



COVID-19 Preparedness Plan 2021-2022 School Year

Rochester Catholic Schools is committed to the safety, spiritual, social, emotional, and academic needs of all our students. Respect, kindness, and understanding are essential to the success of the 2021-2022 school year.

Masks: Masks will be strongly recommended for all individuals who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine. COVID-19 vaccines are currently available to individuals 12 and older.

There will be situations when masking may be required. These situations may include, but are not limited to, times when proper distancing can not be maintained, such as working with lab partners, school assemblies, hallway transitions, buses, etc. All students and staff members will be required to have a mask with them while on the school campus for when the need arises.

******These masking guidelines are subject to change, depending on the specific needs at each individual campus.******

We look forward to the time when masks will not be necessary for any member of the RCS community. The decision regarding masks was made out of an abundance of caution, respecting individual differences, and in the very best interest of the students, staff, and families of RCS at the forefront. For more information, please refer to this [MN Department of Health](#) Best Practices document.

Health Screening Process: All people entering any Rochester Catholic Schools building are expected to perform a complete self-health screening prior to entering the facility. Screening for students under the age of 12 will be completed by an adult.

Per the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidance, your child will be recommended to test for COVID-19 or see a medical provider for an alternate diagnosis if:

- Your child has a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Your child has a new-onset cough or a cough that is getting worse
- Your child is having difficulty breathing
- Your child has a new loss of smell or taste

Isolation: If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, he or she must have an isolation period of 10 days from the onset of symptoms or the positive test.



Communication: Families will be required to report a positive case of COVID-19 to their school principal. Families of programs and activities will be notified of a positive COVID-19 case.

Contact Tracing: Families will be notified if their child has been exposed to a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19.

Quarantine: Rochester Catholic Schools will recommend individuals to follow the CDC suggested quarantine period for individuals not vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine that are exposed (close contact) to a positive case of COVID-19.

- 7-day quarantine
- Test on day 5 or after
- Return to school on or after day 8

Unvaccinated exposed (close contact) individuals may also choose to complete a 10-day quarantine period without a test unless they experience common COVID-19 symptoms.

Individuals vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine are not recommended to quarantine.

Household Contacts: Any household member not vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine who lives in the same household as the person who tested positive must quarantine for at least 14 days after the household close contact isolation period has ended.

Mitigation Strategies: Rochester Catholic Schools has implemented hand hygiene practices, cleaning and disinfecting protocols, and other mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19. When possible, a physical distancing goal of 3 feet for students within school classes will be followed.

Vaccinations for School-Age Students: Individuals age 12 and older are currently eligible for the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Community sites continue to offer vaccinations to students age 12 and up. The State of Minnesota Vaccine Locator tool allows searching by zip code, distance, age group, and more. As vaccinations for younger students become available, you will be notified.

Coordination With State and Local Health Officials: Rochester Catholic Schools will continue to collaborate with Olmsted County Health, the Minnesota Department of Health, and Minnesota Department of Education, and consult with medical professionals from the Mayo Clinic.

Quarantined Students: Students who are required to quarantine and able to complete school work will follow individual building absence learning plans.