

LIGHTING THE WAY

PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Health and Safety Plan 2022

Our commitment to our families is to offer an excellent educational experience deeply rooted in the faith, love, and charity of the Catholic Church. Our schools exist for the purpose of promoting a Catholic way of life based on Gospel values and providing our students with a faith experience that will nurture a love for Jesus Christ that will fill their hearts for a lifetime.

As we continue our journey through the 2022-23 school year, we do so with great faith and hope that it will remain a very healthy, happy school year for our students. We have faced many challenges the past few years and our school community continues to work together to keep our schools open for in-person instruction with minimal interruptions. This requires flexibility, patience, and the need to monitor and adjust protocols based on recommendations from health agencies. Our goal is to welcome back the “normalcy” that we have missed so much.

Your collaboration and patience are key in providing our students with proper school days in class with their friends. We continue to pray for our schools as we move into a different phase of this journey.

Again, please know that this plan will be updated as information becomes available or if the situation changes in a way that jeopardizes our ability to provide in-person instruction.

Updated: August 8, 2022

In-Person School Environment



Transportation

Scheduling and seating assignments are handled by each local school district.



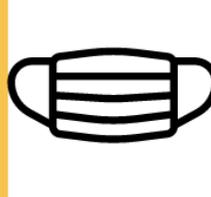
Visitors

Visitors must report to the school office for a pass. All volunteers must have all required Diocesan clearances.



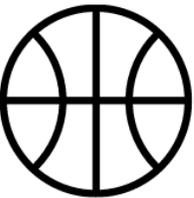
Cafeteria

Seating arrangements for lunch will be determined by the school.



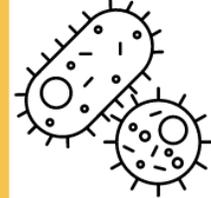
Masking

Masks are optional but recommended at all schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.



Recess

Indoor and outdoor recess will include access to playground equipment and other recess resources.



Reporting COVID

Staff & students are asked to report positive COVID-19 cases. Complete case investigation and contact tracing will not take place.



Gatherings

There will be no restrictions on assemblies, field trips, and other school activities.



Hygiene

Staff & students are encouraged and reminded to follow good hygiene practices, including frequent hand washing.

Getting Ready For School Safely

- Before students come to school, parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring students' symptoms. Students displaying any COVID-19 symptoms must stay home. Please refer to [Keeping our Diocesan Schools Healthy](#) for more information.

Face Coverings

- On February 25, 2022, masks were made optional at all schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Hygiene and Social Distancing

- Students and staff are encouraged and reminded to follow good hygiene practices, including frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing. Hand sanitizing stations will continue to be available.
- Specific social distancing guidelines are no longer required.

Cafeteria

- Seating arrangements for lunch will be determined by the individual school.

Our Commitment to Keeping Schools Clean

- Custodial staff will conduct frequent cleaning of high-traffic areas throughout the school day.
- HVAC systems will be set to increase air turnover and enhanced air filters will be used where practical.
- Portable HEPA air filters may be utilized in areas such as nurse's offices that may have limited outside air circulation. Units may also be used in some large group spaces, such as cafeterias.
- Disinfecting wipes will be made available for staff.
- Water fountains will be cleaned throughout the day.

Monitoring Student and Staff Health

If a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, the Diocese will follow applicable health department protocol and guidance on quarantine, and/or isolation while respecting the confidentiality of those involved. The current protocol is 5 days at home until symptoms resolve without medication. Mask for 5 days upon the return to school is highly recommended. The reporting process for families, students, and staff who are COVID-19 positive will be handled at the local level at each school and/or region. The

Diocese **will not** continue with contact tracing at this time.

COVID-19 Case Communication

To provide transparency to our community, each Diocesan school may update their school community with new confirmed cases and a total number of cases but it is not required.

Privacy

If a colleague, friend, family member, client, student, or anyone else informs you of a COVID-19 diagnosis, please keep it confidential.

Plan Subject to Change

This plan is subject to change based on current conditions.

For the 2022-2023 school year, the Diocese of Pittsburgh plans to offer full-time, in-person learning for all students PreK-12. We understand that many of our students need a face-to-face learning environment in order to thrive.

In-Person Instruction

All traditional student and staff resources and supports are available in the In-Person Instruction setting while implementing the Health & Safety Plan protocols.

- All staff and students report to the school building daily for instruction.
- All staff and students follow enhanced hygiene protocols.

Virtual Instruction

The Virtual Instruction plan is enacted when In-Person Instruction is no longer feasible based on local, or commonwealth officials recognizing that the level of community spread is too great and all constituents are at heightened risk. In-Person Instruction may also not be feasible due to extreme weather conditions and/or specific issues at the school.

Schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh **will no longer be able to offer Virtual Instruction** unless it is deemed necessary during a Flexible Instruction Day (FID) or in case of severe medical conditions as determined by a doctor and approved by the Director of Catholic Schools.

