



# 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 - On November 3, 2021, Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services issued a Kalamazoo County COVID-19 Update. With the availability of COVID-19 vaccine for children 5-11 years old, the KCHCS is set to rescind the August 18, 2021 public health order requiring the use of face masks in kindergarten through grade six, while in the school building. The order is rescinded as of 5pm on Friday, December 17, 2021.

Based on KCHCS updated COVID-19 guidelines, mask-wearing will be optional in preschool through grade 12, based on family choice. Increased rates of community transmission, mandates by state or county health departments, or evidence of in-school transmission may require temporary periods of time in which masks become mandatory in order to ensure the availability of in-school learning. Our staff and students will respect each family's decision, practicing the virtues of kindness and humility.

As stated in the KCHCS News Release November 3, 2021:

*“The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department continue to recommend indoor masking for all teachers, students, staff, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. .... A layered protection strategy should be followed to ensure a healthy learning environment, allowing children to remain healthy and physically present in the classroom setting. Such strategy should include the following risk mitigation measures: indoor masking, frequent handwashing, maintaining a distance of three feet minimum between students, enhanced ventilation, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, testing after a COVID-19 exposure, and vaccination of eligible students, teachers, and staff.”*

Per a CDC order, facemasks continue to be required for all while on public transportation, including school buses.

- 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

**Updated 1/15/22**

Quarantine and isolation are determined by the local health department and are used as important tools to prevent the spread of disease.

- You **isolate** when you are already infected with COVID-19 and have tested positive, even if you do not have symptoms. Isolation is used to separate people who are infected with COVID-19 from those who are not infected.
- You **quarantine** when you might have been exposed to COVID-19. This is because you might become infected with COVID-19 and could spread COVID-19 to others.

### Overview of COVID-19 Isolation Guidance for K-12 Schools

- **Students, teachers & staff who test positive for COVID-19 and/or display COVID-19 symptoms should isolate regardless of vaccination status:**

- If positive with no symptoms, monitor for symptoms from day of exposure through day 10 of isolation; and
- Isolate at home for 5 days (day "0" is day symptoms begin or day test was taken for students, teachers & staff who do not have symptoms); and
- If symptoms have improved or you continue to have no symptoms, return to school, while wearing a well-fitted mask, for days 6 -10; or
- Stay home for 10 days if unwilling/unable to wear a mask.

*If you have a fever, stay home until you are fever free for a period of 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.*

### Overview of COVID-19 Quarantine Guidance for K-12 Schools

- **Close contacts of a COVID-19 case do not need to quarantine at home if they:**
  - Had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days; and/or
  - Are fully vaccinated. (*'fully vaccinated' is defined as 2 weeks after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or 2 weeks after single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson*)
  - These contacts should still monitor their symptoms and "Mask to Stay" for 10 days from the date of last exposure.
- **Close contacts of a COVID-19 case who do not meet the criteria above need to quarantine as follows:**
  - Home quarantine for days 1-5, AND "Mask to Stay" for days 6-10; or
  - Home quarantine for days 1-10 if unable/unwilling to mask.
  - Test on day 5 recommended, but not required based upon the direction of the individual's healthcare provider. Home Rapid Antigen Testing is acceptable.

*Students and staff should monitor for symptoms throughout quarantine period (days 1 through 10). Day "0" is day of last close contact with any COVID-19 positive student or staff. If symptoms develop, get tested.*

## 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.