

# St. Joseph Marquette Catholic School

## HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN



REVISED March 2022

# Health and Safety Plan

In accordance with the Governor's emergency proclamations for public and private K-12 schools, the following health and safety protocols have been adopted for St. Joseph Marquette Catholic School students, staff, volunteers, and visitors. The protocols in this document have been reviewed and approved by the local health department, the Diocese of Yakima, and the School Commission.

## REQUIREMENTS FROM THE K-12 SCHOOL GUIDELINES

- Employee & Volunteer COVID-19 Vaccination
- Exclusion of People with Symptoms of COVID-19
- At-Home Isolation Protocol and Returning to School
- Isolation of COVID-19 Cases within a Facility
- Notifying Groups or Individuals of Potential Exposure
- Ensure Access to Diagnostic Testing for COVID-19
- Reporting COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks and Working with Public Health
- Responding to Clusters and Outbreaks

### **Employee & Volunteer COVID-19 Vaccination**

- All staff are required to be fully vaccinated or receive an approved accommodation from the Diocese of Yakima by the end of business on October 18, 2021.
- Volunteers working in the manner of a school employee, must be fully vaccinated.

### **Exclusion of People with Symptoms of COVID-19**

- Students or staff who have symptoms of COVID-19, are **required** to isolate at home and follow the Return to School protocols listed on page 5.
- Students or staff who tests positive for COVID-19 is **required** to isolate at home and follow Return to School protocols listed on page 5.

### **At-Home Isolation Protocol and Returning to School**

- If an individual develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, they are required to isolate for 5 full days from the onset of symptoms or date test if asymptomatic, regardless of their vaccination status
- The individual may return to school, with no requirement to wear a mask, after 5 full days if:
  - They test negative with an antigen, or an at-home test taken at the end of day 5 or later, AND
  - Symptoms have significantly improved, or the individual is asymptomatic, AND
  - They are fever free for the past 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
- If symptoms are improving, but no test is taken after 5 full days, the individual can return to school on day 6, but will be required to wear a mask while around other for days 6 to 10.
- If the individual is not able or unwilling to wear a well-fitted mask, they shall continue to isolate for 10 full days before returning to school.
- Testing beyond 10 days is not necessary.

### **Isolation of COVID-19 Cases within a Facility**

- Immediately isolated from others, sent home, and referred to diagnostic testing as soon as feasible, regardless of vaccination status. While waiting to leave the school or program, the individual with symptoms is **required** to be isolated in a designated isolation space. They are **required** to wear a well-fitting face mask, if tolerated and age appropriate. Anyone providing care or evaluation to the isolated individual is **required** to wear appropriate PPE.

### **Notifying Groups or Individuals of Potential Exposure**

- Staff are **required** to be notified of exposure
- Schools and providers are **required** to have a process in place to inform students, families, and staff when there are cases or outbreaks in the school. (Option C Parent Alert notifications)
  - Notification of “groups” rather than individual “close contacts.” These groups could include school wide, homeroom, teammates, grade levels, cohorts, bus riders, or others.

### **Ensure Access to Diagnostic Testing for COVID-19**

- K-12 schools are **required** to ensure access to timely diagnostic testing for students and staff with symptoms or who were potentially exposed and want to test.

### **Reporting COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks and Working with Public Health**

- All cases of COVID-19 in schools and provider facilities are **required** to be reported to LHJs/DOH. All outbreaks of COVID-19 are **required** to be reported to the LHJ/licensor. COVID-19 test results should be reported to DOH in accordance with guidance available at the Reporting COVID-19 Test Results webpage. In addition, schools, providers, and the general public are **required** to cooperate with public health authorities in the investigation of cases and outbreaks that may be associated with the school.
- Employers are **required** to notify L&I about outbreaks of 10 or more staff members.

### **Responding to Clusters and Outbreaks**

- Clusters and outbreaks represent situations in a school or provider setting where, in coordination with local public health, enhanced mitigation efforts including some of the strategies should be considered, and **may be required**, to prevent disease transmission
- **Conditions may require implementation of additional mitigation practices to lessen the impact of disease in schools and provider settings, and to ensure continuity of in-person instruction and care.**

### **MASKS:**

- Students and staff will have the choice to wear a mask at school.
- All school activities will be mask optional for students, families, guests, and staff.
- While masks are no longer required universally in schools, there may be situations when the use of well-fitting masks may be temporarily required for individuals. (e.g., Returning to school after a 5-day isolation without testing – masks required on days 6 to 10).
- Masks may be required universally during clusters and/or outbreaks in classrooms or with groups of students (e.g., a choir class or a sports team) as determined by the local health jurisdiction.
- Schools and providers should provide masks and other appropriate PPE to staff and students as needed or desired.

## **DEFINITIONS**

- **Well-fitted mask** completely covers the mouth and nose and fits securely on the sides of the face and under the chin. It shall be made of two or more layers of tightly woven fabric with ties or straps that go around a person's head or behind the ears.
  - Gaiters are not considered an approved face covering.
  - Face shields by themselves are not considered to be an approved face covering.
  
- **Isolation** is a period of time an individual, who develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, is required to stay home away from others.
  
- **Symptoms of COVID-19**
  - A cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - A fever of 100.4 or higher
  - A sore throat
  - Chills
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
  - Congestion/runny nose –
    - not related to seasonal allergies
  - Unusual fatigue
  
- **Tests:** Antigen tests, point of care (POC) molecular tests, or at-home tests are acceptable and preferred, given the ability to obtain results within minutes and the need to identify positive individuals and isolate in a timely fashion.
  
- **Vaccinations:** Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the final dose.
  
- **Volunteers** are parents acting in the capacity of a staff member or faculty, while inside the school building for longer periods of time. Such volunteers must be fully vaccinated.

## **Remote Learning Component:**

- If a student is required to isolate as a result of the onset of symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19, the family should notify the school principal and the child's teacher(s). The child's teacher(s) will work with the student and parents to develop an academic plan that will support the student's learning while he/she is out of school.

## **RETURN TO SCHOOL PROTOCOLS**

**If an individual develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, they are required to isolate for 5 full days from the onset of symptoms or date of test if asymptomatic, regardless of their vaccination status.**

**The individual may return to school, with no requirement to wear a mask, after 5 full days if:**

- They test negative with an antigen, or an at-home test administered at the end of day 5 or later, AND
- Symptoms have significantly improved, or the individual is asymptomatic, AND
- They are fever free for the past 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

**If symptoms are improving, but no test is taken after 5 full days, the individual can return to school on day 6, but will be required to wear a mask while around other for days 6 through 10.**

- If the individual is not able or unwilling to wear a well-fitted mask, they shall continue to isolate for 10 full days before returning to school.
- Testing beyond 10 days is not necessary.

**If an individual has a close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, but does not develop symptoms:**

- The individual may continue to attend school regardless of vaccination status.
- It is recommended that the individual test for COVID-19 3 to 5 days after exposure.
  - If positive, refer to protocols for positive COVID-19 test listed above.
  - If negative, continue with the following steps.
- It is recommended to wear a well-fitting mask when around others for 10 days after exposure.
- Monitor for symptoms for 10 days after exposure.
  - If symptoms develop during the 10-day monitoring period, refer to the protocols above for an individual who develops symptoms.

**If an individual has a close contact with a someone who tested positive for COVID-19 and then develop symptoms:**

- Refer to the protocols above for an individual who develops COVID-19 symptoms.

**ADOPTED BY THE SCHOOL COMMISSION MARCH 17, 2022**