

DIOCESE *of* SACRAMENTO
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St. Ignatius Parish School

**BLUEPRINT FOR FALL
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

PROVIDING APPROPRIATE INTERVENTION AS COVID-19
MOVES FROM PANDEMIC TO ENDEMIC

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento

V2.0

Aug. 25, 2021

Faith + Community + Growth

INTRODUCTION

Our schools responded heroically to the challenge of Covid-19, keeping students on campus while taking significant steps to mitigate the disease's spread. Our safety plan is currently in its tenth iteration since July 2020. This updated document aims to create an expectation of what the coming year holds. While we embrace a less restrictive environment, the safety and well being of our students and staff remain our top priority.

Our priorities remain:

1. **Safety:** Our overall risk has been reduced because adults and students 12 and older have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. We will continue to manage our risk.
2. **Hygiene:** We will continue to emphasize robust hygienic practice.
3. **Presence:** Keeping school open daily. We do not want to burden parents with challenging schedules that prevent them from working a full workday - we want our students at school in-person.
4. **Growth:** Despite limitations, we want our children to continue their academic progress at grade level in their faith and all core academic standards.
5. **Distance options:** We have launched our Catholic Online School, Blessed Sacrament Online Academy which allows any family who desires to continue with independent, distance learning the opportunity to do so. The distance school is a full-fledged online school independent of the local parish school. For more information please visit the website here: [Blessed Sacrament Online Academy](#)

We have written this document specifically for our school environments, and we expect it to evolve as the public health situation changes. The school principal will share any updated documents on the school website and through the school information system.



COVID-19 PREVENTION PROGRAM

Layers of Safety: Infection Mitigation Strategies

For the past year, we have offered a variety of mitigation strategies working in unison to reduce our risk of exposure and transmission of Covid-19 on campus. We have effectively applied all recommended strategies, as well as our own novel strategies (such as behavioral screening), at our schools this past year. As Covid-19 rates of spread increased, we layered on the strategies. It is our hope that as people get vaccinated or recover from infection, and Covid-19 wanes, it stands to reason that we can move to less-intrusive interventions.

The new [CDPH Guidelines for the 2021-2022 School year](#) affirm this approach and at the same time, allow for our school sites to have a less restrictive environment as we move forward.

Vaccination

CDPH strongly recommends that all persons eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines receive them at the first opportunity.

All Catholic school employees who desired a Covid-19 vaccine have had access to one. Though we are not mandating vaccination, we will not make special accommodations for employees who choose not to receive them; in other words, this plan is predicated upon a vaccinated teaching force or society achieving herd immunity. Though we are not currently mandating vaccination for employees in the hope that we will reach herd immunity before that step is necessary, we will review this policy if faced with new mutations or other changes that may require a mandatory vaccination strategy.

As a commitment to doing all we can as a faculty and staff to keep your/our children and our community safe, 100% of the St. Ignatius Parish School faculty and staff are fully vaccinated for Covid-19.



In addition to vaccines required for school entry, CDPH strongly recommends that all students and staff be immunized each autumn against influenza unless contraindicated by personal medical conditions, to help:

- Protect the school community.
- Reduce demands on health care facilities.
- Decrease illnesses that cannot be readily distinguished from COVID- 19 and would therefore trigger extensive measures from the school and public health authorities.

Antigen Screening

- Our schools may require employees and students wishing to return to campus to undergo antigen screening at a place, time, and frequency as designated by the Catholic School Department, in collaboration with our advisors and county health departments. If this need arises, we will alert the pertinent groups.

Social Distancing

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented.

- We will continue to encourage outdoor play and activities (masks optional outdoors), and we will encourage all persons on campus to continue to practice social distancing.
- Close contact interactions (to determine contact tracing) are considered less than 6ft and longer than a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- We encourage the continued use of signage throughout campus to support social distancing and proper hygiene norms.

Classroom Plans

- HVAC continues to use upgraded MERV 13 filters.
- HVAC and/or classroom fans will run throughout the day.
- Students have their own supplies, water bottle, cleaning materials, and hand sanitizer.
- Shared spaces are cleaned regularly.
- Teachers will utilize outdoor space as much as possible.



Screening

- Students and staff should conduct a daily self-check and temperature check before they come to campus. Student temperatures need to remain below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.
- School employees may all function as designated screeners for students and non-employees. The principal or school office staff may serve as screeners for faculty and staff if a third-party screener is required.
- During the day, any person experiencing or showing symptoms will report to the office for screening.
- If a staff member already at school shows symptoms described above, a supervisor will allow them to go home without penalty for that day.
- The school principal and/or contact tracers shall update the Catholic School Department Executive Assistant and the school's county department of public health every Monday morning regarding confirmed COVID-19 cases amongst staff and students from the previous week.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE is not a substitute for social distancing or proper handwashing. In addition to using PPE, please remember to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Face Coverings

We will continue to comply with CDPH and county guidelines on the use of face coverings. The CDPH order may be found [HERE](#).

FACE COVERINGS FOR EMPLOYEES

- Adults in TK-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students.
- N-95 masks are more effective than cloth masks.



- Personal hygiene, social distancing, and frequent cleaning efforts are critical parts of employee protection.
- Masks are optional outdoors regardless of vaccination status.

FACE COVERINGS FOR STUDENTS & ADULTS

- a. Masks are optional outdoors regardless of vaccination status for all in TK-12 school settings. We will not be requiring masks for our students or adults when outside. However, if you would like your child to wear a mask we will 100% support that and you can alert your child's classroom teacher. We are asking all adults, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask when coming in close contact with our students or other members of our community, even outside.
- b. TK-12 students and all adults are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per [CDPH face mask guidance](#). No one will be permitted inside the main school building or Parish Center (excluding the preschool classroom) without a mask on and worn properly.
- c. Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge. A doctor's note must be provided to Miss Kochis to permit this option.
- d. A face covering will be provided to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions.
- e. Students who refuse to wear a mask indoors will be isolated from other individuals, a parent/guardian will be called to pick up the student. The student may return once a proper face mask/cover is worn. Parents or guardians who refuse to wear a mask indoors will be asked to leave the premises. For those students who do not want to wear or can't wear a mask or face covering, the option exists to enroll at Blessed Sacrament Academy or another school for online instruction.



Staff Training and Family Education

Delivering Instruction

- Principals will present the plan to their communities and make themselves available for questioning.
- Teachers will provide initial and routine instruction in mitigation strategies and health practices to their students in keeping with all provisions of this protocol.
- Schools will inform the community of changes to this plan via their information system (School Speak) and post the updated plan or a link to the diocesan portal website on the school website. Please remember, the plan is fluid and can/will change often.

Cleaning & Disinfection Routine

- We will continue to maintain a high level of hygiene on campus. Students will continue to routinely clean and disinfect their desks and materials.

Healthy Hygiene Practices

Reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 by proper personal hygiene practices and disinfection is a critical part of ensuring student and staff safety.

- Staff and families will be trained and educated in sanitation and hygiene instruction through training if needed and review of protocols.
- [Cleaning hands at key times](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not readily available is essential.
- Build time into daily routines for students and staff to wash hands.
- Families will be constantly reminded to maintain hygiene and distancing when necessary at home and in the community.

Volunteer Protocols

- Masks are optional outside regardless of vaccination status. However, we are asking all adults, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask when coming in close contact with our students or other members of our community.



- Visitors or Volunteers on campus must wear a mask inside the school office regardless of vaccination status.
- Fully vaccinated volunteers must provide proof of vaccination and will be permitted inside the school classrooms, help in the library, coach, etc... and/or to chaperone on field trips on a limited basis. As a result, proof of vaccination status must be provided to the school office.
- According to the new CDPH Order found [HERE](#), all volunteers who are on-site at a school campus supporting school functions must follow employee vaccination requirements. Schools must have a plan in place for tracking verified worker vaccination status. Records of vaccination verification must be made available, upon request, to the local health jurisdiction for purposes of case investigation.
- All unvaccinated workers who want to be on campus must be tested at least once weekly with either PCR testing or antigen testing.
- Unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated workers must also observe all other infection control requirements, and are not exempted from the testing requirement even if they have a medical contraindication to vaccination, since they are still potentially able to spread the illness. Previous history of COVID-19 from which the individual recovered more than 90 days earlier, or a previous positive antibody test for COVID-19, do not waive this requirement for testing.
- F. "Worker" refers to all paid and unpaid adults serving in the school settings described in Section I. Workers include, but are not limited to, certificated and classified staff, analogous staff working in private school settings, and volunteers who are on-site at a school campus supporting school function

Food

- Maximize physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors). Arrange for eating outdoors as much as feasible.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.
- Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.
- Prepackaged birthday treats are permitted and must be arranged ahead of time with the homeroom teacher. Homemade treats are NOT permitted.



Travel Restrictions

Our focus will be on behaviors and not the act of travel itself. We reserve the right to ask community members to quarantine if they have traveled to regions which are documented hotspots, so please be prepared for a revisiting of this policy.

COVID Symptoms and Case Response

Definitions

A **close contact** is defined as a person who is less than 6 feet from a case for more than 15 minutes over a 24 hour period.

Contact Tracers

- The school has a designated employee who is a contact tracer whose name is on file with the Catholic School Department and County Health. At St. Ignatius Parish School the Contact Tracers are Patty Kochis and Katrena Paine.
- Contact tracers must be trained either by the county within which the school resides or take one of the following courses on contact tracing:
 - Webinar-Based as recommended by the CDC:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/general-training-modules.html>
 - Coursera Option:
<https://www.coursera.org/learn/contact-tracing-for-covid-19>

Inform the School Administration-Contact Tracing

Families are asked to do their part in following the best practices to keep their family and our school community healthy and safe. In order for us to follow the requirements of Contact Tracing and protocols in place, if a faculty, staff member, parent or student tests positive, the school administration should be notified as soon as possible. The specific information will be confidential and only shared with those required: County Officials and Catholic School Department. When necessary, we will inform the stable group of a positive test (no names are shared by the school) so that the proper response may be implemented.



Due to everyone's cooperation last year, we were able to stay open and had few instances where an entire class had to quarantine. We ask for your continued cooperation and assistance.

Symptoms

Due to the contagious nature of COVID-19 and its variants the following symptoms must be taken seriously. Should any staff member or student feel ill for any reason we ask that they please stay home and get tested for COVID-19.

Students

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher;
- Sore throat;
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline);
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain;
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever.
- (If a student is exhibiting symptoms refer to student health history form)

Adults

- Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher;
- Chills;
- Cough;
- Shortness of breath/ difficulty breathing; Fatigue;
- Muscle or body aches;
- Headache;
- New loss of taste or smell;
- Sore throat;
- Congestion or runny nose;
- Nausea or vomiting; Diarrhea

We ask once again, based on the incredible job everyone did last year, that if any of the symptoms above are present and there is no identified cause, that you keep your child home until they are better.

Testing

- Any student or staff person with symptoms not explained by another non-infectious condition diagnosed by a medical professional needs to be tested for COVID-19.
- Per this directive, symptomatic individuals must be tested within 48 hours of symptom onset, and provide test results within 72 hours.



- If the medical provider for the individual with symptoms cannot guarantee a 72-hour turnaround in test results, the symptomatic individual must seek out a different lab.
- The school principal should be notified immediately of a positive or negative result.

Parents and students are responsible for the cost of their own testing, unless the school directs an entire cohort to get tested at a designated site.

Employee Testing

According to the CDPH Order found [HERE](#) all unvaccinated employees must be tested weekly and provide results to the principal beginning immediately. Weekly tests are tracked accordingly.

For local testing information, visit <https://lhi.care/covidtesting>

Quarantine and Isolation

Students and staff who test positive for the virus that causes COVID-19, take the following steps to protect others regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status: Isolate at home and isolate away from others for at least 10 days.

- Contact the St. Ignatius School Administration as soon as possible. Patty Kochis 916-335-2954 or Katrena Paine 916-261-9902.
- If you do not have any symptoms, you should still isolate yourself at home for at least 10 days.
- If you develop symptoms, continue to isolate for at least 10 days after symptoms begin as long as symptoms have improved, and no fever is present for at least 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications.
- Most people have mild COVID-19 illness and can recover at home without medical care.
- Contact your healthcare provider as soon as possible if you are more likely to get very sick because of being an older adult or having underlying medical conditions or if your symptoms get worse.

Close Contact definitions and Response

A close contact is defined as someone within 6ft of a COVID positive person for more than 15 minutes over a 24 hr period indoors



- **Close Contact At School: ADULT**
 - Any adult who is not vaccinated and has been exposed at school to a COVID positive person, must quarantine for 10 days. Adults are not eligible for modified quarantine.
 - Any adult who is vaccinated and not symptomatic may return to campus. COVID testing is recommended.
 - Any adult who is vaccinated and symptomatic must get COVID tested. If positive, quarantine for 10 days from symptom onset.
- **Close Contact At School: STUDENT**
 - If the exposed student and the COVID positive student were both wearing masks during the exposure, the student must do one of the following:
 1. Modified quarantine-quarantine at home may end after Day seven if a negative test is collected on Day 5-7 of exposure. May not participate in any extracurricular activities.
 2. Quarantine for 10 days. May not participate in any extracurricular activities.
- **Close Contact Outside of School**
 - If the student or staff member lives with the person who has COVID
 - Test for COVID. Quarantine for ten days. Not eligible for modified quarantine.
 - If the student or staff member does not live with the person who has COVID
 - If vaccinated with no symptoms, may return to campus.
 - If vaccinated with symptoms, test for COVID. Quarantine for ten days from symptom onset.
 - If not vaccinated, quarantine for 10 days from last exposure. Test for COVID. Not participate in any extracurricular activities. May end quarantine after Day 7 if a negative test that was taken after Day 5 post-exposure. If ongoing exposure is occurring in the home, the quarantine period may need to be extended.

As a result, if your child is vaccinated, please provide proof to the classroom teacher and the school office.

If a family does not want their child to be tested, the child will be required to quarantine for 10 days from school and school sponsored activities and may return if there are no symptoms on the 11th day after exposure.



**Parents and students are responsible for the cost of their own testing, unless the school directs an entire cohort to get tested at a designated site.*

Additional Details

Virtual Academy

The Diocese of Sacramento will offer a dedicated virtual academy for any family opting for remote learning for their student. Our traditional parochial elementary schools will not offer dual delivery of instruction (ie, in-person and online simultaneously) and instead will focus on in-person instruction.

Distance Learning

If a grade level group (entire class) must quarantine for a period of time, we will transition to distance learning as in the 2020-21 school year until quarantine is over.

School Closure and Subsequent Reopening: The Catholic School Department, in consultation with Public Health, will determine if a partial or full school closure is needed based on guidance and recommendations from CDPH. Both the school and the county must meet current state guidance to reopen.

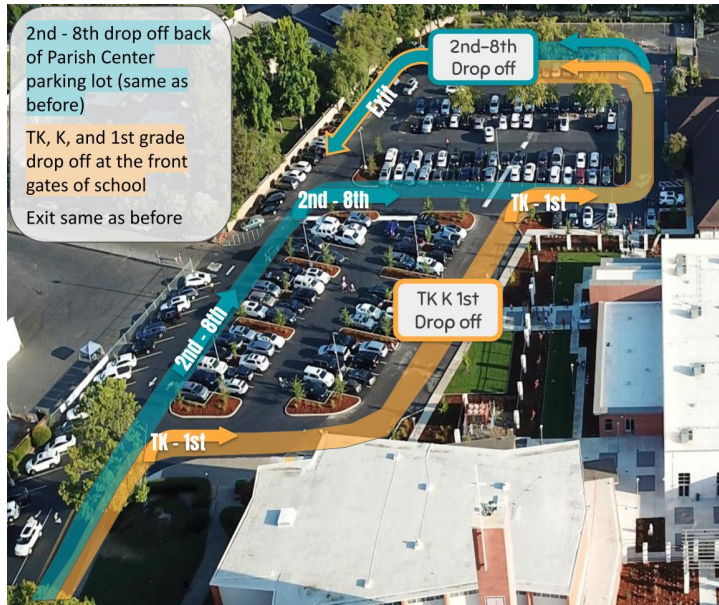
Pick Up and Drop off Procedures
Students MUST wear a mask inside the school building.
Please have your child masked when they depart your car.

Protocol: The Extended Day Program will be open at 7am-7:45am. Parents will walk their child to the entrance of the gate where a staff member will receive the student and supervise their entrance into the Extended Day Program. Parents will not be permitted to enter the Extended Day classroom. Students will stay in areas designated inside the Parish Center and at 7:45am will be walked to their classrooms.

The St. Ignatius classrooms will be open to students beginning at 7:45am. For those students just arriving at that time, they will exit their cars and be directed by staff to head directly to their classroom where they will be greeted by their classroom teachers. See below for designated drop off and pick up areas.

Parents will not be admitted inside the school building, except for business.





Youngest child is in preschool, the family parks the car. Parents with ALL their child(ren) enter through the preschool gate. School-age children continue to and past the preschool play structure to the lunch area, enter the doors in the back and will go directly to their classrooms. There will be staff on the first few days to help direct the students.

If the youngest child in the family is enrolled in TK, K, or 1st all the siblings are dropped off nearest to the school and walk through the

main gate (west side) without their parents through the office directly into their classrooms.

If the youngest child in the family is enrolled in 2nd-8th all the siblings are dropped off at the north end of property and walk through the rolling gate to the lunch area and directly to their classrooms. There is field construction occurring but it will be fenced off and the students will be safe.

Protocol:

- Children exit the vehicle from the passenger side and have belongings with them.
- Except for preschool, TK, and K, parents and drivers should not leave their vehicles.
- All points of access will be supervised to prevent gathering of any sort.
- Students will exit their cars and go directly to their classrooms, where they will meet their teacher. Staff will be available the first week to guide and help the students.

After School Pick-Up

Time: 2:40-3:15pm (rainy days pick up will begin at 2:30pm)

Staffing: Teachers and Aides

Protocol: The campus gate will be opened at 2:40pm. Parents of TK-1st will meet their



children directly outside of the main west gate, distanced apart. 2nd-6th will depart their classrooms at 2:45pm and be walked by staff to the pick up area, socially distanced as much as possible and following all safety protocols and wait in their pick up locations. Children should enter the vehicle from the passenger side. Drivers should not leave their vehicles. Those students who are not picked up by 3:10pm, will be taken to the Extended Day Program.

Extended Day Program

Hours of Operation: Morning Shift 7 AM - 8 AM; Afternoon Shift 2:45pm-6pm, for TK families Extended is operational throughout the day.

Staffing: School employees

Protocol: In order to ensure proper distancing and safety protocols, The Extended Day Program will use the Parish Center, the Extended Classroom, and if necessary classrooms. Each student will have their own supplies. Parents will pick-up and drop off inside the gate but may not enter the Extended Day Program space.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

The safety of our employees and students is our first priority. Upon reopening, our schools have been completely cleaned and disinfected, and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition, the process outlined below will routinely serve to protect everyone and reduce the risk of spread of infection.

- Custodial staff and any other workers who clean and disinfect the school site must be equipped with proper personal protective equipment, including gloves, eye protection, respiratory protection, and other appropriate protective equipment as required by the product instructions. All products must be kept out of the reach of children and stored in a space with restricted access.
- Establish a cleaning schedule in order to avoid both under- and over-use of cleaning products.
- Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectant and keep products away from students.
- Ensure proper ventilation during cleaning and disinfecting. Introduce fresh outdoor air as much as possible for example by opening doors where practicable.

