



# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS of Greater Kalamazoo

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COVID-19 CSGK 2021-2022

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## SCHOOL YEAR PLAN



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# Introduction

Dear CSGK families,

As we near a return to school, the safety of our students and staff remains our primary concern. The 2020-2021 school year taught us a great deal about perseverance and resilience. While difficult, our students adhered to procedures and protocols in order to keep each other safe. We learned that we must layer strategies in order to prevent the spread of illness. We established new norms and saw great growth in our students. We look forward to enjoying traditions and events missed due to the pandemic, hopefully in the near future. And we will use the lessons learned during the 2020-2021 school year to improve the school experience for our students, staff and families.

The COVID 19 CSGK School Year Plan Leadership Committee has reviewed current guidelines for COVID prevention in schools offered by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. We have listened to the desires and concerns of our parents. The COVID 19 CSGK School Year Plan Health Committee has reviewed the plan for 2021-2022. And COVID 19 CSGK School Year Plan Committee chairs have all reviewed the plan and added their input.

This is a living document which may be periodically revised based on new information and guidelines from the CDC, the State of Michigan or the MDHHS and KCHCS. We will notify families of any changes to the plan as they occur.

The 2020-2021 school year was extraordinary. Our strategies were effective and our schools avoided being closed due to a COVID outbreak. Thank you for your partnership. We need your continued support in order to offer another safe year of in-person learning. We are witness to the importance and impact of in-person learning on our students. Let's commit to words and actions that are guided by the virtues of respect, kindness and patience. Let's continue this journey, remembering that all we do is out of charity for others.

Thank you for choosing Catholic education for your family. We look forward to seeing your students in class again soon.

COVID-19 CSGK School Year Plan Leadership Committee

# 2021-2022 CSGK COVID Safety Protocols

This document outlines the safety protocols currently in place for the upcoming school year.

## Safety Procedures

- A. Distancing - Student desks/tables in classrooms will be spaced three feet apart whenever possible.
- B. Transitions - Transition procedures will be established by school to limit traffic in hallways. Stairways and hallways will remain directional where conducive to student safety and learning.
- C. Face coverings - **Updated 8/20/21**
  - a. On August 18, 2021, Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services issued an Order pursuant to the Michigan Public Health Code, MCL 333.2451 and 333.2453, as well as R. 325.175(4), which is an administrative rule promulgated by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to MCL 333.2226(d). **Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo are obligated to follow the Order.**
  - b. The Order requires that within educational institutions children in kindergarten through grade six must consistently and properly wear a facial mask covering both nose and mouth while inside any enclosed building or structure of the institution. The order also requires all persons, regardless of vaccination status, providing services to any child in kindergarten through grade six, and all persons providing services to students identified as medically fragile regardless of age, properly and consistently wear a face mask while inside any enclosed building or structure of the institution.
  - c. The Order is effective immediately and remains in effect until six weeks past the date the COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and available to persons age five years through age eleven or until further notice from the Health Officer.
  - d. The Order does not apply to:
    - i. Persons in the act of eating or drinking.
    - ii. Persons outside if not engaged in activities involving direct physical contact.
    - iii. Persons under the age of five years; however, supervised masking is strongly recommended for children who are at least two years of age.
    - iv. Students with developmental conditions of any age attending school, although supervised masking is encouraged.
    - v. Teachers who are working with children who are hard of hearing or students with developmental conditions who benefit from facial cues. These teachers or staff must be vaccinated or comply with masking directive.
    - vi. Persons who have a current medical reason confirmed in writing from a Medical Doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) currently licensed to practice medicine in the State of Michigan.

- D. Hygiene - Staff will continue to encourage handwashing and good hygiene. Hand sanitizer will be available when handwashing is not possible.
- E. Cleaning - Cleaning is important to removing virus from surfaces. Student tables/desks will be cleaned once a day using clean rags and a solution of BCN-15 disinfectant from Spartan Chemical. Mid-day cleaning of high-touch surfaces, playground equipment, as well as bi-weekly fogging of all surfaces will be done using stabilized aqueous ozone (SAO). The SAO system turns regular water into a powerful disinfectant.
- F. Ventilation - Good ventilation is important in reducing the number of virus particles in the air. Windows and doors will remain open when possible in order to facilitate an exchange of fresh air.

## Health Procedures

- A. Preventative strategies - It is critical that students and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness stay home and seek guidance from their health care provider. Students developing symptoms of illness during the school day will be isolated and families will be called to pick their student up.
- B. Vaccination - The COVID-19 vaccine is not listed on the School Required Vaccination List but highly encouraged for those eligible to receive it. The best way to lower community transmission and minimize the risk of in-school transmission is to increase the rate of community vaccination, especially in our school families. Vaccinated individuals will not be required to quarantine after exposure and close contact to COVID-19, and will maximize in-person attendance and minimize disruptions in learning. [The USCCB website offers guidance on COVID vaccinations.](#)

## Quarantine and Isolation due to COVID 19 exposure or illness

Students and staff are strongly encouraged to stay home if sick and symptomatic for any illness. This is one of the single most important strategies for the prevention of illness, not just COVID-19.

Students and Staff who are symptomatic and have tested positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least 10 days from the date symptoms began. It is important that you keep isolating until you meet all of the criteria below:

- at least 10 days since your symptoms began
- at least 24 hours since your fever went away without the use of fever-reducing medications (Tylenol or Ibuprofen)
- other COVID related symptoms have improved

Students and staff will be required to quarantine if they have been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a total of 15 minutes or more) with someone who has COVID-19, unless they have been [fully vaccinated](#). People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms.

While we regularly monitor the recommendations of the CDC and other national professional medical agencies, local public health authorities make the final decisions about how long quarantine should last, based on local conditions and needs. The Kalamazoo Health Department, then, is the ultimate arbiter and is currently using 10

days after last contact. Their website has a quarantine and isolation calculator that will provide the most up-to-date local information. <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19calculator.php>

For reference, the CDC lists current options for unvaccinated individuals who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 include stopping quarantine (As of June 22, 2021) as After day 10 without testing, or After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later), and the MDHHS still has a 14 day quarantine in effect.

Please take note though, of the following possible scenario in the event that the positive person in a household is not able to fully isolate from others in the home. A household contact who is not able to isolate completely from the COVID+ person will need to be in quarantine for 20 days.

See: <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19calculator.php>

## Academics, Extra-Curriculars, and Ancillary services

- A. Arrival/Dismissal procedures - Arrival and Dismissal procedures will be established by school to limit traffic in hallways.
- B. Classroom procedures - Classroom procedures will be established by school, keeping the safety of students and staff the first priority.
- C. Food service - Lunch will be served and eaten in the cafeteria, maintaining distance and good ventilation.
- D. Extra-curriculars - Extra-curricular activities will be established by school, keeping the safety of students and staff the first priority.
- E. Student/Family events - School events and gatherings will be evaluated based on current pandemic guidelines.
- F. Athletics - Safety procedures, including testing of athletes and attendance of spectators, will be based on current MHSAA guidelines, and communicated to families as the sports seasons begin.
- G. Volunteers and visitors - In the best interest of our students, visitors to the building will be limited to volunteers. Volunteer opportunities and procedures will be established by school.
- H. Online learning opportunities - Students benefit academically and socially-emotionally from in-person learning. At this time, online learning will only be available to students needing to quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure.