

State of CT Return to School Guidelines - As of July 5, 2020

*This document contains a high-level overview of recommendations made by the State of Connecticut for the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 academic year. Some of the information below is considered a requirement, some is considered a guidance. For a more thorough breakdown and to see how Sacred Heart is responding to each item, please visit the Sacred Heart COVID-19 website.

- Share reopening plans and solicit feedback from families
- Restrict or limit nonessential visitors and activities
- Establish team to manage budget and reserve funding concerns
- Maximize physical distancing between student workstations
- Assess other spaces that may be repurposed for instruction
- Limit face-to-face encounters by designating foot-traffic patterns and installing floor markings
- Ensure access to washing stations
- Enable no-touch usage of items such as doors, trashcans, and fixtures, where possible
- Place signage through the school focused on stopping the spread of COVID-19
- Determine appropriate meal distribution based on physical distancing, physical location, student traffic, space, staffing, etc.
- Establish a staggered arrival and drop off, plan vehicle flow and logistics, and limit unnecessary entrance of parents and guardians into the building
- Develop protocols to minimize the need to have multiple students sharing high touch materials to the extent possible
- Adopt policies requiring use of face coverings for all students and staff when they are inside the school building
- Comply with DPH Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting of Schools, DPH Return to Service Guidance for Building Water Systems, and DPH Guidance for School Systems for the Operation of Central and non-Central Ventilation Systems
- Require in-person or online training for students and staff that includes: physical distancing; cleaning protocols; and hygiene practices
- Designate an employee to serve as a COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison.
- Actively monitor staff and student absenteeism to identify any trends that would suggest spread of illness such as COVID-19
- Instruct students and staff to inform the school if they are sick with COVID-19 related symptoms, particularly if they had a known contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 and have also had contact with the school population.
- Create a communication system for staff and families for self-reporting of symptoms, and notification of known or presumed cases consistent with applicable privacy and confidentiality laws
- Develop containment and immediate response plans if an individual has signs or symptoms of COVID-19, there is a known exposure, or a member of the school community has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19
- Develop a plan for school class cancellations and reopening.

- Plan for parents and students who may temporarily choose not to participate in the return to school
- Implement flexible sick leave policies and practices that enable staff to stay home when sick, have been exposed, or are caring for the sick
- Reflect on the lessons of spring 2020, plan for sensible assessments for academic year 2020-2021, plan for hybrid learning, support faculty professional learning, plan to build community upon return, and other academic planning considerations
- Anticipate flexibility with these guidelines for specific special education programs, so long as the program follows established standards as well as public health strategies such as proper hygiene, physical distancing, and cleaning/sanitizing
- If students with disabilities are unable to access the reopening plan as designed, facilitate individualized and alternative means of re-entry based upon student need, present levels of functioning, developmental levels, and student/parent input.
- Develop plans for the implementation of a physical education, fine arts, and music curriculum that consider the needs of all students, including focusing on activities, adaptations, and modifications of all education decisions to ensure the full inclusion by all students
- Maintain proper spacing of at least 12 feet when students are singing or performing wind instruments by scheduling ensembles in auditoriums, outdoors, cafeterias, gyms or other large spaces
- Provide individual art supply kits for each student, or plan for increased sanitization between all use
- Develop a detailed wellness plan to re-engage all students, staff and families