



TO: Parish Catechetical Leaders and Youth Ministry Leaders
FROM: Office for Evangelization and Family Life & Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
DATE: October 29, 2021
RE: COVID Update

As we continue through the 2021-2022 school year, the health of our children and youth remains of the utmost importance. We are striving to follow the guidelines put forth by the CDC and the Alabama Department of Public Health so that our children and youth remain safe and able to attend parish functions. Our Catholic Schools have decided to modify their protocols for high school youth beginning on October 18, 2021. If your pastor agrees, parish Religious Education and Youth ministry programs can also modify some protocols for their high school youth. We will monitor the COVID situation via the Alabama Department of Public Health in all areas of the Archdiocese and will adjust these guidelines as needed.

All new volunteers as well as participants in our programs must sign the COVID waiver prior to participating in our programs. The signed copy should be kept on file at the parish. Links to these waivers are below.

If approved by the pastor, high school (Grades 9-12) adjustments to protocols effective October 29, 2021:

- Fully vaccinated students are no longer required to wear masks or physically distance from others.
- It is recommended that those who are not fully vaccinated wear masks while indoors and maintain a 6-foot distance from others.
- When feasible, the parish will provide areas to allow those who are not fully vaccinated the space for the 6-foot physical distancing.
- Programs will not require proof of vaccination.
- Programs will not monitor the wearing of masks.
- Programs will continue contact tracing.

PreK-8 Programs

- At this time, current protocols will remain in place to protect our vulnerable population, those who do not have access to a vaccination yet. This includes wearing masks while inside for grades K – 8.
- Upon updated ADPH guidance, protocols for these programs will be reevaluated.

The following will remain in place for all programs:

- Temperature checks upon arrival to program
- Limited visitors on campus
- For off-site activities, submit plan to Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for approval at least 3 weeks prior (please see August memo for guidelines on events outside of parish)
- Contact tracing

Parent encouragements:

- Consider vaccination if your child is eligible. Those who are fully vaccinated do not have to quarantine if exposed to a person who tests positive.
- Keep child/youth home if he/she is symptomatic
- Notify parish program leaders if child/youth tests positive for COVID and may have been positive at the time of attending the program

If you have any questions concerning these guidelines, please call the Office for Evangelization and Family Life (251-433-6991) or the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (251-433-4138).

[COVID-19 Consent and Liability Waiver](#)

[COVID-19 Volunteer Waiver](#)

[Archdiocesan Guidelines for parish programs, August 2021](#)

ADPH Updated School Guidance

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/assets/cov-school-guidance-092421.pdf>

CDC guidance for schools

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

Additional CDC mask guidance

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/outdoor-activities.html#print>

American Pediatric Association statement

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>