



St. Pius X School COVID-19 procedures and protocols for in-person learning

On September 15, we informed our parent community, our ability to begin the process of bringing our youngest learners (K-3rd grade) back for in person education for those who chose to do so, based on Snohomish County guidelines and the steady decline of the rolling 14 day period case counts.

*As communicated, **we will bring 4th grade students back for in-person learning beginning Monday, October 12, along with K-3 and preschool and PreK students.** This is each family's decision and remote learning will continue to be available to those who choose to remain at home. We will be implementing strict daily health screenings, so please check yourself and your child(ren)'s health PRIOR to coming to school to ensure entry into class.*

Provided below are highlights from our reopening plan & common FAQs at the end :

Health and Safety:

Arrival Health Screening

- Please do a self-check of the following symptoms BEFORE coming to school:
 1. Do you have any of the following symptoms within the last day that are not caused by another condition? (If it is the first day after a break or for a new student, then the past 3 days.)
 2. Fever (100.4°F) or chills • Cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Unusual fatigue • Muscle or body aches • Headache • Recent loss of taste or smell • Sore throat • Congestion or runny nose • Nausea or vomiting • Diarrhea
 3. Exposed to someone who has tested positive to COVID19 within the last 14 days?
 4. Check Body Temperature above 100.4?
If any of the above is "yes" than stay home.
- All persons in the car will receive the above health check.

Bathrooms

- Bathroom use is limited to 3 persons at a time, with marked stalls and sinks spaced apart
- Sanitized after each classroom/group uses
- Posted log of sanitation throughout the day
- Post "in use" placard outside the bathroom to ensure no co-mingling or more than 3 persons
- Created grid in breezeway for distancing during wait-times



Classrooms

- Increased ventilation with open windows, doors (and windows above doors), and fans/forced air heaters
- Personal school supplies used (no sharing of supplies)
- Crates will be used as "cubbies" at each desk (no use of communal cubbies or hangers)
- Carpets removed (no "circle" time or small groups closer than 6 ft distanced in a room)
- Increase use of outdoor space when possible (weather/activity permitting)
- Classrooms are only used by your child's class--no other programs are in the school at this time
- No co-mingling of classes--each class stays in its own group
- Snack and lunch will be eaten in the classroom

Distancing

6 ft social distancing:

- In the classroom, desks are spaced 6 ft. apart and class-sizes capped
- Our exterior hallways are marked to designate 6 ft of distance while in line
- Bathroom use is limited to 3 persons at a time, with marked stalls and sinks spaced apart
- Playground is marked with designated play areas with each grade using their area for the full week; playground equipment is not shared. Equipment is sanitized after use; the new jungle gym is wiped down prior to and after use.
- When in the gym, 6 ft spacing is marked using mats/pads, hula hoops and designated lines (there will be no in-person PE or technology next week)
- No co-mingling of classes--each class stays in its own group
- Tech lab has been equipped with plastic dividers between tables, and keyboards and mouses sanitized before and after use (no tech class next week)
- Reduced clutter and congestion in common areas (breezeway, gym) or hallways; K & 3rd grade use the East hallway, and 1st and 2nd use the West hallway
- Created grid in breezeway for distancing during waiting
- Recess lines are spaced out between classes and between students (this will be the same during dismissal and pick up).



ESS or Before/After School Care

- Unfortunately, we are unable to offer morning or afternoon ESS at this time due to the restrictions on grouping and cohorts (no co-mingling of students from different classes)

Hand sanitizing and washing

- Sanitize hands upon entry and exit into the classroom
- Hand sanitizer stations outside of each classroom
- Hand washing after recess and before snack and lunch and additionally as needed

Masks

- As per CDC guidelines and the DOH, everyone in the building is required to wear a cloth face mask at all times except while eating or drinking.
- Have at least 2-3 cloth masks per child, per day, washing them frequently.
- Along with the "St. Pius X" plaid mask each student, received at Back to School pick up, we will also provide an additional cloth mask for each student on Monday.
- We have disposable children's masks and face shields as well

- Masks are to be worn during recess
- Masks should be changed after lunch or when soiled
- Students encouraged not to touch their face

Recess/Breaks

- New green jungle gym, metal and yellow bars will be sanitized before and after recess (no climbing wall)
- Classes are assigned specific areas for play during the week to ensure distancing and no co-mingling
- Playground equipment is not shared (no footballs; soccer balls can only be kicked and students remain distanced)
- All playground equipment is placed in classroom bin to be sanitized before next use.
- Recess lines are formed on the north side of the pavement with students spaced 6 ft apart in line; K is the farthest north (close to the basketball hoops and parallel to the logs), then (with distance) 1st grade, then (with distance) 2nd grade, then (with distance) 3rd grade, then (with distance) 4th grade. These will also be used at pick up.
- Masks are worn at recess



Staff

- Staff have been trained on sanitizing desks and bathrooms
- Staff wear appropriate PPE such as masks, glasses/goggles/face shields, gloves if necessary
- Trained on proper use of masks and hand washing (for self and students)

Water fountains

- Students should bring their own water bottles to school and wash them each night
- Water fountains may be used to refill water bottles (no drinking directly from the fountain)

Schedule & Logistics:

Drop Off

- 8:30AM for families with the last name starting with A-L
- 8:45AM for families with the last name starting with M-Z
- Procedures:
 - Cars will pull up parallel to the stairs--look for the cones
 - Groups of 3 cars at a time will be checked by a staff member
 - Please be patient as we roll out this new procedure with students and staff
 - Be cautious while in the parking lot--No cell phone usage
- A staff member will guide your child to his/her classroom and teacher from the parking lot
- Parents will not be allowed to walk their child into the school--we must limit the number of visitors to campus
- Please be patient as we work through this new procedure--it will take longer at the beginning.

Pick Up

- Students will be **packed up at the end of the day then exit** to the parking lot for pick up.
- **Please be patient as we work through this new routine, ensuring students are properly distanced as they exit. Like drop-off, this will take longer at the beginning.**
- Cars enter through the north gate and line up parallel to the school (facing south) mid-way in the parking lot (our lines will bring us further into the parking lot due to distancing)
- Look for cones and barriers
- Students will line up in their classroom and distanced from each other in a grid starting on the north end. The classes will be lined up beginning with K, then 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th



- Pick up will mirror previous years, with students standing behind a rope and being dismissed to cars.
- Cars do not move until the rope goes back up

Specialists & Schedules for October 12-15

- Specialists will hold in-person and remote lessons for K-4
- No technology next week due to continued MAP testing
- Monday and Friday dismissal is 2pm
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday online dismissal is 3pm; In-person dismissal is 3:15PM

FAQs--adapted from Miss Creighton's classroom and Mrs. Farewell

1. Are they able to use their own backpacks (which I assume will be placed in their crate)?
Are they allowed snacks and how will recess look like?
 - a. They will need to use their own backpacks. Their backpacks and lunches will be kept in the crate all day. They will hang their coats off the back of their chair.
 - b. They are allowed to bring a snack; we will eat snacks in the classroom right after recess and washing hands.
 - c. Recess for K-2 will be from 10-10:15 AM. Recess for 3 & 4 will be from 10:20-10:35 AM. All grades will have their own designated part of the playground and there will be no comingling between students/grades. Students may not touch others or share recess equipment. We will use the bathrooms after recess, one grade at a time and socially distant; and it will be sanitized after each grade.
2. What time is drop off?
 - a. 8:30AM for families with the last name starting with A-L
 - b. 8:45AM for families with the last name starting with M-Z
3. What time is pick up?
 - a. Pick up will be at 2pm on Monday and Friday; 3:15pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
4. We need to know if there is going to be ESS this week?
 - a. There will not be ESS next week
5. Where will health checks take place?
 - a. In the parking lot
 - b. Cars will pull up parallel to the stairs--look for the cones
 - c. Please be patient as we roll out this new procedure with students
 - d. Be cautious while in the parking lot--No cell phone usage
6. What school or classroom supplies should I bring to school?
 - a. Check with your teacher



7. Can my child stay home and continue with remote learning?
 - a. YES! We feel confident in our online platform Teams, and our synchronous and asynchronous schedules. Learning will continue to happen here at St. Pius whether in-person, hybrid or full remote.
8. What if there is a possible exposure at the school?
 - a. After an individual reports to the school a primary level exposure (that is, that person was in *close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, but is not themselves symptomatic), then we contact the Snohomish County Health Department and notify families of a possible exposure and next steps. *close contact means less than 6 feet away for longer than 15 minutes regardless of mask wearing.
9. What is your criteria for closing if there is a suspected case?
 - a. We continue to closely follow the guidance of the local health department. Any decision to close would be made in consultation with our local health department. If a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 is reported, we would follow the direction of public health officials and communicate with families quickly, so that you are informed about next steps..
10. Is there anything we can do as family members to support the classroom in this new 'normal'?
 - a. Keep up the mask wearing to build stamina, and continue to emphasize the importance of hand washing that is aligned with the CDC's recommended 20-second hand washing techniques with your child at home. We are asking for your partnership to help us keep our sites free of illness. If your child has had a fever or trouble breathing, we ask that they stay home until they have been symptom-free for 24 hours. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community, we are being vigilant about enforcing our existing policy of excluding sick children and employees. While we realize this may be a burden, staying home when sick is one of the best ways to keep illness from spreading. We are asking that you create a backup plan now for those sick days that may come throughout the year.

Resources: Snohomish County: <https://www.snohd.org/532/Coronavirus-Information>

OSPI Re Opening Washington Schools:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/FallGuidanceK-12.pdf>

CDC 'Considerations for Schools' <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

Department of Youth and Family Services: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/>