



Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Office of Catholic School
Catholic School Re-Opening Mandates— August 2020

After careful reflection and review of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines, the Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe will re-open on August 17, 2020 with complete student enrollment at full schedule. We realize that our school policies must be flexible and nimble in responding to new information and our strategies can be revised and adapted depending on the level of viral transmission in the school and community. Please note that these mandates are for Catholic Schools only and do not cover Religious Education programs or other parish groups.

Preparation Phase

- All buildings must be cleaned and disinfected
- All air and water systems must be checked for proper operation
- Additional hand washing stations and/or hand sanitizing stations must be installed
- All water fountains must be disabled except those with water bottle capabilities

Health Issues

- All employees must stay home if sick
- All employees and students must stay home if they have been in contact with someone who has contracted COVID -19 and follow New Mexico Department of Health directives.
- All schools will follow the New Mexico Department of Health in the event that a student or staff member contracts COVID -19

Archdiocesan wide Protocols

- All schools will develop strategies for temperature and health information to be monitored for all employees, students and visitors to the building.
- All employees, students, and visitors to the building will be required to wear an age appropriate face covering upon entering and moving throughout the building
- Student mask guidance will follow AAP guidelines and may be relaxed when students are six feet apart or more
- Student desks will be set six feet apart when feasible and face the same direction. When desks are between three and six feet apart, students must wear face coverings and be asymptomatic. If desks cannot be at least three feet apart then they will not be used

- For classrooms with tables, physical barriers will be used
- Interactions and movement of students within the campus will be limited to better control contact
- Limit non-essential visitors
- Assemblies, field trips, school wide parent meetings and other group meetings will not be allowed
- Ensure that students have their own supplies and discourage sharing of items
- Provide a dedicated space for students and staff who become ill during school hours
- Regularly touched areas or items will be sanitized properly and often
- Students should be educated and reminded of sound hygiene practices

School Campus

- Each school will develop a plan for drop off/pick up, temperature checks, movement on campus and use of shared areas
- Each school will develop a plan to address logistics, maintaining community, curriculum and instruction, Catholic identity and technology support. Leading with Hope is one example of a comprehensive tool.
- Each school will identify ways to assist students who are not ready to be back on campus

Social Distancing/Learning Space

- Student desks should be six feet apart. According to AAP spacing for children could be as close as three feet apart provided students are wearing face coverings and are asymptomatic. Additional barriers/partitions could be used as an alternative
- Teachers will remain six feet from students and other faculty members
- Music class will be held outside if students are singing or using wind instruments and will maintain a six-foot distance from each other
- Physical Education class should be held outside with students maintaining six-foot distance

Special Circumstances for students who remain out of school

- Schools will provide options for students who are not ready to return to school or who may have a compromised immune system
- Policy will be provided for recording or live streaming classroom activities

Before/After Care

- Procedures for drop off/pick up will be developed to limit contact and avoid excess gathering.
- Follow all guidance for disinfecting surfaces and toys
- Keep students in their cohorts when possible. If it is not feasible maintain appropriate social distancing and have students wear face coverings

All schools will submit their re-opening plan to the superintendent for review.

Additional Guidance

- American Association of Pediatrics

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

- Center for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>

- New Mexico Public Education Department

https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/20NMPED_ReentryGuide_Hybrid.pdf