classes will be playing in designated areas only and not allowed to mix with other classes. The school maintains many large outdoor grassy spaces and sufficient space on the blacktopped area for social distancing between classes. Masks will not be required at recess or during outside activity time</p>

	<p>while proper social distancing protocols are being observed. CYO activities will resume. Safety protocols regarding sports will be communicated by CYO.</p> <p>We plan to resume some clubs and after school activities when it is determined that we can maintain appropriate safety protocols and allow for proper disinfecting procedures to take place after school hours. Protocols from the school day will continue during after school activities. Further information about the extracurricular activities being offered to follow.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Virtual Learning</p> 	<p>Virtual education for the 2021-2022 school year will be offered only in specific COVID-19 related situations such as quarantine or situations involving a long-term serious medical situation. Students with serious medical conditions must have a 504 plan to be considered for virtual learning.</p> <p>We are committed to the health, safety and education of all, therefore, we will make every effort to maintain in-person learning.</p> <p>Schools will again be able to use a limited number of Flexible Instruction Days for weather related or emergency related school closures. More information to follow.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Dismissal</p> 	<p>Movement in the hallways will be staggered and limited during dismissal. Car riders in grades K-8 will be dismissed in small groups by grade level accompanied by any siblings. Dismissal will begin at approximately 3:00 PM. Kindergarten students and their siblings will be dismissed first, followed by 1st grade students, 2nd grade students, 3rd-grade students, 4th-grade students, 5th & 6th-grade students, and 7th & 8th-grade students.</p> <p>All parents and guardians must remain inside their vehicles until their youngest child's grade level is announced and dismissed. Parents MUST</p>

	<p>leave their car and walk to the church doors to escort their child to the car. Parents may not wait for their child to come to the car.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Liturgy</p> 	<p>Students in grades 1st through 8th will attend mass each week. We will determine how many classes will be physically in the church based upon the ability to properly distance the students at least 3 feet apart. Kindergarten students may attend periodically throughout the year.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Field Trips, Assemblies and Travel</p> 	<p>The determination on whether a field trip, school assembly or performance, will take place will be on a case-by-case basis. Field trips and events determined to be able to take place within our safety guidelines may occur.</p> <p>Family vacations during the school year are strongly discouraged. The school will follow the guidance of the PA Department of Health, the CDC and the Allentown Diocese Office of Education in determining protocols related to travel throughout the year.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Extended Care</p> 	<p>Extended Care will be offered for the 2021-2022 school year. This year we again ask that families utilize the extended care program only if it is necessary, as capacity will be limited. Students will be spaced socially distanced in the gym. Outside play time will take place when weather permits.</p> <p>Pick-up from extended care will only take place from the gym entrance. Parents/guardians picking up will not enter the gym. Upon arrival at the gym parking lot parents/guardians will call the extended care phone and let the staff know they are in the lot.</p>

In Conclusion

The health and safety of our students and staff will continue to be a main priority. The decision making process that would prompt a school closure or other significant modification to our daily operations will be directed by the Diocese of Allentown Office of Education, state and local authorities including the PA Department of Education and the PA Department of Health.

Thank you to the faculty, staff, board members and parents that contributed to the successful implementation of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School's comprehensive Health and Safety Plan last year. It will again take a combined effort to successfully implement our plan this coming year. Finally, we would like to especially thank Father Marty and Monsignor Sacks for their continued support of our school, our students and their families.