
Catholic Diocese of Jackson- Office of Education *Updated COVID-19 Protocols*

Overview

The Office of Education and each of our schools continually monitor the status of the COVID-19 pandemic across our state. The following protocols have been created to easily adapt our school protocols as cases fluctuate in our communities. The levels indicated below will enable individual schools to pivot in response to the changing nature of the pandemic.

Over the last twenty-two months, we have witnessed that the virus's case numbers and community spread fluctuate. Therefore, as we monitor case numbers in our communities and schools, students and staff members may be asked to switch to different protocol levels. When a switch to a higher level occurs, it will be implemented for a minimum of two weeks and then reassessed.

Decisions to move between protocols will be made by each school's administration (principal and pastor/canonical administrator) in consultation with the Office of Catholic Education.

These protocols have been updated to reflect the latest guidance issued by the CDC regarding quarantines found [here](#).

Level 1 Protocols

- All faculty/ staff and students will be encouraged to wear masks indoors. Unvaccinated individuals are especially encouraged to wear masks. Masks may be required in certain classrooms or in other instances as determined by the teacher or administration.
- Reasonable efforts will be made to maintain a minimum of three feet between individuals. Common areas such as the cafeteria, specialized classrooms, and auditoriums may be used throughout the day as long as they are sanitized in between classes.
- Contact tracing will be conducted when a positive case is reported. Students or school personnel known to have been in close contact (less than three feet for more than fifteen minutes) with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 will:
 - If unvaccinated or partially vaccinated
 - Not attend school or activities for *five days after the last contact with the infected individual. Students who do not develop symptoms and receive a negative COVID-19 test result after day five may return to school. Please note positive antibody test results will not be accepted.
 - *The five day period is conditional upon having no symptoms AND wearing a mask for five days after returning to work or school.
 - If you develop symptoms, get tested, stay home and follow the guidelines for students/personnel that have been infected.
 - Individuals who have been fully vaccinated

- Individuals who have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days or individuals who have been **fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine, assuming no symptoms develop. It is suggested that you wear a mask for 10 days and get tested for COVID 5 days after exposure to confirm you are not infected.
- Fully vaccinated means you have received a COVID-19 booster dose or third dose, OR you have received both doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last six months, or a dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine within the last two months.
- School visitors are permitted at the principal's discretion.

Level 2 Protocols

- All faculty/ staff and students will implement modified mask protocols:
 - Elementary Schools/ Self-Contained Classes: Masks will be optional for staff and students when they are in their classroom with only their class. Masks should be worn when transitioning to other spaces or in other settings where classes and grade levels are mixed. Masks may be required in certain classrooms or in other instances as determined by the teacher or administration.
 - Middle & High School Classes: Masks will be optional in classrooms where physical distancing can occur but will be required in the hallways, during transitions, or when physical distancing is not possible.
- Reasonable efforts will be made to maintain a minimum of three feet between individuals. Common areas such as the cafeteria, specialized classrooms, and auditoriums may be used throughout the day so long as they are sanitized in between classes.
- Contact tracing will be conducted when a positive case is reported. Students or school personnel known to have been in close contact (less than three feet for more than fifteen minutes) with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 will:
 - If unvaccinated or partially vaccinated
 - Not attend school or activities for *five days after the last contact with the infected individual. Students who do not develop symptoms and receive a negative COVID-19 test result after day five may return to school. Please note positive antibody test results will not be accepted.
 - *The five day period is conditional upon having no symptoms AND wearing a mask for five days after returning to work or school.
 - If you develop symptoms, get tested, stay home and follow the guidelines for students/personnel that have been infected.
 - Individuals who have been fully vaccinated
 - Individuals who have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days or individuals who have been **fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine, assuming no symptoms develop. It is suggested that you wear a mask for 10 days and get tested for COVID 5 days after exposure to confirm you are not infected.
 - Fully vaccinated means you have received a COVID-19 booster dose or third dose, OR you have received both doses of Pfizer or Moderna

vaccine within the last six months, or a dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine within the last two months.

- School visitors are permitted at the principal's discretion. However, all visitors must wear masks when inside the school building.

Level 3 Protocols

- All faculty/ staff and students will be required to wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status. However, individuals participating in outside activities will not be required to wear masks.
- Reasonable efforts will be made to maintain a minimum of three feet between individuals. Common areas such as the cafeteria, specialized classrooms, and auditoriums may be used throughout the day so long as they are sanitized in between classes.
- Contact tracing will be conducted when a positive case is reported. Students or school personnel known to have been in close contact (less than three feet for more than fifteen minutes) with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 will:
 - If unvaccinated or partially vaccinated
 - Not attend school or activities for *five days after the last contact with the infected individual. Students who do not develop symptoms and receive a negative COVID-19 test result after day five may return to school. Please note positive antibody test results will not be accepted.
 - *The five day period is conditional upon having no symptoms AND wearing a mask for five days after returning to work or school.
 - If you develop symptoms, get tested, stay home and follow the guidelines for students/personnel that have been infected.
 - Individuals who have been fully vaccinated
 - Individuals who have been infected with COVID-19 in the past 90 days or individuals who have been **fully vaccinated will not be required to quarantine, assuming no symptoms develop. It is suggested that you wear a mask for 10 days and get tested for COVID 5 days after exposure to confirm you are not infected.
 - Fully vaccinated means you have received a COVID-19 booster dose or third dose, OR you have received both doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last six months, or a dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine within the last two months.
- School visitors are permitted at the principal's discretion. However, all visitors must wear masks when inside the school building.

Level 4 Protocols

- All faculty/ staff and students will be required to wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status. However, individuals participating in outside activities will not be required to wear masks.
- Classes will remain in cohorts at the elementary school level to minimize exposure and cross-contamination. When possible, shared spaces should not be used.

- Contact tracing will be conducted when a positive case is reported. Students or school personnel known to have been in close contact (less than three feet for more than fifteen minutes) with someone who tests positive for COVID-19 will:
 - If unvaccinated or partially vaccinated
 - Not attend school or activities for *five days after the last contact with the infected individual. Students who do not develop symptoms and receive a negative COVID-19 test result after day five may return to school. Please note positive antibody test results will not be accepted.
 - *The five day period is conditional upon having no symptoms AND wearing a mask for five days after returning to work or school.
 - If you develop symptoms, get tested, stay home and follow the guidelines for students/personnel that have been infected.
 - Vaccinated individuals will not be exempt from quarantine at this level.
- School visitors should be limited to essential personnel. In addition, all visitors must wear masks when inside the school building and limit their visit.
- Individuals who have traveled to areas deemed high-risk should quarantine per CDC guidelines.

Level 5 Protocols

- Distance learning will be implemented, and students will virtually attend classes until it is deemed safe to return to the campus setting. Please refer to your school's distance learning policies.

FOR THOSE WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

Vaccination Status	If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)	If You Were Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)
Received a Booster OR Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months	Stay home for 5 days. If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you may return to work or school conditionally upon wearing a mask for an additional 5 days. If you have a fever, continue to stay home until fever-free without fever-reducing medication for at least 72 hours.	Wear a mask around others for 10 days. Test on day 5. If you develop symptoms get tested and isolate at home.
Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted OR Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted OR Are unvaccinated	Stay home for 5 days. If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you may return to work or school conditionally upon wearing a mask for an additional 5 days. If you have a fever, continue to stay home until fever-free without fever-reducing medication for at least 72 hours	Quarantine at home for 5 days. You may return to work or school conditionally upon wearing a mask for an additional 5 days Test on day 5. If you develop symptoms get tested and isolate at home.

No matter the level of protocols in place, the following guidelines should always be followed:

Students or School Personnel who test positive for COVID-19 and are demonstrating symptoms will isolate at home and not return to school until:

- They have been fever-free without fever-reducing medication for at least 72 hours
AND
- At least five days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Students or School Personnel who test positive for COVID-19 and are NOT demonstrating symptoms quarantine at home and not return to school until:

- At least five days have passed since the date of the positive COVID-19 test, assuming no subsequent symptoms have developed since the positive test result.

Other Instances of Quarantine:

- If a live-in family member of a student tests positive for COVID-19 and the infected individual cannot isolate from other family members, please get in touch with your principal to develop a plan of action regarding quarantine timelines.
- If a member of a student or staff member's immediate family is tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting test results, the student or staff member should not return to the school setting until:
 - a negative result is reported OR
 - a positive result is reported, and all guidelines for positive cases have been followed.

Glossary of Terms

Close Contact - Someone who was less than three feet away from infected person without a mask for a total of 15 minutes (in increments or total).

- **Exception:** In the K–12 indoor classroom setting or a structured outdoor setting where mask use can be observed (i.e., holding class outdoors with educator supervision), the close contact definition excludes students who were between 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

Exposure - Having come into contact with a person or contaminated material that can cause a particular health problem

Isolation - separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

Quarantine - separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick..