



Holy Spirit Catholic School's COVID-19 Protocols & Procedures

Updated: September 24, 2021

After about a month into school, we now have some more data to make informed decisions as to what's best for our students and staff. For the past 5 weeks, our burden rate (case rate per 100,000) in Outagamie County has been in the [very high](#) category (similar to where we were in December 2020 or January 2021). See the latest Outagamie County Public Health school report [here](#). The [transmission level](#) remains in the "high" category for Outagamie County and surrounding counties. The CDC now recommends that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear facial coverings while indoors in areas of substantial and high transmission. As I said in the last line of our initial reopening letter on August 4, 2021, "we will be flexible and make sure we are doing everything we can to provide a safe, God-centered learning environment for your children." Below are updated COVID-19 protocols & procedures for Holy Spirit Catholic School:

Holy Spirit's Mission

The mission of Holy Spirit Catholic School is to serve God by providing a challenging academic education within the Catholic Tradition.

Holy Spirit's COVID Protocols & Procedures: Our Goals

1. To protect the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health of students, families and staff.
2. To ensure our students feel safe, valued and loved.
3. To support our parents in providing a challenging academic education within the Catholic Tradition.
4. To maximize student participation in in-person education and extra-curricular activities.

Holy Spirit COVID-19 Dashboard

Holy Spirit will continue to update our COVID-19 Dashboard daily so parents can track the impact COVID has on our school community. <https://www.holyspiritknights.org/covid-19> Along with tracking this information, Mr. Zuleger continues to have weekly meetings with Outagamie County Public Health to track how COVID has impacted our local community, county, and state.

Masking

- Effective September 27, 2021, masks will be required indoors for all students 4K-grade 8, staff and visitors. Masks will be required for preschool 3 morning classes when they enter, leave, or in the hallways. It is *strongly encouraged* for preschool 3 students while in the classroom but not required. Masks will be required indoors for all childcare services (before care, extended care, lunch bunch, all-inclusive care) for all preschool 3 and 4K students (exception: rest time).
- While outdoors, masks are optional for all students, staff and visitors.
- On school buses, masks are required for all students and staff.

Guidelines for Athletics

- Masks are required indoors for all students, staff, and spectators
- Students need to be wearing a mask while entering the gym, but athletes who are actively participating in warm-ups or games do not need to wear a mask.
- Coaches should be masked at all times.

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COVID-19 Testing

Students and staff are strongly encouraged to test for COVID-19 when symptoms are present. Unvaccinated students are strongly encouraged to test for COVID-19 when they are deemed a close contact to a positive case. COVID-19 tests are most effective 5-7 days after the most recent contact with a positive case. Holy Spirit *may* require testing in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 in a classroom. An outbreak of COVID-19 is defined as two or more positive cases in a single classroom. Unvaccinated students and staff refusing a test in the event of an outbreak will be required to quarantine for 10 days consistent with state and local health departments guidelines.

Holy Spirit will not accept any at-home testing kit results. This is guidance from Outagamie County Public Health.

Holy Spirit is working with DHS, and a testing vendor, to provide COVID-19 testing at Holy Spirit Catholic School for symptomatic students and staff free of charge. More info to come on this soon.

Please note: As of right now, if a family/household member has symptoms and is being tested for COVID, siblings will be allowed to come to school while we await test results.

Tests: Antigen vs. PCR

Holy Spirit is accepting rapid antigen tests and PCR tests. Some cases of negative antigen tests, may require a confirmatory longer PCR test.

Positive COVID-19 Cases

If a student tests positive for COVID, parents should contact the school immediately. If that student has siblings, siblings will need to be picked up and follow the [close contact](#) guidelines.

Please note: As of right now, if a family/household member has symptoms and is being tested for COVID, siblings will be allowed to come to school while we await test results.

Positive Cases, Close Contacts and Quarantine

During the 2021-22 school year, Holy Spirit will continue to follow CDC Guidelines for:

- [identifying close contacts](#)
- [quarantine for close contacts](#)
- [isolation for COVID positive cases](#)

CDC guidelines for close contacts for K-12 classrooms [are available here](#). When needed, Holy Spirit will contact the Outagamie County Public Health Department to assist with identifying close contacts and determining the appropriate next steps.

In accordance with CDC guidelines, local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last, based on local conditions and needs. We will continue to follow the recommendations of Outagamie County Public Health Department when determining the appropriate length of quarantine.

For information on quarantines see the [WI DHS document: How long should I quarantine?](#)

Holy Spirit is accepting the 14-day quarantine option, 10-day quarantine option, and 7-day quarantine with a negative test option. If a student-athlete is deemed a close contact, they will be excluded from athletics for 14 days.

Vaccinations

Holy Spirit strongly encourages all eligible students and staff to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The highest priority is for our students and staff to remain in school. Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine is an effective way for staff and students to do so. We encourage families to talk with their primary care provider about vaccinations. Vaccinated students and staff deemed a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case will **not** require quarantine, provided they remain symptom free. Holy Spirit may ask for proof of vaccination in order to confirm excusal from quarantine.

Daily Monitoring – Parent help needed

Please screen at home for the following symptoms daily:

- Cough – [new or different](#) from what you usually have
- Shortness of breath trouble breathing
- New loss of sense of taste or smell

If your child has any one of the above symptoms, they should not come to school and need to be tested for COVID-19.

- Sore throat
- Unusual fatigue
- Nausea (sick to the stomach or vomiting)
- Diarrhea
- Fever ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}$ F) or chills (would indicate fever) or used fever reducing medications
- Muscle or body aches
- Runny nose or nasal congestion
- Headache

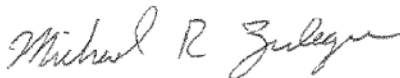
If your child has two or more of the above symptoms, they should not come to school and need to be tested for COVID-19.

Here is a link to our [Daily COVID-19 Health Screening Checklist for Children](#) for the 2021-22 school year.

In the end, we have decided to go this route to maximize student participation in in-person education. **The vast majority of students are all sitting more than 3 feet apart from each other. If someone is positive, and everyone is wearing a mask, there mostly likely will not be any close contacts at school.** Therefore, more in-person learning for our students, which is what we all want for our children.

These protocols and procedures will be revisited at our next Education Committee meeting on October 19, 2021.

God bless,



Mike Zuleger, Principal

