



Employee, Volunteer, and Student Safety in Religious Education Classes due to Covid 19

Classrooms, restrooms, common areas

Prior to student arrival, each space to be used for religious education will be disinfected in the same way the parish disinfects its worship space. This would include all surfaces, door handles, desks. The same protocol will occur after each classroom session in preparation for either the next set of classes or for the next parish group utilizing the facility.

It would be a best practice for student textbooks to remain at the parish in a plastic bag for the student to use each week, rather than sending them home. Common materials since as markers, crayons, etc should also be individually packaged to be used only by one child.

Safe Distancing

Safe distancing has been proven to be an effective way to prevent potential infection. Employees, volunteers, children, and parents should be at safe distances from one another and eliminate any contact with one another whenever possible. If children/youth regularly switch classrooms, the catechist should move and not the students.

Visitor Restrictions

The religious education policies of the Diocese of St. Augustine do not allow for visitors to the classroom unless they are an invited speaker who has been fully vetted. At this time, visitors should be limited and admitted with same protocols as employees and regular volunteers. All must wear masks.

Employee and Volunteer Screening and Protocols

To help prevent the spread of Covid-19 and to reduce the risk of exposure to all on our parish campuses, we will require those coming to volunteer for religious education to self-screen with the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat

Loss of taste or smell
Diarrhea
Fever of 100.4 or above
Known contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
A person who has traveled outside the area over the last two weeks.

The temperature of all volunteers will be taken prior to their entry into the buildings. This will be done with a contactless infrared forehead thermometer. Adults or teens with a temperature of 100.4 or above will not be admitted and will need to be sent back home. If a diagnosis of Covid 19 is made, this person cannot return until after a 2-week quarantine period.

All staff and volunteers will wear masks, except if they are presenting the lesson.

Students

To help prevent the spread of Covid-19 and to reduce the risk of exposure to all on our parish campuses, we will require those coming for religious education classes to self-screen with the following symptoms:

Cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Chills
Muscle pain
Headache
Sore throat
Loss of taste or smell
Diarrhea
Fever of 100.4 or above
Known contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
A person who has traveled outside the area over the last two weeks.

It would be a best practice to have this information on your registration forms as well as on large display posters at the entrance of your building (s).

All children will be expected to wear masks, unless for a medical reason they are unable to.

The temperature of all students will be taken prior to their entry into the buildings. By adult cleared volunteers. This will be done with a contactless infrared forehead thermometer. Children with a temperature of 100.4 or above will immediately be quarantined until a parent can pick them up. It is a best practice to ask parents to wait until screening is completed before they exit the parking lot.

Regarding carpooling to and from religious education: caution should be strongly recommended on this practice, but it is up to the parent to discern the safety of this practice for their children.

Restroom breaks should be discouraged. Most class sessions are no more than 90 minutes. If a small child does need to use the restroom, they should go one at a time and the space will need to be disinfected afterwards.

These protocols will be updated as need be as the situation continues to evolve, so subject to change as new information is available.