



HOLY CHILD

SCHOOL AT

ROSEMONT

The joy of achievement

Updated Health and Safety Plan
2021-2022

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The health and safety of Holy Child's students, staff, and community will continue to be the first consideration in all decisions.
- Our approach to keeping the campus open will be a risk reduction strategy to reduce exposure and limit transmission. There is no such thing as "zero risk," in anything we do, and certainly not during a pandemic.
- Because the social and emotional benefits of (responsibly) having children back in school are crucial to their overall development, we continue to place high value on **in-person learning for all students Early Childhood-Grade 8, on a full-time schedule**. Virtual learning will only be offered for Lower school and Middle School in the event of a quarantine or isolation extending longer than 5 days and must be approved by the division directors.

Please note: Overall conditions remain fluid and as the situation changes locally, we may have to modify our approach. We will continue to monitor public health guidance-- primarily CDC guidelines and the [Montgomery County guidelines](#)-- as well as the guidance from our Pandemic Advisory Council, so that we can update this plan and our protocols as appropriate.

Health and Safety Protocols

- **Masks**
 - We will start the school year requiring indoor masking of students in grades Young Falcons - 8, faculty, and staff, regardless of vaccination status as recommended by the CDC and Montgomery County Department of Health.
 - Outdoor masking will be optional.
 - Masks must adhere to CDC recommendations for non-medical grade cloth face coverings. Gaiters are not permitted. (See [school dashboard](#) for details)
 - Parents must provide at least two clean masks for their child each day. This allows for an extra mask in the case that one rips or can no longer be used.
 - Masks are required to be worn while riding on school buses. We strongly recommend masks to be worn during carpooling to avoid having to quarantine in the event of a positive case.
- **Cleaning, Ventilation, Sanitizing**
 - Healthcare Services Group (HCSG) will continue to clean our buildings and deliver a healthcare-grade standard of cleaning for the school.
 - Similar to last year, the HVAC filtration system has been enhanced to meet current CDC recommendations. Outdoor learning will be utilized when possible as a mitigation effort and beneficial learning experience.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will remain in place throughout the school. Students will be educated about the importance of good hygiene. Handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer will be part of students' daily routine at school.

- **Visitor policy**
 - Visitors are permitted in the school and will be required to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.

- **Travel policy**
 - To maintain the community's health, we discourage voluntary travel to "hot spots," but if international or domestic travel is unavoidable, [CDC guidelines](#) must be followed.

- **Testing**
 - Similar to last year, we recommend the PCR tests as a return-to-campus requirement for any students, faculty, or staff suspected of having COVID-19. At this time, we will not be conducting surveillance testing. We will continue to consult with medical experts regarding the role that testing plays in our risk mitigation strategies this year. Binax Rapid Tests will be available (more information to follow) for symptomatic students, faculty, and staff as a screening tool primarily, but the PCR test remains the gold standard. You may be asked to have a follow-up test at an outside testing facility if COVID is suspected. All test results are to be sent to the school nurse prior to returning to school.
 - Testing may be required for students to participate in certain events, including sports and field trips. More information will be provided at a later date.

- **Sports, physical education, co-curricular activities**
 - We are resuming fall sports. Unlike last year, Middle School students will be required to change for gym class.
 - We will also offer clubs, some field trips, and other activities.

- **Lunch and snack time**
 - Lunch will take place in the cafeteria, classroom, or at designated outdoor areas on a rotating schedule (two grades at a time). Lower School students will have a "grab and go" pre-ordered online lunch option while Middle School students will have pre-purchase online lunch or same-day purchase options. Students will also have the option to bring their own lunch.
 - Snacks will be also provided in a "grab and go" format for each grade to minimize gatherings and delays.

- **School monitoring and responding to illness**
 - We will no longer be using the daily app questionnaire; therefore, parents will be required to closely monitor their child(ren) for symptoms before sending them to school. **Symptoms consistent with COVID-19 include: new runny nose or nasal congestion, new sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, new rash on fingers or toes, new shortness of breath, new cough, unusual fatigue, fever above 100.4 (or feeling feverish with chills or body aches), vomiting or diarrhea, or loss of appetite.**

- Students, faculty, and staff are not permitted to enter the building if COVID symptoms are present and will be sent home if suspected.
 - In order to prevent widespread infection, you must contact the school nurse if COVID symptoms are present or to report a positive case. The Health Office phone number is 610-922-1007.
 - The school nurse will conduct light contact tracing within the school community to the individuals that may have been exposed, and provide isolation/quarantine recommendations. We will take every measure to maintain the confidentiality of the affected individual.
 - If a student or staff member becomes ill at school they will be sent to the Health Office for immediate assessment by the school nurse and possibly sent home to follow up with a physician and/or for COVID testing. If a physician is able to rule out COVID, a doctor's note with documented reason for symptoms other than COVID must be provided to the school nurse in order to return to school.
 - **Again, to help prevent widespread infection, please respond immediately to any request to pick up your child early, and be sure that your emergency contacts are updated.**
- **Quarantine and Isolation requirements**
 - If diagnosed with COVID-19, please contact the school nurse and do not return back to school until the following: It has been at least 10 days since testing positive, AND no fever without use of anti-fever medicines (ex: Tylenol, Ibuprofen) for 24 hours, AND symptoms have improved, AND illness/situation/return date has been discussed with the school nurse.
 - Because everyone will be wearing masks, even when there is a positive case, we generally will not be quarantining classes. If there is a positive case reported within the class, students and teachers may return to school and will be required to get tested on day 5 to assure there was no community spread (*See Appendix A for Student and Teacher COVID-19 Response Flow Chart*). Testing may also be required earlier than day 5 depending on individual circumstances. Parents will be responsible to monitor their child for symptoms and if symptoms should arise, the child should stay home and contact the school nurse for guidance.
 - Each case will be reviewed with the guidance from the medical doctors on our Pandemic Advisory Council and communication will be sent when appropriate. The school will work closely with the local department of health concerning any positive cases.
 - Siblings of the COVID-positive student living in the same household will be required to quarantine for 15 days (*the 10 days that covid-positive sibling is infectious, plus 5 days for enough of a viral load to be detected by testing*). They may return to school after 15 days if they present a negative test result to the school nurse.
 - In the household of a confirmed positive case, a vaccinated individual will need to quarantine, monitor for symptoms for 5 days, and then test negative before returning to school (additional antigen and/or PCR testing after return may also be required).

- If the healthy sibling is no longer exposed, then a 5-7 day quarantine from the last known exposure may be necessary, with a negative test result required in that 5-7 day interval prior to returning to school.
 - If the healthy student becomes COVID-positive, a 10-day isolation period will begin.
 - Any student, faculty or staff member (regardless of vaccination status) that becomes symptomatic after exposure will be asked to get a test to determine if an isolation period is required.
- **Vaccination Requirements**
 - Vaccinations are another layer of mitigation for us to have as normal of a school year as possible; therefore, we **strongly encourage** the COVID vaccine for all students that are eligible. Please click [here](#) for the latest CDC vaccination guidance.
 - Faculty and staff are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Expectations At Home: Safety Practices Our Community Should Uphold

- **If anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19, please alert the school immediately and our school nurse will provide guidance. Additionally, if your child has a potential exposure to COVID-19 outside of the family, it is important that the school be made aware immediately.**
- **Stay Home if Sick:** If your child is sick, please do not send them to school. The symptoms of COVID-19 in children can vary greatly, including low-grade fever, sore throat, runny nose, coughing, and stomach ache or diarrhea.
- **Stay Home if Exposed:** If someone at home is sick and COVID-19 is possible, please do not send your child(ren) to school.
- **Follow Federal and State Orders:** It is expected that all families of the Holy Child community follow local orders, including the use of masks and physical distancing even when not in school, as these measures will reduce the likelihood of viral spread to the school.
- **Travel:** We are strongly recommending when you absolutely must travel outside of the state, that you please follow the recommendations of the CDC to protect the well-being of our community.
- **Face masks:** Teach your child how to use a mask properly, placed snugly over the nose, and make sure that they wear the mask to school. Also, wash the masks regularly if using fabric non-disposable masks. Reinforce the need to avoid touching your face.
- **Hand-washing:** Reinforce the need for frequent handwashing and hand sanitizer use at home.
- **Food and Drink:** Reinforce the idea that food and drink should not be shared with friends at school.
- **Personal Items:** Limit the number of personal items which are brought to school, especially those items that the child may place or hold against their face.

Appendix A

This flow chart is intended to provide a high-level understanding of how the school will handle students or staff members who test positive for the virus. Each case, however, is unique, which is why we will rely on the advice of the medical professionals on our Pandemic Advisory Council (a council composed of four local medical professionals and other parents and school administrators) as we evaluate each case individually.

Student and Teacher COVID-19 Response Flow Chart

