



COVID-19 Preparedness Plan 2021-2022 School Year

Updated 9.16.2021

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: COVID-19 vaccines are not currently available to children under the age of 12. *At this time, masks will be required for **all students in school buildings with students in grades PreK - 5th**. Lourdes High School and the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Middle School will strongly recommend masks for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status.*

There will be situations when masking may be required at all campuses. 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, classrooms that do not allow for recommended distancing, 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, and will be reviewed periodically.*****

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. *Individuals who were masked and are asymptomatic are not recommended to quarantine regardless of vaccination status.*

Quarantine: Consistent with Olmsted County Public Health updated guidance, close contacts of positive cases in Rochester Catholic Schools will be required to quarantine.

- **Close Contact Defined:** Anyone within 3 feet of a positive case for more than 15 minutes cumulatively over a 24-hour period.
 - Close contacts who are vaccinated or were wearing a mask during the exposure period, do not have to quarantine. They will, however, need to wear (or continue to wear) a mask during the school day and during activities except when actively competing or practicing for 10 days while monitoring for symptoms.
 - Close contacts who are unvaccinated and unmasked will need to quarantine at home for 10 days. They can return on day 8 with a negative test on day 5, 6, or 7 as long as they are symptom free.

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 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.