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# Reopening Plan 2020–2021

Fall 2020

**MISSION STATEMENT - *We are a Catholic community welcoming students of all faiths, devoted to Gospel Values, Academic Excellence, and Christian Service.***

## GOALS

1. Health and well-being (physical, mental, emotional, social, spiritual) of students, staff, and their families
2. Academic growth and development of God-given talents

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our plans will not be perfect, and everyone will need to make some sacrifices and adjustments. Patience and kindness are what we need as we prepare to reopen school this fall. As we ease our way back into school this fall and practice new precautions and procedures, we must be patient and kind with ourselves and others.

- Decision making guided by our mission statement and prayers
- Treat one another with compassion and respect in words and actions
- Faith infused into our days to meet challenges with strength and celebrate successes with gratitude

## COMMUNICATION

### School Contact

Colleen Wenner, with consultation from others, will serve as COVID-19 School Program Coordinator. She will communicate concerns, challenges, closures, and updates. Please contact her with any questions or concerns.

## Help slow the spread



Wear a mask



Wash or sanitize  
your hands often



Stay 6 feet  
from others

## School Nurse

Jennifer Seeley is our school nurse who works with Nicollet County Public Health.

## Families

Consistent with applicable law and privacy policies, families self-report to the school if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days in accordance with health information sharing regulations for COVID-19. Open and honest communication will be critical in ensuring a safe environment for students and staff.

# HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

## Communication and Health Responsibilities

As with any school year, but especially this school year, it will be essential to monitor health and stay home when sick.

- Parents need to know the symptoms and complete daily health checks on their children.
- School staff needs to know the symptoms and have students come to the office for a temp and health check if concerning symptoms arise throughout the day.
- Parents will need to promptly pick up sick children to minimize the risk to other children and staff.
- Parents will need to follow the guidelines below for returning children to school.



### Prevent the Spread

## Staying Home and Returning to School Plan and Protocol

### I think or know I had COVID-19, and I had symptoms

You can be around others after:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared and
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- COVID-19 symptoms have improved (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

Most people do not require testing to decide when they can be around others; however, if your healthcare provider recommends testing, they will let you know when you can resume being around others based on your test results.

Note that these recommendations do not apply to persons with severe COVID-19 or with severely weakened immune systems (immunocompromised). These persons should follow the guidance below for "I

was severely ill with COVID-19 or have a severely weakened immune system (immunocompromised) due to a health condition or medication. When can I be around others?"

### **I tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms**

If you continue to have no symptoms, you can be with others after 10 days have passed since you had a positive viral test for COVID-19. Most people do not require testing to decide when they can be around others; however, if your healthcare provider recommends testing, they will let you know when you can resume being around others based on your test results.

### **If you develop symptoms after testing positive, follow the guidance above for "I think or know I had COVID-19, and I had symptoms."**

I was severely ill with COVID-19 or have a severely weakened immune system (immunocompromised) due to a health condition or medication. When can I be around others?

People who are severely ill with COVID-19 might need to stay home longer than 10 days and up to 20 days after symptoms first appeared. Persons who are severely immunocompromised may require testing to determine when they can be around others. Talk to your healthcare provider for more information. If testing is available in your community, it may be recommended by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will let you know if you can resume being around other people based on the results of your testing.

Your doctor may work with an infectious disease expert or your local health department to determine whether testing will be necessary before you can be around others.

### **For Anyone Who Has Been Around a Person with COVID-19**

Anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days after their last exposure to that person.

However, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who:

- developed COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months and
- has recovered and
- remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath) does not need to stay home.

## **Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:**



**Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.**

**Seek medical care immediately if someone has emergency warning signs of COVID-19.**

• Trouble breathing	• Inability to wake or stay awake
• Persistent pain or pressure in the chest	• Bluish lips or face
• New confusion	

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your healthcare provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

## **Symptoms of COVID-19**

## **Symptoms Chart**

## Cleanliness and Disinfecting

- Increase in routine cleaning and disinfecting of school with focus on frequently touched areas. Limiting the use of communal spaces.
- Increase availability of supplies and purposeful placement of them throughout the building.

## Hand Washing and Healthy Practices

Intentional teaching, practicing, and reinforcing of proper handwashing and coughing/sneezing practices.

## Face Covering

- Based on Executive Order (20-81), face coverings/masks are required for all people (K-6 and adults) within the school building and school busses. A physician's note is required for those who cannot wear face coverings (no reason needs to be given) and alternatives will be provided for those individuals.
  - Face coverings do not need to be worn during lunch or for outside classes and recesses. Face coverings will be worn during transitions.
  - Students should wear masks to and from school and have a back up mask in their lockers.
  - Face coverings will be worn inside the school building - hallways, classrooms, church, etc.
- Regular washing of face coverings should be completed at home.
- Little Angels students will not be required to wear face coverings. Our preschool program follows the guidelines provided for child care centers, and the children are 5 years old and younger.
- Types of allowable face coverings include: Paper or disposable mask, Cloth face mask, Scarf, Bandanna, Religious face covering
  - The covering should cover the nose and mouth completely, should not be overly tight or restrictive, and should feel comfortable to wear.
  - A face covering is not meant to substitute for social distancing, but is especially important in situations when maintaining a 6-foot distance is not possible.
  - Face coverings should not be placed on anyone under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance, or anyone who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition.



## How to Safely Wear Masks

## Physical Distancing

- Space seating/desks in the classroom 3-6 feet apart when feasible.
- Signs will be posted to encourage physical distancing.

## Water Bottles

Drinking fountains will not be used. Students are encouraged to bring water bottles with their names on them. They should be stored in their lockers throughout the day and taken home at the end of each day.

## OPERATIONAL PRACTICES

### Adaptability and Temporary Closures

- With an ever-changing reality, schools must be flexible and able to adapt to necessary changes to keep staff and students healthy and well.
- Preparedness for Temporary Closure – Schools may have to quickly pivot from in-person instruction to a distance learning model based on the realities of the school or local community.
  - Understand that if COVID-19 metrics worsen (locally or in facility), schools may need to implement distance learning as directed by local, regional, or state level agencies.
  - Implement procedures for closing of school. (Cleaning, communications, school care, etc.)

### Entrance and Dismissal

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to drop off and pick up at the school entrance and avoid entering the building.

### Health Checks

Parents are required to complete health checks with their children BEFORE leaving their homes in the morning. Parents know their children best which makes identifying sickness easier. Parents MUST keep their children home if they have any symptoms that may affect the well-being of other students and staff. This year it will be especially important to follow the guidelines of when to stay home and when it is ok to return to school. We understand that having children stay home or having to pick up a sick child at school can put parents in a challenging situation, but the health and safety of our school community is important and we need your cooperation.



[Health Screening](#)  
[Daily Home Screening](#)

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## Transportation

Yet to be determined if bussing will be an option for our students. Parents may be responsible for drop off and pick up.

## Liability Waivers

We are requiring parents to sign return-to-school liability waivers on behalf of their children. The purpose of this waiver is to acknowledge there are increased risks for this coming school year versus last year due to COVID. The school is following the guidance from the CDC and MDH to minimize these risks. These waivers will be at the Meet and Greet before school starts.

## Assessment

We will regularly assess the effectiveness of our COVID-19 policies and procedures and the compliance of those policies and procedures with applicable local, state and federal guidance and laws.

## Classroom Practices

- Ensure that student and staff groupings are as static as possible by having the same group of children stay with the same staff (as much as possible).
- Soft porous materials which are difficult to clean and disinfect will be removed from the classrooms, library, SAC, and other frequently used rooms.
- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
- Keep each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
- Add physical barriers if necessary, such as plastic flexible screens.

## Recesses

- All students (K-6) will have recesses at the same time because of limited staff to supervise.
- Students will have designated areas to play in to encourage staying in their core group/pods.
- Any equipment used will be cleaned after each use.
- Students will be encouraged to play games that limit equipment use and limit physical interactions with one another.

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## Lunch

- Students can bring their own meals or be served individually plated meals in our large social hall with social distancing. Our school cook will carefully plan meals which may include the repetition of easily prepared and/or pre-packaged products.
- Principal will record hot lunches and milk purchases instead of having students punch in lunch codes on the computer.
- No student helpers will be used during lunch time.
- Students will clear trays at staggered times and staff will assist younger students.
- Parent volunteers are welcome to come and help in the lunchroom, but they must notify the principal in advance.
- Birthday lunches are likely to change a bit but we will try to create something special for the birthdays each month.

## CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

### Curriculum Planning

- Whether in-person or in distance learning, teaching staff will make meeting individual academic needs a priority.
- Teachers will determine what is reasonable in the current situation.
- Teachers will adhere to the curriculum planning alignment of standards.

### Assessment and Feedback

Teachers will:

- Prepare to assist students with learning gaps and plan strategic interventions to re-teach and fill the gaps.
- Provide frequent feedback on priority objectives to students.
- Assure grades accurately reflect students' progress on standards rather than responsibility in completing tasks.
- Use of assessment measures to determine students' developmental and learning needs.

### Distance Learning - If Necessary

- If a class has a known positive COVID case and there was risk of exposure to other students and the teacher. This class will transition to distance learning for two weeks. Evaluate the situation before returning to in person instruction.
- If more than one class has a known positive COVID case and there was risk of exposure to multiple classes and teachers, the whole school will transition to distance learning for two weeks. Evaluate the situation before returning to in person instruction.
- With the distance learning model
  - No students will be at the school
  - All students will receive instruction via Google Classroom, Google Docs, Videos from Teachers, and Regular virtual meetings via Zoom or Google Meet.

- Core Subject Areas will be the focus - math, reading, language arts, religion
  - Teachers will create cross curricular lessons as much as possible so the other subject areas (listed below) can be part of the regular instruction and encourage continued growth in all academic areas
- Other Subject Areas will be encouraged but optional - science, social studies, art, phy-ed, and music
- As a Catholic school, faith will be infused into core and other area lessons, and opportunities for spiritual growth will be provided for families and not just students.
- We will also be monitoring the situation in our area and use the below chart as a guide to help determine the best method of instruction at any given time throughout the school year. The 14-day case rate is updated and shared every Thursday.

## **Recommended policy options based on 14-day case rate range**

### **Policy Option Range (14-day case rate per 10,000 people)**

<b>In-person learning for all students</b>	<b>0 to less than 10</b>
<b>Elementary in-person, Middle/high school hybrid</b>	<b>10 to less than 20</b>
<b>Both hybrid</b>	<b>20 to less than 30</b>
<b>Elementary hybrid, Middle/high school distance</b>	<b>30 to less than 50</b>
<b>Both distance</b>	<b>50 or more</b>

## **CREATING AND MAINTAINING COMMUNITY**

### **Relationships**

Relationship-building is a hallmark of Catholic education. Even amidst these unique changes, strong communication and relationships should remain a priority. At the very heart of our schools is the celebration of Mass, liturgies, and prayer- these integral pieces of Catholic education should be a priority in developing plans.

At this time we are not sure if we have kindergarten and sixth grade buddies, but we will be thinking creatively about options to create a connection between the grades, possibly a virtual connection if in person is not possible.

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## Events and Activities

Events and activities will be based on current conditions in our area and guidelines.

## Prayer Services and School Masses

Since our church has a large capacity and area to physical distance, we will continue to have weekly prayer services and weekly school Masses. Guests are welcome to attend as long as they are social/physical distancing and wearing face masks.

## Volunteering

Our plan is to limit the adults in the building to minimize risks. However, we value and appreciate our volunteers. Please check the weekly newsletter for opportunities to help throughout the school year.

## Support Coping and Resilience

- Encourage employees and students to take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories about COVID-19, including social media if they are feeling overwhelmed or distressed.
- Promote employees and students eating healthy, exercising, getting sleep, and finding time to unwind.
- Encourage employees and students to talk with people they trust about their concerns and how they are feeling.

### Anxiety or stress during COVID-19 is normal



Take  
breaks



Connect  
with others



Ask for  
help

**STAY SAFE MN**

## RESOURCES

Resource	Access / Use
Minnesota Department of Health	<p><a href="https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/">https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms</li> <li>- Masking Recommendations</li> <li>- Food Service Information</li> <li>- Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidance</li> </ul>
Center for Disease Control	<p><a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Screening checklist</li> <li>- Best practices in hand and respiratory etiquette</li> <li>- Cleaning and disinfecting guidance</li> <li>- Working with higher risk individuals</li> <li>- Congregated setting recommendations</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Planning Resources</b>	
American Academy of Pediatrics	<p><a href="https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/">https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendations for age categories</li> <li>- Recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting</li> <li>- Use of masks and PPE</li> <li>- Guidance on mental health of students and staff</li> </ul>

### 10 Things You Can Do At Home

#### Nicollet County Facebook Page

#### Nicollet County Website

#### 10 things you can do to manage your COVID-19 symptoms at home

If you have possible or confirmed COVID-19:

1. Stay home from work and school. And stay away from other public places. If you must go out, avoid using any kind of public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
2. Monitor your symptoms carefully. If your symptoms get worse, call your healthcare provider immediately.
3. Get rest and stay hydrated.
4. If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider ahead of time and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19.
5. For medical emergencies, call 911 and notify the dispatch personnel that you have or may have COVID-19.
6. Cover your cough and sneezes.
7. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
8. As much as possible, stay in a specific room and **away from others** in your home. Also you should have a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people in or outside of the home, wear a facemask.
9. Avoid sharing personal items with other people in your household, like dishes, towels, and bedding.
10. Clean all surfaces that are touched often, like counters, tables, doorknobs, and phones. Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.

**STAY SAFE MN**



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)