



## COVID-19 Preparedness Plan 2021-2022 School Year

Updated 3.11.2022

**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 are strongly recommended for all individuals at each RCS campus. Every individual must have a mask with them while on campus.*

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, 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.\*\*\****

The decision regarding masks was made with caution, while respecting individual differences, and in the very best interest of the students, staff, and families of RCS at the forefront.

***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 will be completed by a parent or guardian prior to entering any school building.

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, congestion, or runny nose
- Your child has a new loss of smell or taste
- Your child has chills, sore throat, or muscle aches

***Isolation:*** If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, he or she must have an *isolation period of five days* from the onset of symptoms or the positive test. *He/She can return on day six as long as his/her symptoms have diminished and have been fever-free for 24 hours and must wear a mask for 5 additional days.*

***Communication:*** Families will be required to report a positive case of COVID-19 to their school principal.

Updated 3.11.2022



**Contact Tracing:** Rochester Catholic Schools has discontinued the practice of contact tracing when there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in school. Families will be notified if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school, but students will no longer be identified as close contacts who are required to quarantine. We continue to ask families to be diligent in monitoring their children for symptoms, and to keep children at home if they are feeling ill.

**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 5 days. However, if the positive person cannot separate from their household members, quarantine of close contacts begins after the positive member of the household ends their isolation (this may be after day 5, or potentially longer depending on whether they continue to be symptomatic).

**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 three feet for students within school classes will be followed.

**Vaccinations for School-Age Students:** Individuals age five and older are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccines. Community sites continue to offer vaccinations to students aged five and up. The State of Minnesota Vaccine Locator tool allows searching by zip code, distance, age group, and more.

**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/Isolated Students:** Students who are required to quarantine/isolate and are able to complete school work will follow individual learning plans based on their building during their absence.