



St. Joseph School
COVID-19 Reopening Plan 2021-2022 School Year

Prepared by: Perrotta Consulting LLC
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COVID-19 Secure Reopening Plan

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Changes and updates will be found at the following link:	www.st-josephschool.com

The following plan will evolve and is expected to be a fluid document based on changing needs of our students and teachers, as well as the changing conditions of the pandemic and revisions to New York State Guidelines. Any increase or decrease in safety measures will be communicated to parents and faculty.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline how St. Joseph School has developed our school reopening plan and prioritized the safety and effectiveness of the school environment for faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders. We have worked together with other schools in the Diocese of Rockville Centre to develop a secure reopening plan to return students and teachers to the classrooms amidst the ongoing pandemic. After working diligently with Perrotta Consulting, a threat mitigation and emergency operation planning company specializing in COVID-19, and the Diocese of Rockville Centre, we have developed a systematic way to safely continue our full time learning and instruction at St. Joseph School 2021-2022 school year. So long as we are permitted to reopen and remain open by the State of New York, we will use every available resource to:

- Provide the safest environment possible for our students and teachers
- Keep our extended school families healthy
- Communicate with our families and faculty
- Ensure equal access to education for all students
- Provide means of support for our students' and faculty's social and emotional wellbeing

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Regardless of vaccination status, universal masking is mandated in schools by NYSDOH, effective 8/27/2021.

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- St. Joseph School will require all students, teachers, staff, and visitors to arrive at the facility wearing masks and continue to wear them indoors regardless of vaccination status. This policy will be reviewed on a monthly basis in coordination with the Diocese of Rockville Centre, state and local legislation, and our consulting firm.
- Anyone who arrives without a mask will be provided one upon arrival before they are permitted to enter the school.
- An adequate two-week supply of PPE for all students and faculty will be kept onsite at all times.
- Masks will be required at all times indoors except while eating.

Attending School Safely in Person

Attending school in person is no small challenge. Through extensive studies of data and research collected from the New York State Department of Health, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, Federal Emergency Management Agency, American Academy of Pediatrics, and several other private and public-sector resources from across the globe, we have identified how to safely return teachers and students to the classroom. Some of the safety protocols that we will follow can be found below:

- Classrooms

- Students and teachers will maintain appropriate social distancing to combat the risk of transmission through respiratory droplets. If six feet of distance cannot be maintained, at least three feet will be maintained, and students will be required to wear a mask based on industry precedent and State guidelines.
- Students will be told to bring their own supplies. If they forget to bring supplies, the school will provide only supplies that can be disinfected after use.
- Increasing ventilation and air circulation in buildings with box fans, opening windows, air filter upgrades, etc.

- Dining Areas and Food Service

- Students will eat lunch in the lunchroom where there is a higher volume of air and improved ventilation and circulation over the standard classrooms to reduce the risk of aerosolized transmission while unmasked.
- Students will be encouraged to bring lunch from home.
- Students and teachers will maintain three feet from one another while eating in the lunchroom.
- Any food will be served by a masked and gloved individual.

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- **Common Areas**
 - Prohibiting all non-essential visitors, including parents, from entering the building unless there is an emergency. In the event of an emergency, visitors will be screened, prior to entering our secured environment.
 - Water fountains will not be used. Students will be told to bring their own water and an emergency supply will be kept by St. Joseph School.
- **Hygiene**
 - Regular disinfection of classrooms, bathrooms, and high contact surfaces around the building using EPA certified disinfectants.
 - Developing a culture of healthy habits in which students and teachers sanitize their hands and personal space frequently throughout the day.
 - Implementing hand sanitizing stations strategically throughout the building.
 - Full building disinfection will occur at the end of each.
- **Screening**
 - Unvaccinated teachers and staff must test negative for COVID-19 once a week.
 - St. Joseph School will offer screening testing to unvaccinated students on a weekly basis if the school's geographic area is identified by the CDC as having a moderate or greater transmission rate.
 - Every person authorized to enter the school building whether a student, faculty member, or visitor will have their temperature checked prior to entry. They will be denied entry if their temperature meets or exceeds 100.9F.
 - Each faculty and staff member will answer a series of questions daily to affirm they are healthy and in compliance with current executive orders.
 - **If teachers or students are not feeling well, please stay home from school.**
- **Positive Cases**
 - Any student or staff member with new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 must be excused from school.
 - Regardless of vaccination status, a COVID-positive student or staff member must
 - Provide a negative PCR COVID test OR
 - Remain out of school for ten days from symptom onset AND be fever-free for 24 hours before returning.

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- Close contacts to positive COVID-19 cases must also provide a negative PCR test in order to return to school.

- **Arrival and Departure**

- Students will be screened prior to entering the building and proceed to a secondary testing location if their surface temperature is determined to be 100° F or above at the time of screening.
- Screening will be conducted through several entrances and may be determined by grade.

Early Childhood Programs

- Masks will be required in the classroom for students in Pre-k and below.
- Teachers will be permitted to interact with children as long as they are wearing appropriate PPE.
- Students will utilize sinks for hand hygiene and not have access to hand sanitizer.

Kindergarten through 8th grade

- Students may change classes.
- Mask breaks will be taken as needed by utilizing outside spaces.

Faculty Space and Teachers

- Teachers will always be required to socially distance from one another if unvaccinated.

Physical Education

- Physical Education will continue in an adapted capacity.
- As weather permits and as much as feasible, gym classes will occur outside with masks optional.
- Gym classes will be modified to not permit any direct close contact if occurring indoors.

Shutdown

- St. Joseph School will constantly be prepared for an immediate shutdown.
- Shutdown as a result of an outbreak will be communicated immediately to all students, faculty and parents.
- Shutdown as a result of executive order will also be communicated to all stakeholders immediately.

Emergency Action Planning

Extensive and detailed plans will be kept onsite regarding how to protect students in the event of a positive COVID-19 case in the building and exactly who will be quarantined. Some of this planning includes:

- Designating a monitored isolation location within the school in the event a student appears symptomatic onsite.

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- Keeping seating charts of every classroom to be used in contact tracing.
- Determining which students and teachers will need to quarantine in the event of a positive diagnosis after consulting with the health department.
- Designating a COVID-19 Administrator and task force internally at the school.
- Developing an internal contact tracing protocol and continuing to work with professional contact tracers at Perrotta Consulting.
- Internal procedures to determine which students and teachers will need to quarantine and for how long if they are exposed to someone who is COVID-19 positive.

Disinfection and Decontamination

- Classrooms, bathrooms, shared spaces, and high contact surfaces will undergo regular cleaning throughout the day.
- In the event of a positive case within the building, full facility decontamination will occur before anyone is permitted to return.

Continuity Planning

St. Joseph School will reopen in a constant state of high alert. Every student, family and teacher will be prepared to immediately shift to remote learning should a partial quarantine or executive order force students and teachers to return to do so.

Social and Emotional Wellbeing

- We recognize the stress and emotional toll this year has taken on not only students, but also faculty and parents.
- Our teachers, guidance counselors and social workers will be attuned to the realities of the physical, mental, and economic hardships our families have faced over the last several months and trained to support them to the best of our ability.
- Resources will be available for anyone struggling with mental health through counselors and the district.
- Scheduled mask breaks will occur as permitted by weather and space in the school. Teachers will be permitted to move class outside where masks may be removed as weather and their individual schedules permit.

Professional Partnerships

Perrotta Consulting has collaborated with St. Joseph School to develop and guide our individual threat mitigation and COVID-19 secure operations planning and development initiative. In addition to helping

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develop our individual reopening plans, they will remain a resource to us throughout the year to guide us as pandemic conditions change and assist in changing procedures, contact tracing, threat mitigation, and decontamination.

Student Orientation

- Students will undergo an orientation of new COVID-19 hygiene and procedures on the first day of school.

Teacher Training

- All faculty and staff will be trained in new COVID-19 operating procedures and planning.
- Teachers will be trained in syndromic surveillance and identifying students who may be developing the onset symptoms of COVID-19 so that they can direct students to the nurse as early as possible.
- A COVID-19 Administrator will be thoroughly trained in the entirety of St. Joseph School's comprehensive operation plan. Select individuals will also be trained in contact tracing.

After School Activities and Outside Groups

- After school activities and outside groups attending St. Joseph School will be subject to the same standards as during the regular school day.
- CYO, clubs and music programs are actively being addressed in consultation with Perrotta Consulting to determine risks and how to safely conduct them.
- Any singing or use of woodwind instruments will occur in the largest and most well ventilated area possible with limited numbers of students and for a predetermined maximum amount of time.

Transportation

- Carpooling is discouraged and protocols for bussing will be left up to the district or individual bussing company.

Visitor Access

- Parents will not be permitted to enter the school building at any time except for emergency, scheduled meetings, or events held in open spaces following all COVID-19 protocols.
- In the event of an emergency or scheduled meeting, all visitors will undergo the same check-in procedures as teachers prior to entering our secure environment.

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Individual and Evolving Approach

- Each school, faculty member, family member, and student has a role to play in safely returning students to the classroom.
- Individual social responsibility and adherence to our new guidelines and procedures cannot be carried out solely through the creation of this document and the risk does not end at the dismissal bell.
- **We ask each member of the school community to continue to be socially responsible and most importantly stay home if you do not feel well.**

Communication and Information Collection

- St. Joseph School is united in its mission to reopen schools safely and at full capacity. Successful operations this school year will require constant reassessment of policies and procedures.
- We have fully established a modular COVID-19 command structure to rapidly identify needs and execute operating plans possible to protect students, teachers, and families at St. Joseph School.
- If any student, teacher, or person with whom they reside is diagnosed with COVID-19, they must notify the main office at St. Joseph School, immediately.
- Information about positive individuals will be conveyed in a manner like notifications for the presence of infectious diseases in the past. Even if you are not required to quarantine, a notice will be sent if you were in the same proximity as in infectious individual after consultation with Perrotta Consulting and the Nassau County Health Department.

Conclusion

St. Joseph School is actively working to implement the safest and most operationally successful school reopening plan possible amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic. Together with our partners, we will establish a culture of health within St. Joseph School. We fully anticipate this operating plan being fluid and evolving over the course of the school year. Changes will be made in consultation with our partners and conveyed to all stakeholders as quickly as possible.

Limitations

No guarantee is implied by this plan of incident management system. As pandemic conditions may change and overwhelm resources and personnel, Perrotta Consulting and this partnered facility can only endeavor to make every reasonable effort to manage the situation with the resources and information available at the time.

Authorization

This document was created specifically for St. Joseph School and duplication or modification of any portion for another facility or workspace is prohibited without express written consent and

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invalidates all compliance measures and procedural recommendations developed by Perrotta Consulting LLC.