



Holy Family

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

COVID Plan 2021-2022



Information in this document may change based on local health orders, recommendations from the Diocese of Jefferson City and/or COVID levels in Marion County. If we must make a change, parents will be notified. This is a fluid situation. We appreciate your support and cooperation. It takes a team effort, and we are better when we work together.

The global Coronavirus pandemic has forever changed our lives. Our goal for the upcoming school year is to be as close to normal as possible while ensuring student safety. The CDC has not yet declared an end to the pandemic, and many of our students are not eligible for a vaccine at this time due to their age.

As we plan for a school year that will again be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we must be prepared to the best of our ability for all possible scenarios. Student safety will be our highest priority. As a staff, we will be prepared to continue to deliver instruction.

Decisions that are made regarding protocol are never made quickly. Our decisions are based on what we feel is best for the children in our care. We realize that our decisions will not be what everyone wants to hear, but again we are basing them on what we believe to be best for our students and staff. We also know that anyone can find an article or study out there to support his or her beliefs. We are educators and need to put our trust in what many of the local health professionals are sharing with us.

Attached is our **Opening Plan for Holy Family School** for the 2021-2022 school year. Please take a moment to review this document and understand the protocols and guidelines that will be followed.

Instruction

Holy Family School is having traditional face-to-face instruction with safety guidelines and precautions for the 2021-2022 school year. Holy Family School **will not** be offering a hybrid model of instruction or the choice of online/distance learning.

PreK-Eighth Grade

In PreK-5 classrooms, students will maintain stable groupings as much as possible. Their stable groupings will be their classroom unit. In grades 6-8, students will be considered a middle school stable grouping. A stable group is an individual's personal collection of people who have been in their 3-foot perimeter for an extended period of time. These are the people that students will normally interact with on a daily basis.

Classroom protocols will include desks in rows, limited extra furniture and items in the classroom, periodic cleaning of surfaces during the day, and other measures to minimize contact. We will also be using social distancing guidelines of 3 ft. whenever possible.

Recess will be held outside as much as possible. The value of fresh air and open spaces is vital for our children. Children will be utilizing our playground and will be at recess within their department groupings.

Lunch will be provided in the cafeteria. We will continue to have three lunch shifts where we will utilize social distance practices and maintain stable groupings as much as possible. Hands will be washed or sanitized before lunch. Please note that when students bring their lunch from home, it is encouraged to practice with them, so they are able to open their own food and drink containers. The less hands that touch a food or drink container the better. Also, at this time we are unable to have visitors/family members join us for lunch.

All students in grades PreK-8 must bring a water bottle to school, labeled with the student's first and last name, each day. Water bottle filling stations will be available. Please make sure your child is able to open and close their water bottle by themselves.

Visitors to the building during the school day **will not** be allowed at this time. If you need to bring something to school, please call the school office and school personnel will meet you at the door. This also includes our library volunteers at this time. Any parent that must come to school to bring an item or pick up their child/children during the school day will need to use the North door of the school. This is the door that faces Broadway and is at the back of the secretary's office. Please knock on the door and a staff member will meet you. Visitors will only be allowed in the office area during the school day.

Masks

At Holy Family School masks will be optional for students at this time, but highly recommended. However, any unvaccinated teacher, staff member, or adult that enters school will be required to wear a mask. Please do keep in mind that the CDC and the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) recommend universal masking for all teachers, staff, and students over the age of two in schools, even if they are fully vaccinated. Also, Pope Francis, Bishop McKnight, the USCCB, and our local health officials have continuously urged eligible people to get vaccinated. These recommendations are to help protect ourselves and our neighbors. We encourage all parents to consider these recommendations as they make the decision about whether they want their child/children to wear a mask during the upcoming school year.

Specials

K-8 students will still have access to all special classes, this includes music, art, and P.E.

Mass

Holy Family students will again be able to attend Mass as a whole school this year. Students will sit with their classroom stable groups. Again, masks for students are optional, but strongly encouraged as we will be in church together.

Social Distancing

Holy Family School will continue to monitor guidelines and recommendations on social distancing. We will monitor and limit the congregation in public spaces like restrooms, breakrooms, hallways, etc. Social distancing will be utilized whenever possible.

Hand Hygiene

Please remember to remind your child/children to practice washing their hands and to practice good health etiquette.

Holy Family School will have hand sanitizer stations in classrooms and throughout the school.

Students and employees should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth. Students and employees should cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; or use the inside of their elbow, not their hands.

After coughing, sneezing, eating/handling food, or touching common areas in the building all students and employees should clean their hands (wash them or use hand sanitizer).

Wipes and/or cleaning supplies will be provided in every classroom and throughout the building and will be used to keep Holy Family School clean.

Screening

Students or staff with a fever of 100.4 or above will be asked to stay home and report the absence to the school office.

Students (Parents) and staff will be asked to self-monitor and do a health screening each morning before attending school.

Parents, please be aware of the following symptoms of COVID-19 when doing the daily health check of your child. Be aware these are the new onset of any of the following symptoms that are not explained by another known condition (Health officials may update these symptoms at any time).

Fever of 100.4 or above, chills, 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, or if an individual has been in close contact in the past 2 weeks with an individual with a confirmed case.

Students and staff entering the building may be screened at any time. Anyone identified with a fever or the new onset of any of the above symptoms will be sent to the office to be picked up by parents and sent home.

Nurse (Care at School for Sick Students or Staff)

Office staff providing care for a sick student or staff member will have Personal Protective Equipment. The office staff will regularly keep logs of health visits to the office. The name/phone number/address of all persons seen with a fever, or a new onset of the above symptoms will be recorded. Due to student privacy, these records will not be public, however information may be shared with the Marion County Health Department as appropriate.

The Marion County Health Department will provide guidance on students and staff who have contact with people who are suspected to be COVID-19 positive.

In the Event of a Suspected COVID-19 Case

In the event of a suspected case of COVID-19, the following protocols will be followed:

Scenario

- An employee or student does not feel well and visits the school office
- The office determines symptoms may be COVID related

Employee

- The employee will contact their primary healthcare provider and the provider will arrange for testing.
- If the employee tests positive for COVID, the provider that ordered the test will call the employee with the positive results.
- Contact tracing will be conducted.
- The health department guidelines for what to do when testing positive for COVID-19 will be followed.

Student

- The school office will contact the parent. When the parent arrives, they will come to the Broadway entrance of the office and the parent will be encouraged to have their child tested. The school office will offer to assist the parent in making phone calls to the healthcare provider.
- The school office will notify the principal and the next steps will be discussed.
- If a student is tested and is positive the healthcare provider of the student will contact the parents with the positive results.
- Contact tracing will be conducted.
- The health department guidelines for what to do when testing positive for COVID-19 will be followed.

Employee or Student Ordered to Self-Isolate

- If an employee has been told to self-isolate, he/she will contact the principal.
- If a student has been told to self-isolate, the family will call the school. The school will check to see if there are siblings or other family members in Holy Family School.
- The principal will contact the pastor and the Diocesan Superintendent.

***If anyone in an employee's or student's immediate family is being tested for COVID-19, please keep all Holy Family students at home until the test results are returned. If the test comes back negative, then the students may return to school. If the test comes back positive, then the quarantine/isolation protocols will be followed.**

***Quarantine/Isolation**

*Holy Family School will follow health department guidelines for quarantine for all employees or students who have tested positive or have had a direct exposure to a COVID-19 positive person.

***Positive Test Results** – Employees or students with a positive test result will isolate/quarantine for the number of days directed from local health departments. Upon receiving a positive test result, individuals will receive a release date/return to school/work date from the local health department. The release/return to school date must be provided from the health department for an individual to return to school.

***Direct Exposure to a COVID-19 Positive Person** – According to health official guidelines, anyone who is a direct exposure to a positive COVID-19 person must quarantine for 14 days from the last known exposure date.

Please keep in mind, that since we are not requiring masks to be worn when students are moving in the classroom, in the hallways, at lockers, or at Mass it is more likely that a larger number of students will be direct exposures and therefore more students may be required to quarantine. It is possible that entire classes (all unvaccinated individuals in that room) may have to quarantine if there is a positive in an individual classroom.

If a student or employee must quarantine/isolate, contactless schoolwork/assignments will be utilized. Individuals who are required to quarantine/isolate may not come to the school or school grounds to pick up work.

Custodial/Cleaning

Holy Family School will have personal protective equipment, soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and tissues throughout the school. The custodial staff will help ensure the maintenance of stock.

Cleaning supplies and rags will be available in each classroom and throughout the building.

As guidelines change and adjust, so will our direction and communication. We will continue to adapt to our environment and provide the best support to our staff, students, and families.

***** These guidelines and protocols will be adjusted as needed.*****

We know the importance of being flexible and being aware of local, state, and CDC guidelines and procedures. If our plan for the 2021-2022 school year needs to change, we will communicate these changes to all Holy Family School families.