

# ST. ROBERT CATHOLIC

## Return-to-School Roadmap Fall 2021 Health & Safety Guidance



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214. E. Henry St. • Flushing, Michigan 48433 • phone (810) 659-2503 • fax (810) 659-4002

## Health & Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year

**Our Mission: *Fueling the light of Christ in every student through faith, academics, and spiritual growth.***

This document shall serve as the health and safety guidance for St. Robert Catholic School in the Diocese of Lansing (DOL) for the 2021-2022 school year. This guidance is based upon our Catholic understanding of the human person and our partnership with families to provide an authentic Catholic education. This understanding and partnership compels us to care for the entire well-being of our students, faculty and staff. Our understanding of well-being includes the spiritual, mental, physical, emotional, and social well-being. Because of this holistic approach, we developed our plans with the below aim:

- To conduct in-person learning as much as possible, with as few restrictions and disruptions as possible.
- When restrictions are implemented, to start with those measures that are least intrusive to an effective learning environment and the well-being of our students, teachers, and staff.

This plan is also guided by our increased understanding of COVID-19: its limited spread in our highly mitigated school settings, current national and local data and research, and increased vaccination rates. Our Preschool and ESP programs are required to adhere to LARA regulations. The guidance provided in this document may be updated at any time if revisions are made to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) guidance for schools.

In addition to the guidance provided by the DOL, St. Robert School will keep open communication with the Genesee County Health Department. To support schools throughout the school year, the DOL will continue to provide general parameters and guidance concerning quarantine and isolation activities for positive COVID-19 cases and close contacts, testing, and other health and safety related issues. However, the first contact St. Robert School must make is to the GCHD for guidance once we become aware of positive or possible case(s) of COVID-19 in our school.

Schools remain one of the safest places for students, teachers, and school staff with regard to mitigating COVID-19 exposure. Our goal is to give all students the opportunity for safe, in-person learning, five days a week. At this time, Catholic schools in the DOL are no longer required to provide a distance learning option for students/families. St. Robert School will determine however if/how services and educational programming can be provided if a student must remain home for short periods of time due to illness, isolation, or quarantine.

Yours in Christ,

*Mr. Ralbusky*

*Fr. Perotta*

Mr. Ralbusky

Father Jonathan Perotta

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## Vaccination

- Under Catholic teaching, vaccination must be voluntary. At the same time, vaccination plays an important role in reducing the spread and severity of COVID-19 and we encourage all to consider whether vaccination is right for them.<sup>[1]</sup>
- The expectations of length of quarantine may differ for vaccinated vs. unvaccinated individuals. Therefore, an employee or student may be required to provide proof of their vaccination status to determine appropriate quarantine if they are in close contact with a positive case of COVID-19.
- The CDC and MDHHS state that one way to protect the health of children is to ensure that all eligible populations in a household are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- All students, teachers, staff in grades K-8 will be required to wear facial coverings throughout the day during inside school activities, classes, and inside extracurricular activities (including the Extended School Program). Facial Coverings may be homemade or disposable and will need to be either washed daily or disposed of daily. Exceptions to this are as follows:
  - No masks while students/staff are eating at lunch or snack. However, masks are required while moving around the cafeteria or eating space as well as when lunch is completed).
  - No masks during designated facial covering breaks.
  - No masks when students are engaged in outdoor activities.
  - People who cannot wear masks safely because of disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Additionally, all volunteers at St. Robert School will also be required to wear facial coverings during indoor activities.
  - This includes extracurricular and parent activities (Meetings, Open Houses, etc.)
- Any staff member/student who cannot medically tolerate a facial covering must provide a doctor's note (MD or DO) and submit it to the school office.

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## Contact Tracing and Quarantine Protocols

**Classroom Setting:** Classmates, sitting or often within 6 feet\* of someone with COVID-19, either in the classroom or on the bus, for 15+ minutes. \*3 feet distance is applicable if individuals are masked and there is no physical activity.

**Lunchroom Setting:** Lunch mates of a person with COVID19 if sitting within 6 feet for 15+ minutes. This is a higher risk time, as face coverings cannot be worn.

**Playground Setting:** Playmates on the outside playground will be considered close contacts if they have direct physical contact with someone who is infected with COVID-19.

**Teammates Indoor:** Teammates within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for 15+ minutes and those who had direct contact for any period of time. **Outdoor:** teammates who had direct physical contact with someone infected with COVID-19. Further evaluation of specific situations may apply.

**Opposing Teammates:** Indoor: opposing teammates within 6 feet of someone with COVID19 for 15+ minutes and those who had direct contact for any period of time. **Outdoor:** opposing teammates who had direct physical contact with someone infected with COVID-19. Further evaluation of specific situations may apply

**Common Areas:** Anyone who is unmasked that interacted with someone with COVID-19 for 15+ minutes in confined areas such as bathrooms or offices, where distancing of 6 feet is difficult.

**Quarantine/Isolation at Home:** As determined by the Genesee County Health Department (10-14 days)

## Responding to Positive COVID-19 Cases and Close Contacts

- St. Robert School will continue to follow guidance from and partner with the Genesee County Health Department for quarantine recommendations and procedures.
- Parents/guardians and staff shall notify school administration immediately of any possible case of COVID-19 .
- In the case of a positive test identified by a laboratory or clinically diagnosed case of COVID-19 in the classroom and/or school, families will be notified to encourage closer observation for any symptoms.

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## **Screening Students, Staff, and Volunteers**

- Parents/guardians will monitor students for symptoms of infectious illness every day (not just COVID) through home based screenings.
- Staff members should monitor their health for symptoms of infectious illness daily.
- Volunteers/visitors will need to sign in and should monitor their health for symptoms of infectious illness prior to entering the school.
- Students and staff who become ill at school with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 will be placed in an identified quarantine area until pick up, and will continue to wear a facial covering until they are picked up from school.

## **Hygiene/Cleaning**

- St. Robert School will provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for safe use by staff and students, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques).
- In addition, St. Robert administration and staff will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Soap, hand sanitizer, and other hygiene products will be checked frequently throughout the day and an emphasis will be placed on frequent hand washing when possible.
- All students will be provided their own cubby/locker space.
- Regularly scheduled hand washing breaks will take place.
- Frequently touched surfaces including light switches, doors, benches, bathrooms, will undergo regular cleanings.
- Student desks will be wiped down with H2Orange cleaning solution after class periods and at the end of the day.

## **Classroom Spacing, Movement, and Visitors**

- To the extent possible, desks will face toward the front of the classroom and be spaced out as much as possible to accommodate the class size.
- Seating charts will be maintained in the classrooms.
- Students and staff will be allowed to travel to and from classrooms. Students will exchange classrooms in middle school and sanitize desks at the end of class periods.
- Efforts will be made to socially distance people in the hallways, bathrooms, and other high volume areas to the best of the schools ability.



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- The number of volunteers and visitors will be limited (prior authorization required) and facial coverings are required.
  - Additionally, guests entering the school building will need to sign in and have temperatures checked. Screening should take place for other COVID related signs prior to arrival at school.

## **Gatherings and Extracurricular Activities**

- Social distancing will be utilized for lunch.
- Non-liturgical group gatherings and extracurricular activities are allowed.
  - Changes could occur as local health data and health department guidance deem it.
- Preschool and Extended Care programs must follow LARA (State Childcare Program) guidelines and requirements.

## **Athletics**

- St. Robert School will comply with all guidance published by Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) .
- Students, teachers, and staff will use proper hand hygiene techniques before and after every practice, event, or other gathering. Every participant should confirm that they are healthy and without any symptoms prior to any event.
- All participants must have their own labeled water bottle. Sharing of water bottles is prohibited. Water coolers will not be provided.
- Facial Covering will be required during all indoor athletic events by athletes, coaches and spectators.
- Health and safety protocols for sporting events at host sites will be followed by all in attendance.

## **Busing**

- Facial coverings will be required for all students, teachers, staff, bus personnel and volunteers when using the school bus.
- Bus personnel will maintain seating charts.
- When feasible, bus windows will be opened to improve ventilation.
- Upon the arrival of the bus, students will need to have their temperatures checked and must have a temperature below 100.4. Parents must wait until students are checked onto the bus before departing

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## **Social Emotional/Well Being**

- School Personnel will continue to monitor the spiritual, mental, physical, social, emotional and academic well-being of all students and staff, providing intervention, assistance, and support when needed.

## **Lunch/Recess Procedures**

- K-3 and 4-8 grade clusters will eat lunch together and have recess.
- The Lunchroom will be utilized for lunch with students being socially distanced to the best of our ability.
- Hot lunch pickup will be done one class at a time.
- Recess will be split by cohorts (K-3 and 4-8)

## **Extended School Program Procedures**

- All students, staff, and parents will be required to wear a facial covering while inside the classrooms designated for our Extended School Program and at pickup.
- Extended School Program will follow LARA issued state guidelines to promote student safety.

## **School-Building Procedures**

- Frequent cleaning in hallways, bathrooms, and high-touch areas of the building.
- Use of hand sanitizer stations will be implemented.
- Students must bring personal water bottles to use throughout the day (**No Drinking from Water Fountains**).

*Dear teachers and parents, the Catholic school is in your hands. It is a reflection of your convictions. Its very existence depends on you. It is one of those privileged places, together with the family and the parish community, where our faith is handed on. The Catholic school is a community effort, one that cannot succeed without the cooperation of all concerned - the students, the parents, the teachers, the principals and pastors." (Address of Pope John Paul II to Catholic Educators, 1984)*

## General Sick Policy

If any student or staff member experiences any of the below symptoms, they must stay home and it is recommended to call their primary physician.

- **Fever (100.4 or higher)**
- **Chills**
- **Cough**
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- **Fatigue**
- **Muscle or body aches**
- **Headache**
- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Sore throat**
- **Congestion or runny nose**
- **Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea**

If their primary physician determines symptoms are not related to COVID-19, the staff or student must have a note from the physician stating they are cleared to return to school or work. In addition to a physician's note, the following is also required:

- **No fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication**
- **No vomiting/diarrhea for 48 hours**



## Symptoms Develop at School

### Student

1. If a student becomes ill with any COVID-19 symptoms while at school, he/she will immediately report to the designated isolation room and the school nurse will be notified. The isolation room will be a separate room with a closed door.
2. Once the student arrives in the isolation room he/she will be provided with a surgical mask and gloves. The nurse or designated staff member caring for the student will wear a N95 mask and gloves. If a N95 mask is not available, they will wear a surgical mask and face shield.
3. The student's temperature will be taken and recorded.
4. Student's parent or emergency contact will be notified to pick the student up from school. Student's parent will be advised to contact student's primary care physician.
5. The school nurse will contact the Genesee County Health Department for guidance. Contact tracing will begin, if advised, by the Genesee County Health Department. Parent of the student will be given specific instructions, based on guidance from Genesee County Health Department.
6. If appropriate, staff members and parents of other students will be notified of a possible exposure.
7. The isolation area and suspected student's work area/classroom must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, in addition to all other common surfaces recently touched by the student.
8. The student will follow guidelines from their physician and the Genesee County Health Department (if appropriate) regarding when they are cleared to return to school. If student does test positive for COVID-19, follow "Responding to a Positive Case" protocol.

## Symptoms Develop at School

### Staff

1. If a staff member becomes ill with any COVID-19 symptoms while at school, he/she will immediately notify the school administrator and leave the building. The school administrator will then notify the school nurse. The staff member is advised to contact their primary physician.
2. The school nurse will contact the Genesee County Health Department for guidance. Contact tracing will begin, if advised, by the Genesee County Health Department. The staff member will be given specific instructions, based on guidance from Genesee County Health Department.
3. If appropriate, staff members and parents of other students will be notified of a possible exposure.
4. The staff member's work area/classroom must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, in addition to all other common surfaces recently touched by the staff member.
5. The staff member will follow guidance from their physician and the Genesee County Health Department (if appropriate) regarding when they are cleared to return to work. If the staff member does test positive for COVID-19, follow "Responding to a Positive Case" protocol.

## Extended Care (ESP) Protocols

Our Extended Care and Preschool Programs will follow all Safety Protocols in the “St. Robert School Return to School Roadmap”. The following are additional safety protocols that will be followed.

- Student in Grades K-8 are required to wear a mask during Extended Care.
- Toys will be cleaned after each use.
- Wooden and cloth toys will not be allowed and will be removed from the room during Phases 3-5.
- Snacks will be provided for students. During this time, masks will be removed and social distancing will be practiced. Outdoor space will be utilized during snack time, weather permitting.
- Where possible, touchless waste baskets will be used.
- If a staff member or child exhibits multiple symptoms of COVID-19, you suspect possible exposure, or an individual tests positive for COVID-19, the individual must stay home until:
  - Has been fever-free for at least **72** hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers
  - AND
  - Other symptoms have improved
  - AND
  - At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.Most children and staff members can return to care/work based on improved symptoms and the passage of time. St. Robert School will rely on the Genesee County Health Department for guidance.

### **EXTENDED CARE DISMISSAL**

- Parent should park in the lot adjacent to school off of Henry St. Approach the doors nearest to the parking lot and ring the bell. When entering to pick up your child, a mask is required upon entering the building. .
- Staff member will sign student(s) out.
- Staff member will walk student to the door and watch as child walks to parent and is placed in the car.