

A background image showing several young children in a classroom setting. They are sitting on the floor, some with their heads down, possibly resting or listening. There are bookshelves and classroom furniture visible in the background.

2021-2022

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines for Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

As we embark upon the new school year, the Catholic Schools Office has outlined below minimum COVID-19 safety guidelines for the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston effective July 28, 2021. These guidelines will be reviewed and updated as needed throughout the year based on the most up-to-date information available.

- ▶ All schools will provide in-person instruction.
- ▶ Site-based decisions will determine if masks will be optional for all students and employees, and masks are encouraged for those not vaccinated.
- ▶ Social distancing that maximizes the instructional experience for all students, by limiting close face-to-face contact, per the CDC guidelines.
- ▶ Quarantine requirements should follow CDC guidelines.
Note: Those who are fully vaccinated - students and employees - and asymptomatic do not have to quarantine.
- ▶ Schools will establish an appropriate health screening process for students, employees, volunteers, and visitors.
- ▶ Schools will establish cleaning procedures to include regular cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing of facilities.
- ▶ Schools should have students and employees continue with handwashing and hygiene protocols related to the prevention of the virus.
- ▶ Extra-curricular activities, including sports and clubs, field trips, and library services will resume. Transportation will be provided, as needed, by approved vendors.
- ▶ Volunteers/visitors will be allowed on campus only after being screened in accordance with the school's screening protocols.

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In order to mitigate the spread of the virus, we will continue to monitor vaccination rates, and guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCB ED), Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and public health officials, as we strive to provide safe and healthy learning environments for our students and keep our schools open with face-to-face instruction in the 2021-2022 school year.