



Purpose. Passion. Pride.

September 1, 2021

## **Bethlehem Catholic High School**

### **Health and Safety Plan**

*2021-2022 School Year*

#### **MESSAGE TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

Our plans for the 2021-22 school year are to offer full, five-day, in-person instruction. This is our current plan as we continue to strive to return our schools to more of a typical school experience for our students. However, given that we remain in a global pandemic, if the situation changes and compromises our ability to keep our schools both safe and open, we will review and revise our mitigation strategies.

This plan is to help navigate the safe reopening of our school for the 2021-2022 school year. Our plan aims to keep everyone safe and keep our school open and provide our students with a quality Catholic educational experience.





The Health and Safety Plan was developed following a review of the available information from the Pennsylvania Department of Health [DOH], the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). As has been the case throughout the pandemic, we will monitor any updates regarding COVID-19 and thus we view this plan as a fluid document and one that will further develop and change over time.

As long as communicable diseases like COVID-19 exist in our community, revisions to this Health & Safety Plan may be necessary to meet public health requirements.

We will continue to review state and local guidance and implement appropriate prevention and mitigation protocols in response to the level of community spread in our state, county and local community. Our goal has been and continues to be to maximize the amount of in-person learning for our students in the safest manner. Some ways to achieve this goal may be found below:

- Use local and state health officials as a resource
- Participate in contact tracing efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible and practical)
- Post appropriate signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread
- Be aware of and communicate COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols
- Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they are in school

## COVID-19 MITIGATION MEASURES

	<p>Face coverings will be required for all students, faculty and staff while in the school building.</p>
	<p>Students and staff will be encouraged to maintain 3 to 6 feet of physical distancing to the maximum extent feasible and practical.</p> <p>Seating charts will be maintained as any necessary quarantine situations may pertain to only the individuals in closest proximity to any COVID-19 positive individual.</p>
	<p>Students and staff will be encouraged to sanitize hands upon arrival to classroom and throughout the day as a good hygiene practice, as well as use water bottles instead of drinking from water fountains.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer will be readily available, and each classroom will be provided with disinfectant.</p>
	<p>The School will maintain a daily cleaning procedure for desks and high traffic areas. Classrooms and common areas will be ventilated with additional circulation of outdoor air when possible, using windows or doors. Deep cleaning will be conducted as necessary.</p>



### **CONTACT TRACING, ISOLATION, and QUARANTINE**

Seating charts will be maintained as any necessary quarantine situations may pertain to only the individuals in closest proximity to any COVID-19 positive individual.

In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected individual (laboratory-confirmed or a [clinically compatible illness](#)), if both the infected individual and the exposed individual(s) [correctly and consistently](#) wore [masks](#) the entire time. (from the CDC website)

Fully vaccinated people who have had a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to be tested 2-5 days after exposure, and should wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test. Regardless of vaccination status, any person with new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 still needs to isolate and be evaluated for SARS-CoV-2 testing.

Unvaccinated individuals with close contact with confirmed Covid-19, should quarantine for 10 days as long as they are symptom free. Individuals could return to school after day 7 with a negative test on day 5 or after.

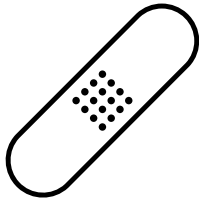


### **SCREENINGS**

Symptom screening should be done by parents/guardians at home each morning before school. Students with COVID-19 symptoms should not be put on a bus or sent to school.

**STUDENTS WHO ARE ILL OR ARE EXPERIENCING COVID-19-LIKE SYMPTOMS MUST STAY HOME.** If a student develops symptoms during the school day, the parents will be contacted, and the student will need to be picked up as soon as possible. The student will wait in the isolation area until picked up by the parent.

Parents should report a positive diagnosis of a student, household member or close contact case of COVID-19 to the school administrative team by calling the school office immediately. The decision to quarantine will be based upon the CDC/PA Department of Health guidelines.



### **VACCINATIONS**

Per the CDC, vaccinations are currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

Per guidance, fully vaccinated students, teachers, and staff with no COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure to someone with COVID-19, but should get tested 2-5 days after exposure. In addition, vaccinated students and staff who were exposed to a positive COVID-19 case should wear a mask in other indoor public settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test.



### **TRANSPORTATION**

The School will continue to follow the protocols determined by the sending public school district. For students, this will mean wearing a face covering on the bus.



### **SCHOOL LUNCH**

During lunch, students should maintain 3 feet of physical distancing to the maximum extent feasible and practical. Seating charts will be maintained in the cafeteria.



### **VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS**


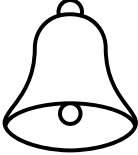



Limit, to the extent practical, visitors in the buildings, during the instructional day.

Require all school visitors and volunteers, during the instructional day, to wear a face covering.



### **GYM, RECESS AND ACTIVITIES**

Physical Education, clubs and after school activities will resume. Protocols from the school day will continue during after school activities.

	<p><b>VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION</b></p> <p>Virtual education for the 2021-2022 school year may be offered only in specific COVID-19 related situations such as quarantine or situations involving a long-term serious medical situation.</p> <p>We are committed to the health, safety and education of all therefore, we will make every effort to maintain in-person learning.</p> <p>Schools will again be able to use a limited number of Flexible Instruction Days for weather-related or emergency-related school closures. More information to follow.</p>
	<p><b>DISMISSAL</b></p> <p>Students and staff will be encouraged to maintain 3 to 6 feet of physical distancing to the maximum extent feasible and practical.</p>
	<p><b>LITURGY</b></p> <p>Physical distancing of three feet should also be in place for school Masses.</p>
	<p><b>ATHLETICS</b></p> <p>Athletic activities and events will resume. Safety protocols for the school day will apply to sports.</p>
	<p><b>WATER FOUNTAINS</b></p> <p>As was our procedure last year, Standard water fountains should not be used. Students may bring bottled water to school or utilize bottle filling stations.</p>