



23-24 COVID-19 Guidance, rev. August 1, 2023

Section 1: Overview & Principles

MODALITY

St. Alphonsus Parish School is committed to providing an in-person learning model. The school will not support a remote or hybrid learning environment, unless local health conditions dictate a shift in modalities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND ON-GOING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- Continue to assess the most current guidelines and update this plan accordingly.
- Maintain full commitment to three guiding principles throughout the planning process:
 - Prioritizing the health and safety of our students, staff and community
 - Emphasizing the importance of an in-person St. Alphonsus community experience
 - Ensuring the continuity of student learning and growth

SOURCE OF GUIDANCE

Our School Plan is informed by the WA State Department of Health and the Office of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Seattle. The Office of Catholic Schools assists area schools in interpreting the state guidelines, which are always subject to change.

Section 2: Requirements

VACCINATION

Students: COVID-19 vaccination is **NOT** required. If a student is vaccinated, proof of vaccination must be submitted to the [Main Office](#). Verbal attestation for vaccination is not acceptable.

Employees, Volunteers, Indoor Contractors: Proof of vaccination is no longer required. See [Vaccine Mandate FAQs](#).

REPORTING POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE

Families are required to report if a student tests positive for COVID-19. Notify the [Main Office](#) and follow protocols for return. Information will remain confidential and allow the school to initiate communication protocols.

EXPOSURE NOTIFICATION

There will be no school-wide emails for positive cases. School COVID-19 cases will be tracked on the [online dashboard](#) and updated weekly.

AT-HOME ISOLATION PROTOCOL

A student or staff who tests positive for COVID-19 is required to isolate at home, regardless of vaccination status. The individual may return after **5 full days of isolation** if:

- No fever within the past 24 hours (without medication) **AND**
- [Symptoms](#) have significantly improved.

Day 0 is the first day of symptoms. For people without symptoms, day 0 is the day of the positive viral test. See [Isolation and Quarantine Calculator](#).

It is recommended that individuals wear a mask when around others days 6–10.

ISOLATION OF COVID-19 CASES AT SCHOOL

Anyone on campus who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms will be directed to the Main Office and isolated from others until they can safely leave campus. While waiting to leave the school, the individual with symptoms is **required** wear a well-fitting face mask.

Parents will be notified immediately if their student is displaying symptoms of COVID-19. If a student needs to be picked up from school, parents are expected to do so in a timely manner.

Section 3: Recommended Strategies to Mitigate COVID-19 Transmission

MASKING

Masks are **NOT** required indoors or outdoors. However, there may be situations when the school or local health jurisdiction temporarily recommends or requires wearing well-fitting masks.

Students and staff may choose to wear a mask at school, with the expectation that others' choices will be respected. Some may need to wear a mask because they or a member of their household are at high risk for COVID-19. It is the responsibility of families to discuss with their students at home what their expectations are for mask wearing at school. Staff are not responsible for enforcing mask wearing.

MONITORING, MASKING, AND TESTING AFTER EXPOSURE

DOH no longer requires exposed students and staff to [quarantine](#). To protect the school community, students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, who are potentially exposed to COVID-19 should:

- Monitor for [symptoms](#), AND
- Consider testing as soon as possible after exposure and then repeat testing every 24-48 hours through at least the first 5 days after exposure AND
- Students and staff who spend time indoors with individuals at risk for getting very sick with COVID-19 should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after exposure.

Follow the DOH [What to do if a Person is Symptomatic](#) flowchart.

Exposed students and staff may continue to take part in all in-person instruction and care, including sports, performing arts, and other extracurricular activities, as long as they do not have symptoms or test positive.

HOUSEHOLD EXPOSURES

Household exposures often result in prolonged and repeated contact with positive individuals. When possible, a student or staff member, who is continuously exposed at home, regardless of vaccination status, is recommended to test every 24-48 hours until 5 days after the last positive household member's isolation has ended.

STAY HOME IF SICK

Students and staff who have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 should stay home and consider getting tested. Follow the DOH [What to do if a Person is Symptomatic](#) flowchart.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

There are no longer any social/physical distancing requirements for schools.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE

Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, avoid touching the face, and follow other CDC recommendations for good hygiene.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (CLUBS, FIELD TRIPS, ETC.)

Students, teachers, and support staff must follow all requirements within this document when participating in school-sponsored activities, contests, shows, etc., even if not in a classroom setting.

FACILITIES AND CLEANING PROCEDURES

All common spaces throughout the building will be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis. Sanitizing wipes and cleaner will be available in each classroom for students and teachers to sanitize their spaces if they would like.

VENTILATION

To improve ventilation, teachers may teach their classes with a window and classroom door open and keep their HEPA air purifiers running. Students should be prepared for cooler temperatures.

Section 4: Responding to Outbreaks in Schools and Child Care

OUTBREAKS

Outbreaks represent situations where enhanced mitigation efforts are recommended and may be required by the Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ) to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

A COVID-19 outbreak in a school is considered when the following have been met:

- At least 10% of a specified core group tests positive for COVID-19
OR
- There are three or more COVID-19 cases within a specified [core group](#).

AND

- The following three criteria are met:
 1. Cases have a symptom onset or positive test result within 14 days of each other, AND
 2. There is no evidence that transmission was more likely to have occurred in another setting (e.g., household or outside social contact) outside of the school or child care, AND
 3. Cases were epidemiologically linked in the school or child care setting or a school or child care-sanctioned extracurricular activity.

Section 5: Glossary

Close Contact

A close contact is generally defined by the CDC and DOH as someone who was within 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for 15 cumulative minutes or more over a 24-hour time period when the case was considered infectious. CDC acknowledges an exception to the definition of a close contact in the classroom setting when masks are worn.

Core Group

A “core group” includes but is not limited to an extracurricular activity³, cohort group, classroom, before/after school care, etc.

Fully Vaccinated

An individual is fully vaccinated when they have received both doses in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine primary series or one dose of a single-dose COVID-19 primary series approved or authorized for use in the United States. Boosters are not required to be considered fully vaccinated.

Quarantine

Quarantine is when someone who has been exposed to COVID-19 stays home and away from others for the recommended period of time in case they are infected and contagious. In an effort to reduce days lost from essential education and care, quarantine is no longer required in schools or child care but is still recommended guidance for the general public.

Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. Possible symptoms include:

- Fever or 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 or vomiting
- Diarrhea