

Fall 2021 Re-Entry Plan

Background

Malden Catholic remains committed to mitigating risk and promoting the health and well-being of our community. As we approach the reopening of school amid the COVID-19 virus, we need to find the balance of living with COVID-19 and maintaining a rigorous academic schedule along with a rich co-curricular life without interruptions. The MC COVID-19 Task Force Team has decided on a multidisciplinary approach that has a proven record of success, including weekly testing. We will assess our procedures throughout the school year and modify them based upon government regulations, risk assessments and our school data.

Remote Learning

MC students are required to attend school in person. A remote learning option will not be available.

Evidence-based COVID-19 Research

The evidenced-based scientific research is clear on the issue of the Delta variant. Unlike earlier variants of the coronavirus, the Delta variant has been shown to exist in the nose and upper throat of infected people and while the viral load drops off quickly in VACCINATED individuals it is still a major source of contagion in the unvaccinated. The CDC mask guidance recommends everyone masks indoors. Other infectious disease experts such as Linsey Marr, professor at Virginia Tech and an expert in the transmission of infectious diseases via aerosols are adamant about vaccinations being the first line of defense to protect our children.

Dr. Marr states “we need to get as many people vaccinated as possible, as kids under 12 cannot be vaccinated but if everyone around them is vaccinated, it will protect them too. Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institute of Health, stated” anyone who tries to tell you don’t worry about the kids- that is not the evidence. With the Delta variant being so contagious, kids are very seriously at risk, and it is up to all of us to do everything we can to protect them.”

Definitions

- **UNVACCINATED Individuals:** those individuals with no COVID-19 Vaccine or individuals with one vaccine.
- **VACCINATED Individuals:** those individuals who are 14 days past their second COVID-19 Vaccine.

Please Get VACCINATED

We at Malden Catholic strongly encourage all members of our community to be fully VACCINATED as recommended by the CDC. On August 24, the CDC released information stating that an UNVACCINATED COVID-19 positive individual is 29 times more likely to be hospitalized than a VACCINATED individual. In our goal of protecting one another, we continue to encourage the members of our community who have not been fully VACCINATED to do so and commend those who have chosen to be fully VACCINATED.

Daily Protocols for All Individuals (VACCINATED and UNVACCINATED)

The following daily protocols are required, regardless of one's vaccination status, and will be strictly enforced:

- **Stay Home if Feeling Unwell or Symptomatic:** If an individual is not feeling well, she/he must stay home. If an individual is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, the person must notify the school nurses. If an individual starts to feel unwell or starts to feel symptoms while on campus, she/he must report to the Nurse's Office immediately.
- **Mask Wearing:** All individuals who enter the building are required to wear a Malden Catholic approved mask. All masks issued by MC last year are approved. Other masks must be two-ply cotton or a surgical mask that is well-fitting. Neck gaiters and bandanas are not allowed. Masks with writing, large logos, or large graphics are not acceptable. Individuals who fail to comply with the mask policy will be referred to the Assistant Principal. Masks are not required for any outside activity. If a student does not have his/her mask from last year, a mask will be issued.
- **Hand and Desk Sanitization:** Students will continue the practice of sanitizing hands and desks when entering and leaving a classroom.
- **Morning Arrival:** Morning arrival will begin at 7 AM. Girls will enter through door #1. Boys will enter through door #11. The gym will be closed in the morning before school. The Cafeteria and Learning Commons will be open. Stairwells will continue to be one direction only.

Mandatory Baseline Testing of All Individuals – The Week of August 30

During the week of August 30th, Malden Catholic will be conducting PCR COVID-19 testing of all faculty, staff and students. This will be conducted as part of the grade specific orientation programs. Please use [this link](#) to register for next week's testing. Please make sure to fill this out prior to your assigned orientation arrival. This test is done to provide baseline testing for the school. In the event that an individual tests positive, he/she will be contacted, and the School Nurses' Office will contact the student regarding the follow-up.

Determining VACCINATED Population

The Nurses will utilize the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS) to determine if someone has received the COVID-19 Vaccine. If an individual's COVID-19 Vaccine is not recorded on the MIIS system, he/she should **bring his/her vaccination card to the Nurse's Office for verification**. This data will help us determine the overall risk for our community.

Mandatory Weekly Antigen Testing

Each Monday morning beginning on September 13, *UNVACCINATED* individuals and those *VACCINATED students who are actively involved in a sport or activity this season* will participate in antigen testing. This broad testing requirement will allow us to collect data and effectively contact trace if we have individuals in our community who contract the virus. We will use this strategy to begin the school year and evaluate its effectiveness at the end of the quarter.

While the PCR tests are the "gold standard" used for diagnosing and detecting the presence of the virus, the antigen tests can be quite useful in determining if an asymptomatic person is contagious. The antigen tests will be useful if someone feels fine but needs to make sure they are not a silent spreader. Antigen tests that report as negative have a 99% percent accuracy.

MC Partnership with Curative

Malden Catholic has developed a partnership with the Curative, a company known for partnering with communities across the US to provide COVID-19 testing through turn-key programs, streamlined patient experiences, and scalable infrastructure, making health services easier to access for everyone. Here are some facts about the service Curative is providing:

- 1,000,000+ COVID-19 tests processed per week across three high-capacity labs.
- 3,000+ Doctors, scientists, engineers, and experts working together to build a healthier tomorrow.
- 10,000+ Sites for testing and other healthcare services throughout the United States.

We are thankful for Curative since this partnership will ensure the culture of health and safety at our school.

Procedures for Weekly Antigen Testing - Monday Mornings

All *UNVACCINATED individuals* and those *VACCINATED students who are actively involved in a sport or activity this season* will be required to make an account online with Curative, to participate in testing. Parents of MC students who are required to take weekly tests must sign their child up for antigen testing. A link will be provided. Individuals will report to the gym entry **Door # 7** for testing beginning at 7 AM each Monday morning.

Individuals who are required to be tested weekly will wait in the gym until the test results are available. Testing will be a self-swab of the nasal passages. If a person's test is negative, then they will be free to go about their daily schedule. If a test is positive the individual will be required to take a PCR test to confirm the presence of the virus. Malden Catholic has partnered with Curative to provide an immediate onsite free PCR test. There will be a kiosk staffed by Curative in the Malden Catholic parking lot that will conduct PCR tests on Mondays from 7 AM – 3 PM and on Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 AM – 5 PM. These PCR tests are also open to our families and the public and free. Individuals will be quarantined until the test results are returned.

UNVACCINATED MC students who do not utilize the testing process provided by the school each Monday, will be sent home until they provide a negative Antigen test result. That quarantine will include school and any after school activities including athletics. Refusal to test will mean students and parents will meet with the Administration and Headmaster.

VACCINATED MC students in co-curricular activities who do not utilize the testing process provided by the school each Monday will be allowed to attend school but will not be able to participate in the sport or activity.

Contact Tracing and Quarantine Procedures

In the event of a COVID-19 positive case on campus, the following guidelines will be used for contact tracing:

- In classrooms the students that sit immediately around the COVID-19 positive individual will be required to quarantine depending on vaccine status which is described below. Nurses will confirm a student's vaccination status through the state MIIS database or if provided, a CDC vaccination card.
- VACCINATED individuals need to self-monitor for symptoms for 10 days. If the individual has symptoms, they will then need to secure a PCR test on day 5 and quarantine until test results are returned.
- Identified UNVACCINATED close contacts have two (2) options:
 - **Option 1:** Quarantine for a minimum of 7 days and secure a negative PCR test result on day 5 or later to return on day 8.
 - **Option 2:** If an individual refuses to test-quarantine for 10 days and if asymptomatic for the entire 10-day period return to campus on day 11.

Close contact tracing for areas outside of classrooms including athletics, co-curricular activities and the like, will follow similar procedures to that listed above to identify close contacts. Any individual who has been identified as a close contact will be contacted directly by one of the MC nurses.

Athletics/Clubs

- Masks will be worn on all buses.
- On MC school buses, close contacts will be defined as all students sitting around the COVID-19 positive individual.
- Masks will be worn in locker rooms. Opposing teams will also observe this rule.

Travel

If a student, faculty or staff travels to a state that is listed as a high-risk state or international travel, the individual must abide by the following:

1. **Inform the School Nurses** of plans to travel.
 2. **Fully VACCINATED** people who are 2 weeks after their final dose (2nd dose for Pfizer and Moderna, single dose for Johnson & Johnson):
 - Do not need to quarantine if they are a close contact unless they have symptoms.
 - Do not need to quarantine with domestic travel unless they have symptoms.
- **International Travel Per CDC Requirements:** International travel will require a COVID-19 test before a person enters the US. All air passengers arriving in the US are required to have a negative PCR before arrival.
 - **UNVACCINATED Individuals:** Individuals must test 3 to 5 days after travel and stay home for a full 7 days after travel. If positive, begin isolation for 10 days. If an individual does not test, he/she will be required to quarantine at home for 10 days.
 - **VACCINATED Individuals:** After travelling you will be required to test 3 to 5 days after arrival. Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and get tested if the individual develops symptoms and quarantine until test results are available.

- **UNVACCINATED Individuals:** Malden Catholic will require a quarantine that will be 7 days with a test on day 5. If the test is negative, the student will return on day 8. If he/she does not test or tests on the wrong day, he/she may return on day 10 if there are no symptoms of COVID-19 present.
- **VACCINATED Individuals:** We ask that you monitor your student for symptoms for 14 days after travel. If the student has COVID-19 symptoms, then he/she will need to quarantine and test on day 5 after the symptoms appear.
- **COVID-19 Symptoms:** Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms (whether fully vaccinated or not) still must test per the CDC and remain out of school until negative.

Confidentiality and Sharing Personal Information Related to COVID-19

Due to the nature of COVID-19, Malden Catholic does not offer confidentiality for any health information shared with a faculty or staff member. Employees of schools have a responsibility to share such information to ensure the health and safety of our campus community. The school will only share information with faculty and staff on a need-to-know basis. The school understands and respects the need for privacy but must balance that need with our responsibility to act on behalf of the community public health.

Questions

Questions and concerns should be addressed to the Malden Catholic Nurse's Office. Any other sources of information should be avoided since it may not represent accurate information that has been approved by the school.

Important Dates

Sunday, August 29

Grade 9 Barbeque at 3 PM – This event is for the families and students of the Class of 2025.

Wednesday, September 1

Mandatory Meetings and Orientation for Grades 9 and 12

8 AM – 12 PM – Grade 9

12:30 – 2 PM – Grade 12

Pictures and school ID photos will be taken. Students **MUST** be in full uniform for school photos. The MC dress code for school pictures includes MC polo, khaki pants or skirt with proper footwear. Shorts, slippers, flip flops, crocks and sandals are not permitted. Boys must be clean shaven. Both boys and girls should not have any dyed hair or extreme haircuts. Nose piercings are also not permitted. If students are not in proper dress code, they will not be allowed to take their school photo.

Boys should enter via Door 11.

Girls should enter via Door 1.

Grade 9 – Students should bring a laptop

Grade 10 – No need to bring a laptop

Class of 2022 Meeting for Seniors and their Parents – 6:30 PM at MC

Thursday, September 2

Mandatory Meetings and Orientation for Grades 10 and 11

9 AM – 11 PM – Grade 10

12 – 2 PM – Grade 11

Pictures and school ID photos will be taken. Students **MUST** be in full uniform for school photos. The MC dress code for school pictures includes MC polo, khaki pants or skirt with proper footwear. Shorts, slippers, flip flops, crocks and sandals are not permitted. Boys must be clean shaven. Both boys and girls should not have any dyed hair or extreme haircuts. Nose piercings are also not permitted. If students are not in proper dress code, they will not be allowed to take their school photo.

Boys should enter via Door 11.

Girls should enter via Door 1.

Grade 11 – No need to bring a laptop.

Grade 12 – No need to bring a laptop.

Tuesday, September 7

First day of classes.

Thursday, September 9

MC Parent Club Kick-off Meeting – 6:30 to 7:30 PM at MC

All MC parents are invited to attend and sign up to participate in activities planned for the school year.

Books

Students must purchase books before coming to school. To allow more flexibility in purchasing books, MC is not working with Follet this year. Instead, we are suggesting online sites where books may be purchased at discount prices. When purchasing texts, please make sure to follow the instructions on the **Curriculum Guide** . Students should match their courses to the guide in order to purchase books. In addition, please be sure to check the ISBN numbers before purchasing any books. The options for purchasing are through the following suggested online sites:

[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

www.abebooks.com

www.sellbackyourbook.com

Uniforms

Malden Catholic requires uniform attire. This includes MC embroidered polo shirt, short or long sleeves for boys and girls, MC ties for boys, and MC embroidered V-neck sweater for girls. Uniforms must be purchased through Collegiate House and embroidered with the school logo.

School Store

The Malden Catholic School Store will be open until Wednesday September 1 and it has been designed to make the order processing easy for MC families.