



# St. Michael Catholic School

Established 1877

208 McLeod St, Cuero, Texas 77954

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Principal: Mrs. Jennifer Saenz | Pastor: Rev. Jacob Mendoza

*The mission of St. Michael's Catholic School is to know as Jesus knows, to love as Jesus loves, and to serve as Jesus serves.*

*Philosophy--St. Michael's Catholic School is dedicated to helping each child realize his/her full potential. We are committed to each child's total education: spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and social. We strive to instill Christian values so that each student becomes a force of good in God's world. Our educational program leads, encourages and aids each student to develop his/her unique abilities. We respect the distinct attributes of each student. By providing an atmosphere of living and learning in the light of faith, we encourage each individual to become a whole person.*

*The vision of St. Michael's Catholic School is to develop future leaders who will draw on their faith as they make decisions for the community, nation, and the world.*

## SCHOOL CONTINUITY PLAN

### In the Case of Highly Infectious Disease Exposure

*Developed 6/2020 Revised 09/2021*

At St. Michael's Catholic School, we are dedicated to providing the safest methods of learning and instruction while balancing the greatest sense of normalcy for students, faculty, staff, and parents. We aim for clear planning and vision that supports our school to be agile in response to each potential impact of exposure or possible exposure to a highly infectious disease that affects the school and/or the community at large. In so doing, we will continue to provide a Christ-centered, rigorous, educational experience for students, that parents trust and rely upon as the superior choice for their child's education now and into the future.

*This plan is based on the public health situation, as it is understood currently. Changes to the public health situation over the course of the year may necessitate changes to this plan, which may include additional restrictions or fewer restrictions to school operations.*

### Objectives

- I. To support the school's mission, philosophy, and vision, which is to help students to continue to grow spiritually with strong Christian values.
- II. To provide an atmosphere of living and learning in the light of faith.
- III. To provide an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.
- IV. To provide continued instruction that meets standards and timelines for all grade levels.

## **Expectations for Continued Safety on Campus**

The following routines are included in school policy for day-to-day safety:

1. All school personnel and parents are required to immediately report any symptoms that may be associated with a highly infectious disease, such as fever, nausea, headache, congestion, or cough.
2. Temperature checks will occur as needed in response to appearance of symptoms related to a highly infectious disease.
3. Visitors coming onto campus must assure the school that they are not having symptoms associated with a highly infectious disease, and that they have not been directly exposed. Facemasks are highly encouraged for all adults visiting campus.
4. Students, staff, and visitors will be expected to:
  - a. Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
  - b. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - c. Properly cover coughs and sneezes.
  - d. Avoid close contact with others-stay at least 3 feet from others.
  - e. Stay home if sick as per school health policy.
5. Each student must have an individual supply container.
6. Workspaces that are shared must have appropriate distancing between students.
7. Workspaces must be cleaned with disinfectant after each person uses the space.
8. Hand sanitizer must be made readily available to everyone.
9. Hand sanitizing stations are set up in each classroom, at each entrance to buildings, and near water fountains and restrooms.
10. All students are asked to bring personal water bottles. Water fountains will be available, but it is recommended not to drink directly from them. If a student forgets a water bottle, one will be provided for \$1.00 each.
11. Facemasks are highly recommended for students and staff, but not mandatory. Facemasks must never be a distraction or shared. Parents must inform the school if they are requiring that their child wear a facemask.
12. All large gatherings of people such as Fall Festival, Christmas Pageant, and Family Thanksgiving Luncheon are scheduled as per school calendar. Based on current health information, if any changes are made, parents will be notified.

## **Response to Exposure to Infectious Disease**

Staff, Parents, and Visitors are required to promptly inform the principal of having close contact to a highly communicable disease. For clarity, close contact exposure is defined as: being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield; if either occurred at any time in the last 10 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious. If close contact has occurred, the individual exposed must self-quarantine for 10

days as per current CDC guidelines.

**\*\*If a person who has had close contact wishes to return to school or come on campus, but does not want to self-quarantine for 10 days, the individual must either obtain a medical doctor, licensed in the State of Texas, note clearing the individual for return or receive separate confirmation that they are free of a highly communicable disease via acute infection tests at an approved testing location.**

## **Response to Diagnosis of Infectious Disease**

Staff and Parents are required to promptly inform the principal of a diagnosis of a highly communicable disease. Local and State guidelines and mandates will be followed. In the event of flexibility to response, the principal and pastor will make a decision based on current information.

If a staff member or student has a confirmed diagnosis:

- Parents of students in the affected classroom will be informed immediately following strict privacy protocols.
- All staff and parents that are not associated with the affected classroom will be updated in the weekly newsletter.
- Those immediately exposed will be isolated from the rest of the school population following local health guidelines.
- Allowance will be made for distance learning if necessary.
- Additional deep, disinfecting cleaning will occur in the affected area of the buildings.
- Total shutdown of a classroom or the school building is highly unlikely. Based on ruling from the Texas Attorney General, Catholic Schools fall under “Religious Freedom”. The principal and the pastor have the final decision.

### ***Individuals Confirmed, Suspected, or Exposed to a Highly Communicable Disease***

1. Any individuals—including staff, students, volunteers or other campus visitors— who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have a highly communicable disease; or (b) experience the symptoms of a highly communicable disease must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
  - In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with a highly communicable disease, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
    - at least one day (24 hours) has passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)
    - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and

- at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
  - In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be a highly communicable disease and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for a highly communicable disease, such individual is assumed to have a highly communicable disease, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
  - If the individual has symptoms that could be a highly communicable disease and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either
    - (a) obtain a medical doctor, licensed in the State of Texas, note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) receive separate confirmation that they are free of a highly communicable disease via acute infection tests at an approved testing location.
2. Any student or staff member who shows symptoms while at school will be immediately separated until that person can be picked up by a parent/guardian or can otherwise be able to leave campus. The area used by that person will be completely cleaned and sanitized. Before returning to school, the above criteria must be met.

## **Distance Learning Protocol**

A plan for distance learning will be revisited and revised each quarter to ensure updated, uniform learning procedures and formats. Parents will be updated with the written plan. The plan will include a combination of the following:

1. Weekly pick up and drop off of materials to occur through a drive through system minimizing personal contact.
2. All assignments given by teachers will be graded on a timely basis with feedback given to the student and parents.
3. Assignments will include textbooks and paper/pencil work.
4. Clear information will be given to parents with directions and other requirements.
5. Attendance will be determined by completion of assignments.
6. A minimum number of daily instructional minutes are required as per TCCBED Policy. These minutes do not have to be consecutive.
  - a. 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade—180 minutes
  - b. 6<sup>th</sup> grade—240 minutes
  - c. PK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade—have flexibility based on what is developmentally appropriate
7. All grade level curriculum standards, guidelines, and timelines will be strictly followed.
8. All work will be graded based on school policy.
9. Distance learning will only be offered in the case of required quarantine of an individual student.
10. Absences that exceed the stated policy for quarantining must be approved by the principal.
11. Compulsory Attendance laws will be followed as per St. Michael's Catholic School policy—page 12 of the Family Handbook.

