



INCARNATE WORD  
ACADEMY

S I N C E 1 8 7 1

COVID  
SAFETY  
GUIDELINES

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## Introduction

Incarnate Word Academy is committed to providing a healthy and safe environment that promotes the physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional wellbeing of all our students.

In coordination with our local health department and the Diocese of Corpus Christi, we will continue to closely monitor the changing circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. We strongly encourage all members of our Angel community to observe recommended personal health protective measures to help keep everyone healthy and reduce the spread of COVID-19. Some of the current recommendations from the CDC and public health experts include:

- Protect eligible family members with COVID-19 vaccinations
- Monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and stay at home if sick
- Wear a mask in indoor public spaces
- Avoid crowds
- Wash and/or sanitize hands frequently
- Cover your cough or sneeze

*The contents of the COVID-19 Campus Action Plan are subject to change based on campus and community transmission rates and updated guidelines/restrictions from local, state, and national agencies.*

## How to Help from Home

*Creating and maintaining a healthy campus environment is essential and is going to require everyone's support and participation. Families can teach and reinforce these safety protocols from home.*

### **Health and Wellness Pledge**

All families must commit to supporting IWA's health, wellness, and safety protocols and must agree to keep children home when they are not feeling well, have COVID-19 symptoms or have potentially been exposed. Each family will be required to complete the **IWA Health and Wellness Pledge** as part of registration prior to the start of school.

### **Healthy Hygiene**

Encourage frequent handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer. Practice coughing and sneezing in the elbow and stay home when you are sick.

### **Preventative Health Practices**

Continue regular doctor visits and well-child appointments. Keep immunizations and physicals current and encourage physical activity and time outside. Remember that immunizations must be current and on file at school prior to the first day. While COVID-19 vaccines are not required, providing documentation of COVID-19 vaccines will allow vaccinated individuals to avoid mandatory quarantine upon exposure.

## **Health Screenings & Campus Procedures related to COVID-19**

*Our first line of defense is you. We all must lower our threshold for deciding when it's necessary to stay home and when to keep our children home. If there is any sign of potential illness that could be COVID-19, we must not come to school. We as a community must work in partnership to safeguard our IWA family.*

### **Self-Monitoring for Symptoms of COVID-19**

Students, faculty, staff and visitors are asked to monitor daily for symptoms of infectious illness. Regardless of vaccination status or natural acquired immunity, any person exhibiting any of the following symptoms that are new and not normal for themselves should stay home and not come to campus: (Temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher, loss of taste or smell, cough, difficulty breathing, headache, fatigue, chills, sore throat, body aches/muscle pain, vomiting or diarrhea, congestion or runny nose)

**Response to COVID-19 Symptoms During Periods of High Community Levels** (Link to check community transmission rates can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>)

Students, faculty, or staff who develop any of the above symptoms need to stay home until they are fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications and meet one of the following three conditions:

1. They receive a physician's note that clears them to return to school
2. They have a negative COVID-19 test (proof of the negative test must be submitted to school office)
3. Five days have passed since symptom onset and symptoms have improved

*Home testing for COVID-19 is accepted as long as testing is done according to manufacturer's instructions. Name and date of testing must be written on the test and a photo of the negative test can be either printed out or emailed to the school office.*

Students, faculty, or staff who develop symptoms during the school day will be separated from others and sent home and may not return until one of the above conditions are met. In the absence of vomiting or fever, students, faculty, and staff may test at school (dependent upon the availability of in-school testing). As long as the test is negative, they may stay.

### **Response to COVID-19 Symptoms During Periods of Low/Medium Community Levels**

Students, faculty, or staff with vomiting or fever over 100 degrees must stay home until vomiting is resolved and they are fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications. For symptoms of COVID-19, testing is encouraged but is not required. *In cases of an active cough, a negative COVID-19 test or physician's note may still be requested depending on severity of symptoms.*

## **COVID-19 Positive Cases**

- In the event a student, faculty or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, please notify the school office as soon as possible. All schools in the State of Texas are required to report student and staff cases to the local health department.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 may return to school/work after the following conditions have been met:
  1. Five full days have passed from symptom onset (or from the date of the positive test in asymptomatic cases)
  2. Symptoms are improved or resolved and individual is fever-free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications.

*While not required, the CDC recommends mask usage for an additional five days when around others.*

## **Close-Contact with COVID-19**

Quarantine is no longer required for asymptomatic students, faculty and staff with known close contact exposure to COVID-19. However, individuals with close contact should monitor for symptoms and stay home if symptoms develop. Daily testing and wearing a mask around others is strongly recommended for five days from last contact. Parents may still opt to keep their student home in cases of known exposure for up to five days from the state of the last contact.

## **Masks and Face Coverings**

Students, faculty, staff and visitors may choose to wear a mask or face-covering at any time. During periods of high community levels, masks or face coverings are encouraged not required.

## **Response to Cases of COVID-19**

The number of COVID-19 cases at each level will be updated daily on the school web site (see the COVID-19 Updates under the “Campus Life” tab). In addition, IWA will send out email notifications to elementary classrooms and high-risk cohorts (such as athletic teams) when a case is reported within that classroom or cohort.