



THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

Memorandum

To: School Administrators
From: Adam Dufault
Date: May 27, 2021
Subject: Summer 2021 Covid Guidance for School Activities

Effective JUNE 7 (or following the last day of the 2020-21 school year) through JULY 31

Overview

Guidance from the CDC and from the State of Ohio has changed rapidly over the past few weeks. Accordingly, the Diocese of Columbus has modified Covid guidance for school activities conducted during June and July of 2021. This new guidance pertains to school-sanctioned summer activities only, including camps, summer classes, athletic practices, and other enrichment activities. Reflecting the increase in the vaccinated population, the low risk of infection in children, and the rapidly falling case numbers in Ohio, these protocols are a shift toward a surveillance methodology, similar to what we use for other infectious diseases such as the flu. Should the Covid situation deteriorate in the state or within a school, stricter measures will be implemented, up to and including the cancellation of summer programming.

Important Conditions

Summer activities are distinctly different than educational activities during the school year. All summer programs are optional and participation is voluntary. Unlike during the school year, a nurse or medical professional is not required to be present. Few schools are likely to have a nurse or medical professional available.

The protocols outlined below require parents to keep sick children at home. Any student showing signs or symptoms related to Covid must not attend summer program activities. The importance of this procedure must be communicated in writing to all families prior to starting any summer activity. This notification can be included in activity permission slips. A Covid-specific waiver will not be required this year, unlike our procedure last summer.

Each school must designate one or more Covid Coordinators for summer programs. That individual, usually a camp director or coach, is tasked with supervising Covid protocols, communicating any issues or cases to the school administrator, and notifying families of Covid exposure. This notification does not need to be a letter sent or emailed to all families as it was during the school year. With the repeal of that requirement by the State of Ohio, notification may consist of a website posting or similar action. Positive cases must be reported to the Superintendent as soon as possible via email, phone call, or text message.

Michele Faehnle, RN, will be available throughout the summer to respond to any questions from coordinators and to offer guidance. She may be reached at 614-432-1633 or mfaehnle@cdeducation.org. Please share her number and information with all Covid Coordinators.

Outdoor Activities

Includes events, classes, programs, and activities that fully occur in outdoor spaces.

For these activities, no Covid protocols are required.

- Masks do not need to be worn.
- Social distancing is not required
- Enhanced cleaning of surfaces is not required

Frequent hand washing is essential. Schools must make arrangements to allow for thorough hand washing with soap and water throughout the duration of the event, program, or activity.

Self-monitoring must be conducted at home before attending the school program. If a student is ill or is showing any signs or symptoms associated with Covid, that student must stay home. Consultation with a doctor or medical professional or Covid testing is recommended.

Indoor Activities

For all indoor activities, the following protocols are in place:

- Social distancing is not required
- Enhanced cleaning of surfaces is not required
- Barriers / plastic shields / dividers are not required
- Masks:
 - o For ages 12 and up and fully vaccinated* – masks are not required
 - o For ages 12 and up and not fully vaccinated* – masks are encouraged but not required
 - o For ages 11 and under – masks are encouraged but not required

Frequent hand washing is essential. Schools must make arrangements to allow for thorough hand washing with soap and water throughout the duration of the event, program, or activity.

Self-monitoring must be conducted at home before attending the school program. If a student is ill or is showing any signs or symptoms associated with Covid, that student must stay home. Consultation with a doctor or medical professional or Covid testing is recommended.

*- Fully vaccinated means vaccination series is complete \geq two weeks.

Other Guidelines

- If a child has symptoms associated with Covid, that child must stay home. Unless they are also showing symptoms, siblings are not required to be excluded from school.
- If a student or staff member tests positive for Covid, he/she must follow all recommendations of public health officials. A student or staff member may return to summer activities at the school 10 days from symptom onset or testing positive and 24 hours without fever and with improved symptoms.

- Schools may elect to implement stricter guidance than what is indicated above. School administrators are free to do so as they see fit.
- This guidance is in effect through July 31. Policies and procedures for August and for the 2021-22 school year will be determined later this summer and communicated promptly to schools and families.
- All procedures in this document are subject to change depending on guidance from the CDC and/or the State of Ohio. Every attempt will be made to communicate changes promptly, but all schools conducting programming must remain informed about news and developments regarding Covid.