

Light of Christ Academy COVID Safety Protocols

This document outlines the safety protocols currently in place for the upcoming school year.

Safety Procedures

- A. Distancing - Student desks/tables in classrooms will be spaced three feet apart whenever possible.
- B. Transitions - Transition procedures will be established by school to limit traffic in hallways.
- C. Face coverings – Updated 12/3/21

On November 3, 2021, Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services issued a Kalamazoo County COVID-19 Update. With the availability of COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-11 years old, the KCHCS is set to rescind the August 18, 2021 public health order requiring the use of face masks in kindergarten through grade six, while in the building. The order is rescinded as of 5 pm. On Friday, December 17, 2021.

Based on KCHCS updated COVID-19 guidelines, mask-wearing will be optional in preschool through grade 12, based on family choice. Increased rates of community transmission, mandates by state or county health departments, or evidence of in-school transmission may require temporary periods of time in which masks become mandatory in order to ensure the availability of in-school learning. Our staff and students will respect each family's decision, practicing the virtues of kindness and charity.

As stated in the KCHCS News Release November 3, 2021:

“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the Kalamazoo County health & Community Services Department continue to recommend indoor masking for all teachers, students, staff, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. A layered protection strategy should be followed to ensure a healthy learning environment, allowing children to remain healthy and physically present in the classroom setting. Such strategy should include the following risk mitigation measures: indoor masking, frequent handwashing, maintaining a distance of three feet minimum between students, enhanced ventilation, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, testing after a COVID-19 exposure, and vaccination of eligible students, teachers, and staff.”

Per Diocese of Kalamazoo Vaccination, Testing, and Face Covering Policy, issued November 29, 2021, all employees, regardless of vaccination status will be required to wear a face covering while in the workplace, unless they are alone in their personal office space.

- D. Hygiene – Staff will continue to encourage handwashing and good hygiene. Hand sanitizer will be available when handwashing is not possible.
- E. Cleaning – Cleaning is important to removing virus from surfaces. Student tables/desks will be cleaned once a day using clean rags and a solution of BCN-15 disinfectant from Spartan Chemical. Mid-day cleaning of high-touch surfaces, playground equipment.
- F. Ventilation – Good ventilation is important in reducing the number of virus particles in the air. Windows and doors will remain open when possible, in order to facilitate an exchange of fresh air.

Health Procedures

A. Preventative strategies – It is critical that students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness stay home and seek guidance from their health care provider. Students developing symptoms of illness during the school day will be isolated and families will be called to pick their student up.

B. Vaccination - The COVID-19 vaccine is not listed on the School Required Vaccination List but highly encouraged for those eligible to receive it. The best way to lower community transmission and minimize the risk of in-school transmission is to increase the rate of community vaccination, especially in our school families. Vaccinated individuals will not be required to quarantine after exposure and close contact to COVID-19, and will maximize in-person attendance and minimize disruptions in learning. <https://www.usccb.org/search?key=covid%20vaccinations>

Quarantine and Isolation due to COVID 19 exposure or illness

Students and staff are strongly encouraged to stay home if sick and symptomatic for any illness. This is one of the single most important strategies for the prevention of illness, not just COVID-19.

Students and Staff who are symptomatic and have tested positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least 10 days from the date symptoms began. It is important that you keep isolating until you meet all of the criteria below:

- at least 10 days since your symptoms began
- at least 24 hours since your fever went away without the use of fever-reducing medications (Tylenol or Ibuprofen)
- other COVID related symptoms have improved

Quarantine guidelines for a student or staff member exposed to COVID-19 **Updated 12/3/21**

A fully vaccinated person ('fully vaccinated' is defined as 2 weeks after 2nd dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or 2 weeks after single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson):

- A. Less than 3 feet from COVID positive contact, masked or unmasked, can remain in school, if they wear a mask and test once on day 3, 4, or 5, and monitor for symptoms for 14 days.
- B. Distanced 3-6 feet, unmasked, can remain in school, if they wear a mask and test once on day 3, 4, or 5, and monitor for symptoms for 14 days.
- C. Distanced 3-6 feet, masked, can remain in school, if they wear a mask and monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

An unvaccinated person

- A. 0-6 feet distanced, COVID positive or close contact unmasked during time of exposure, close contact must quarantine. Close contact can return to school after 7 days if negative test on day 6 or 7 OR return after 10 days if asymptomatic the entire time.

B. Less than 3 feet from COVID positive contact, COVID positive **and** close contact masked during time of exposure, close contact must quarantine. The close contact can return to school after 7 days if negative test on day 6 or 7 OR return after 10 days if asymptomatic the entire time.

C. Distanced 3-6 feet, COVID positive and close contact masked during time of exposure, close contact can remain in school, if they wear a mask and monitor symptoms for 14 days.

The Kalamazoo Health Department website has a quarantine and isolation calculator that will provide the most up-to-date local information, available at:

<https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19calculator.php>

Please take note of the following possible scenario in the event that the positive person in a household is not able to fully isolate from others in the home. A household contact who is not able to isolate completely from the COVID+ person will need to be in quarantine for 20 days.

See: <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19calculator.php>