



August 9, 2021

Dear Sacred Heart Parents and Guardians,

Thanks to the cooperation and work of our staff, students, parents and families, our school successfully completed a year of in-person learning in the midst of the pandemic and we are looking forward to the blessings this new school year will bring.

In the presence of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, we remain ever vigilant and aware of our responsibility to provide a safe and secure learning environment for our children and the members of our community. We will continue to rely on the guidance of our health professionals, State and local leaders and the Diocese of Cleveland as we navigate this global pandemic.

I am thankful for our dedicated teachers and staff, the members of our COVID-19 Planning and Response Team, Fr. Joe, Fr. Pat and our parish staff as we prepare for another successful year. I am also thankful to all of you, our parents, who have sacrificed much to provide your children with a faith-based educational experience here at Sacred Heart.

Below you will find a series of documents related to COVID-19 plans, protocols and procedures. These include:

1. A copy of a letter each family will be required to read and sign. This letter will may be printed, signed and returned to school or families may pick up a copy on Drop Off Day on August 18th.
2. A list of layered precautions we will continue to implement this year.
3. Copies of the contact tracing and quarantining requirements as established by the State and county.

We request parents and guardians thoughtfully and prayerfully read the most current information and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) regarding COVID-19. As Catholic communities, our schools strive to provide the highest quality formation and education while protecting the needs and dignity of each individual as we live our call to love one another, protect the vulnerable, and be mindful of the common good of those in our communities.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

In Christ,
Mr. Czaplicki



Summary of COVID-19 Procedures and Protocols

This year we will continue using a layered approach to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and students. These procedures and protocols will be modified as needed or required throughout the school year.

1. **Face Masks and Coverings:** While students are not required to wear face masks or coverings, they are strongly encouraged by the Ohio Department of Health for children over 2 years old while indoor at school or at crowded outdoor settings. The exception is individuals who cannot safely wear a mask. To be effective, face masks should cover the nose, mouth and chin of the student and should be made of cloth. Please note that the decision to mask or not is a decision of the student's parent or guardian. You understand and agree that the school cannot guarantee and shall not be responsible for ensuring that a student complies with any masking or face covering instructions of his or her parent or guardian. It should also be noted that the use of face masks has a direct impact on the likelihood of quarantining. Parents should familiarize themselves with the State establish contact tracing and quarantining guidelines (included below). Our masking policy may change due to a number of factors including but not limited to:
 - a. Mandates by State, local or Diocesan entities
 - b. Substantial increases in COVID-19 cases or quarantined individuals
 - c. Events and activities where students, parents or staff may be in close proximity to others
2. **Physical Distancing and the Learning Environment:** Where possible students will be distanced 3 or more feet apart. Students will remain in cohort groups and movement may be limited. Outdoor spaces will be utilized when and where appropriate. In the cafeteria, students will be placed at a distance of approximately 6 feet.
3. **Health Hygiene, Cleaning and Sanitization:** Enhanced cleaning and sanitization procedures will remain in effect. Procedures to teach and reinforce correct hand washing with soap and water will be implemented. Use of hand sanitizer, both alcohol free (Benzalkonium chloride) and alcohol based where age appropriate, will be encouraged.
4. **Daily Health Check at Home & School:** Prior to coming to school each and every day, parents shall conduct a health check of their child including, but not limited to, a temperature check, to assess whether the child is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms include:
 - i. Fever of over 100 °F
 - ii. Chills
 - iii. Cough
 - iv. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - v. Fatigue
 - vi. Muscle or body aches
 - vii. Headache
 - viii. New loss of taste or smell
 - ix. Sore throat
 - x. Congestion or runny nose
 - xi. Nausea or vomiting
 - xii. Diarrhea
 - xiii. Repeated shaking with chills

The school may resume daily temperature checks as needed.



5. Students Experiencing Illness: If a student has a fever of greater than 100°F or exhibits any one or more COVID-19 symptoms they may not come to school and the school must be notified. This does not include symptoms that the school nurse or administration reasonably believe to be unrelated to illness, such as seasonal allergies, or isolated incidents of coughing or sneezing. If a student becomes ill while at school, they may not remain at school and must be picked up and taken home at the earliest opportunity. Any student who has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 may not return to school until such student meets the local county health authority's criteria for returning to school. A copy of the contact tracing and quarantining requirements has been included below.
6. Volunteers: Volunteer opportunities will be available this year. Specific guidelines will be issued based on each situation.
7. Monitoring of Transmission Rates: We will continue to monitor our school and community's transmission rates, our schools' positivity rates and the number of quarantines which cause students/staff to be absent. If necessary, we will modify or adjust our practices and protocols.