



# COVID-19 CONTINGENCY PLAN 2020-2021

Holy Cross Catholic School

**\*\*This document is subject to change**  
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## Current Understanding of COVID-19

\*Taken from Diocese of Victoria in Texas Catholic Schools  
COVID-19 School Continuity Plan 2020 - 2021

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

### Disease Transmission:

The virus is thought to spread primarily from person to person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms (known as asymptomatic spread).

### Preventative Health Measures:

- Frequent handwashing
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands and properly cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid close contact with others- stay at least 6 feet from others and do not gather in groups.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Stay home if you are sick.

### Symptoms of COVID-19:

- People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported - ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.
- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:

Dry Cough	Chills	Shortness of Breath	Fever > 100.4 or feeling feverish	Repeated shaking with chills	Congestion or runny nose
Muscle Pain	Headache	Sore Throat	Diarrhea	New loss of taste or smell	Nausea or vomiting

### **Additional Information about COVID-19 Symptoms in Children**

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar in children and adults. However, children with confirmed COVID-19 have generally presented with mild symptoms. Reported symptoms in children include cold-like symptoms, such as fever, runny nose, and cough. Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported. It's not known yet whether some children may be at higher risk for severe illness, for example, children with underlying medical conditions and special healthcare needs. There is much more to be learned about how the disease impacts children.

Although most COVID-19 cases in children are not severe, serious illness that needs to be treated at the hospital still happens. Some data on children reported that the majority who needed hospitalization for COVID-19 had at least one underlying medical condition. The most common underlying conditions reported among children with COVID-19 include chronic lung disease (including asthma), heart disease, and conditions that weaken the immune system. This information suggests that children with these underlying medical conditions may be at risk for more severe illness from COVID-19.

# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## Readiness for Safe Return to School

### **Promoting Healthy Behaviors, Environments, and Operations**

**TEMPERATURE CHECKS:** Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors arriving on campus before school academics, during morning car line, midday, or after the start of the school day will have their temperature checked by a Holy Cross Catholic School staff member. Children and adults who have a fever (temperature equal to or greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit) will not be permitted to stay on campus. Parents, guardians, or other drivers should not depart until a staff person has confirmed the student(s) does not have a fever.

**MASKS:** Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be required to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth upon arrival and while in common areas such as hallways, the church, the library, the computer room, all bathrooms, and other spaces where they may come into close contact with other people. Masks will not be required while students are inside their classroom or while outside, so long as proper distancing is maintained. Parents need to provide at least two (2) clean masks for their child(ren) each day. The masks can be disposable or washable and must be school appropriate.

**PHYSICAL DISTANCING:** Fr. Stephen will offer a separate school mass at 9 a.m. on Tuesday to allow all students to attend weekly mass. This mass will be limited to students and faculty. We will be observing implementing physical distancing and reducing the number of people entering and leaving the campus.

**LUNCHES:** All students will be eating in their respective classrooms. Lunches brought from home must be packed in completely disposable containers. Currently, the only container that is allowed is the student's personal water bottle. Lunches are closed at this time to all visitors. Dropped off lunches and delivery of food will not be accepted. At this time, the only special lunch gathering outside of the classroom will be the prearranged dining packages purchased from our Spring Bazaar auction. Social distancing will be implemented as those special arranged events will take place.

**ENHANCED SANITATION:** The custodial staff will follow additional protocols for frequent disinfection of high-traffic areas. Teachers and students will follow disinfecting procedures in their classroom, including wiping down desks, tables, chairs, doorknobs, and any frequently touched surfaces. Hand-sanitizer stations will be available at school entrances, classrooms, and key passage areas.

**WATER:** Students must bring a filled water bottle from home. These bottles should be clearly marked with the student's name. Water stations will be available for teachers and teacher aids to refill students' water bottles; if needed during the day.

## Exclusion and Re-admission Criteria

\*Taken from Diocese of Victoria in Texas Catholic Schools COVID-19 School Continuity Plan 2020-2021

Holy Cross Catholic School will adhere to the current recommendations from the CDC and Texas DSHS, subject to change.

1. **Exclusion from Campus.** An employee or student who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19: repeated dry coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, feeling feverish, or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, or close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 will be immediately isolated and sent home.
2. **Return to Campus.** Employees or students with new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above will not be allowed to return to school until:
  - a. **COVID-19 Positive.** In the case of an employee or student who was diagnosed with COVID-19, *positive test or doctor's diagnosis*, the individual may return to work/school when all three of the following criteria are met.
    - (i) at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery; including resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications;
    - (ii) the individual has improved respiratory symptoms, e.g., cough, shortness of breath; and
    - (iii) at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
  - b. **Presumed COVID-19 Positive.** In the case of an employee or student who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, **the individual will be presumed to have COVID-19.** The individual may not return to work/school until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above.
  - c. **Known Close Contact.** An employee or student with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 will not be allowed to return to work/school until the end of the fourteen (14) day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure.
  - d. **Early Return to Campus.** If the employee or student has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work/school before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or present a verified, lab-confirmed negative COVID-19 test result.
3. **COVID-19 Related Absences.**
  - a. Students who are absent due to following school requirements for fever, symptoms, or quarantine do not accrue absences if they keep up with their class via remote learning while away from campus.
  - b. Teacher absences due to following school requirements for fever, symptoms, or quarantine will not count against a teacher's personal days during the 2020 - 2021 school year if the teacher maintains his or her remote classroom.

## Emergency Response for COVID-19

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 has entered a school building, the following procedures will be observed:

1. **Notifications.** The Office of Catholic Schools will be notified; along with local emergency management and health authorities.
2. **Confidentiality.** All communications by the school shall maintain the confidentiality of the student or faculty member.
3. **Sanitization of Facilities.** The local health department will be notified and the school will follow the latest required action steps and guidance for the appropriate response.
  - a. The local health department will likely advise an initial short-term (1-5 days) dismissal to allow time for tracing and required cleaning.
  - b. Partial school closures are possible if affected areas are limited and can be closed off. For example, limited to one building on campus.
  - c. Areas used by the individual with COVID-19 will be closed off and specific CDC instructions will be followed before cleaning and disinfecting.
4. **Student/Faculty Assessment.** Holy Cross, with the assistance of the local health authority, will evaluate a COVID-19 positive individual's interaction and compliance with safety measures in place. This will be used to determine whether a student or faculty member came into close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual on campus and will recommend necessary quarantine periods, if any.

## Distance Learning

If schools are once again mandated to close, Holy Cross Catholic School will use an online platform, along with our current curriculum for distance education as for in-school instruction. Materials will be adapted and on-line resources will be supplemented. As early childhood and elementary school students are still developing their independence, a teacher-parent partnership is necessary for students to engage in distance learning tasks and to access online resources. Expectations include:

### Pre K3 & Pre K 4

The distant learning plan for Pre-Kindergarten will include a daily meet (Mon-Thurs), recorded sessions from grade level teachers, and online or home activities. Families will also have the opportunity to participate in daily (Mon-Fri) office hours with teachers from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. to answer questions or if your child needs extra help. Students will participate in Literacy, Math, Art, Music, Movement, or Library each week. The assigned activities should last approximately one hour per day. Additional activities that take place throughout the day are extensions of this hour (e.g., reading aloud, pretend play, investigations, writing, or drawing). Material used by the curriculum will be provided to the parents for their child which will need to be picked up in advance.

### Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades

The distant learning plan for Kindergarten - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will include a daily meet (Mon-Thurs), recorded lessons from grade level teachers, and online or home activities. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in daily (Mon-Fri) office hours with teachers from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. to answer questions or for extra help. Students will participate in English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies daily and will have weekly opportunities to participate in Art, Music, PE or Library. Assigned activities should last approximately 1.5 - 2.5 hours daily. Fridays will be used for ensuring students have met individual Mathletics and AR targets. Students will also have the opportunity to attend office hours and teachers will invite students to support/remediation small groups based on need.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

The distant learning plan for grades 3 - 5 will include a daily meet (Mon - Thurs), recorded lessons from grade level teachers, and online or home activities. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in daily (Mon-Fri) office hours with teachers from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. to answer questions or for extra help. Students will participate in English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies daily and will have weekly opportunities to participate in Art, Music, PE or Library. Assigned activities should last approximately 2 - 3 hours daily. Fridays will be used for ensuring students have met individual Mathletics and AR targets. Students will also have the opportunity to attend office hours and teachers will invite students to support/remediation small groups based on need.

Computer laptops are available to be checked out to families with multiple students or families who do not have access to a computer for student use at home.

**Attendance.** A student's attendance in the online meeting and/or turning in assigned work determines their presence or absence. Students and parents will be notified weekly of any absence with a due date for any missed assignment and removing the absence. As per the *Parent-Student Handbook* (p. 23), "State law requires students must be in attendance 90% (162 days) of the school year to receive credit. *The 90% rule applies to all absences, including excused absences.*"

**Grading.** The current grading system as specified in the Student-Parent Handbook will be used.