

Blessed Sacrament School

COVID-19 Prevention Plan – Spring 2022

Masks - Strongly recommended but not required in all indoor areas (unless working directly with LPS staff).

School Exclusion

- “Normal” exclusion policy criteria (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) should be used to determine if a student or staff should be excluded from school.
- The student or staff person may be allowed to return to school when symptoms subside in accord with our normal exclusion policy.

Symptomatic issues

A student or staff member must be excluded from attendance with the following symptoms and require a negative COVID-19 test (at-home test accepted with picture for documentation) or doctor’s note with alternative diagnosis before return:

- Any **ONE** of the following:
 - Fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Loss of taste or smell
- or any **TWO** of the following:
 - New onset of dry cough
 - Chills longer than two hours
 - Congestion and/or runny nose
 - Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
 - Sore throat
 - Headache
 - Muscle pain

Managing Persons That Test Positive for COVID-19 – Quarantine & Isolation

- If students or staff tests positive for COVID-19, they need to stay home for five days from the date the COVID symptoms began or the sample was collected (date of the test). Day 0 is the date of test or symptom start.
- If they do not have symptoms or if symptoms are resolving (including fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication), they can return to school on day six. However, they must wear a mask through day ten starting on the day after the test sample was collected.
- If students or staff cannot wear a mask, they must quarantine and isolate for ten days.

* If/When students return to school from day 6-10, they will need to eat breakfast/lunch distanced from others.

Managing Close Contact Exposures – Quarantine

A close contact exposure is defined as an unmasked COVID-positive individual being within six feet of another unmasked individual for a cumulative time of 15 minutes within the last 24 hours.

- Students and staff do not have to be excluded if they have had a close contact exposure in school but must wear a mask for ten days after exposure while at school or participating in school activities and are encouraged to test on day five. If a negative test is received after five days, mask can be removed on day eight.
- Students and staff who have on-going, high-risk exposure to a positive individual who is unable to isolate (i.e. household) should remain at home until the positive individual completes five days of quarantine. Extra vigilance on screening for symptoms when they return is advisable and a mask should be worn for ten days.
- If symptoms develop, they must quarantine and be tested.
- If students or staff cannot wear a mask, they must quarantine for ten days.

Classroom Transmission

If transmission is strongly suspected in a classroom (three or more confirmed cases) within an incubation period (ten days), the following actions are recommended:

- Exclude all persons that test positive and follow quarantine and isolation guidance above.
- Require masking for all students and staff that potentially had close contact for at least ten days.

Changing Circumstances

We are eager to return for second semester with adjusted guidelines to keep students and staff in school while also keeping foremost in mind health and safety. As COVID tides change for better or worse, these plans may also change with possible CDC updates to their K-12 School Guidance. Further, the convergence of the normal cold and flu season with the rapidly increasing number of COVID-19 cases (especially the Omicron variant) will likely provide some difficult challenges for schools, but we will continue to rely on the guidance and direction of the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department. May God bless and guide us as we continue to have an excellent school year despite the challenging circumstances.