



Tuscarawas Central Catholic Junior/Senior High School

777 Third St. NE New Philadelphia, OH 44663

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www.tccsaints.com

August 16, 2021

In cooperation with the Diocese of Columbus Office of Schools, The Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools issue the following fall 2021 COVID guidelines. These guidelines are subject to change as circumstances warrant.

- If you are sick, stay home!
- Masks or face coverings are not mandatory, but are strongly encouraged.
- The Diocese of Columbus recommends that all eligible persons be vaccinated.
- We will follow quarantine guidelines issued by the Ohio and county departments of health.
- The Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools will work to maintain a healthy and safe environment

Instruction

The Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools will operate in a normal, face-to-face setting for all students. Families that need additional or different accommodation will be considered by the principal on an individual basis and an appropriate determination made at the local school level. However, if a teacher, student, or group of students is unable to attend school on-site after having tested positive for Covid or are in quarantine (by order of the local health department or their doctor), we will make every attempt to provide student work and learning support as best as possible during the quarantine time. This could include recording classes, providing written work, or other options such as providing temporary support through live-streamed classroom instruction if feasible. These measures are intended to minimize the negative effects of quarantine and are not a substitute for daily attendance.

Cases

All Covid cases that are encountered at school will be reported to the local public health agency that has jurisdiction in the area of the school. We follow the reporting protocols established in their area and comply with the directives that are provided after the report is made, particularly quarantine rules. WE We will continue to maintain a Covid dashboard on the individual school websites. The Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools must also report Covid cases to the Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

The Diocese of Columbus maintains its position of encouraging all who are eligible to be vaccinated. However, vaccination is not required of any employee or student. Individuals should discuss vaccination with their health care providers.

Assessing for Symptoms

Since Covid spreads so rapidly, it is essential that all students (and their caregivers), staff, and volunteers conduct daily self-assessments prior to going to school. Students and school staff with any one or more of the Covid-19 symptoms listed on the checklist/log should not report to school for that day and should check with their healthcare provider for possible care and/or testing.

Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools

www.Be-A-Saint.org

Particular attention should be paid to the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

Should these symptoms be manifested without an explanation for their appearance, the individual should not enter the school and should contact his or her healthcare provider. Students and staff should stay home when sick until symptom free, and as advised by their healthcare provider. All students and staff should follow the guidance provided by their physicians.

Classroom Ventilation

The Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools will do everything possible to ensure that classrooms and buildings are well ventilated to the extent that local circumstances, safety, and weather will allow. Improved ventilation systems were installed last year.

Seating

To the greatest extent possible, 3 feet of distance between individuals will be maintained. While the use of desk shields is no longer recommended or mandated, they may be used at the request of a student's parent and in discussion with the local school. Teachers may use a desk shield for their own desk, should they choose to do so.

Distancing

The CDC states that "because of the importance of in-person learning, schools where not everyone is fully vaccinated should implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structures, but should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement." Social distancing of at least three feet within classrooms and other indoor areas is recommended. When possible, school staff will maintain distance among students, staff, and volunteers in all school environments, including classrooms, hallways, restrooms, and cafeteria, drop-off and pick-up locations. Where social distancing is difficult, the CDC states that face coverings can provide an additional measure of protection. The use of shared materials or shared storage spaces will be minimized. Desks surfaces will be wiped down between classes when the desk is going to be used by another student. We will minimize large, in-person gatherings (such as pep rallies, assemblies, etc) in indoor spaces, other than Mass.

Face Coverings

The Ohio Department of Health recommends consistent mask wearing for those who are unvaccinated. The Center for Disease Control states that when indoors, "Mask use is recommended for people who are not fully vaccinated including students, teachers, and staff. Children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask." Other government agencies have recommended mask wearing for all individuals regardless of vaccination status. Unvaccinated students and adults will not be required to social distance by a different standard than used for those who are vaccinated.

Athletics and Outdoor Recess

The OHSAA is working closely with ODE and ODH and continues to revise its sport specific recommendations for student/spectator participation in athletics. The Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools will comply with all guidance from OHSAA regarding school athletic activities. There is no additional guidance at this time for outdoor recess.



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School Bus Transportation

Families that utilize public school bus transportation should be aware that federal regulations require that masks be worn on all public transportation, including school buses. This requirement is in place regardless of vaccination status.

Sanitation

Hand washing and sanitizing are important tools in preventing the spread of Covid by killing the virus. Students, staff and volunteers should practice frequent handwashing for at least 20 seconds when hands are dirty, before and after eating, and after using the restroom. Students should also wash their hands before and after recess. We will provide plentiful opportunities throughout the day for students to practice handwashing. Hand sanitizer (60% to 95% alcohol based) will be provided in high traffic areas including entrances to buildings. Staff, students, and volunteers should avoid touching their mouths, noses, and eyes since the virus easily enters the body through these membranes. We shall make reasonable efforts to thoroughly clean and sanitize the school environment to limit spread on shared surfaces, paying close attention to high touch areas and shared spaces.

Visitors

While visitors are not prohibited from visiting the schools, access will be limited. Self-screenings for Covid symptoms should be performed by any visitor before entering the school. All visitors must sign in and the records of visitor arrival and departure must be maintained for contact tracing purposes. The elementary schools will continue to ask that parents drop off students at the door each morning and not enter the building.

Travel

At this time, there are no restrictions on field trips and no prohibitions against overnight or out of state travel. When planning such events, we shall adhere to government travel mandates and/or advisories. The appropriate government websites should be consulted prior to departure.

Acknowledgment of Risk Statements are included in all faculty and family handbooks. As in any year, all staff members and families must sign the handbook acknowledgement form shortly after the start of the school year.

Updates

The guidance in this document reflects the best practices, guidance, and recommendations that are known as of the date issued. Every effort will be made to revise guidance as frequently as needed and as quickly as possible.