



# JACKSON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

## Academic Year 2021 – 2022 COVID Policy Revised: November 5, 2021

### Masks

- Faculty, staff, students, and visitors of Jackson Catholic Schools will not be required to wear masks at this time. Masks may be implemented as a temporary intervention strategy by individual schools during a time of high transmission within the school community.
- Any faculty, staff, students and visitors may choose to wear masks at any time, and will be respected with our core value of "Be Warm and Welcoming".

### Social Distancing

- Social distancing will be maintained as much as possible where it does not detract from the core mission of the activity. For example, if students are listening to a presentation in the gym, they may be spaced apart. If students need to collaborate in a small group for learning, they may be closer together.

### Quarantine

- Because we are loosening our masking and social distancing restrictions to positively nurture the learning and community environment, more quarantining may be required if any positive COVID-19 cases occur in the school environment.
- Those determined to be a close contact of someone positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine. Parents may choose to have their children quarantine for 7 days from the time of the close contact with a negative COVID test on day 6 or 7 OR to quarantine for 10 days from the time of the close contact.
  - Close contacts are defined as:
    - Within 3 feet for more than 15 minutes, whether wearing a mask or not.
    - Within 3-6 feet if one or both people are not wearing a mask.
    - Because most classrooms are designed to be 3 feet apart, classmates are generally not required to quarantine if masks are being used.
- Anyone who (1) is two weeks past a completed vaccination schedule (second shot for Pfizer/Moderna or single shot for Johnson and Johnson) or (2) has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days will NOT be required to quarantine if they are a close contact of someone positive for COVID-19.
- Missing classwork will be provided for all those in quarantine.

### Vaccinations

- Vaccinations are currently available for those 5 and older.
- To be eligible to be exempt from quarantine, vaccinations must be recorded in MCIR, the state reporting mechanism for all immunizations (this happens automatically at the time of vaccination, with no action needed by the participant).

### Absence and Wellness Policies

- Because we are being less stringent on front-end policies like masking, we must be very careful with illness! If faculty, students, or staff exhibit any COVID-symptoms (including coughing, sore throat, shortness of breath, fever, diarrhea, or headache) they must stay home. This includes community members who are vaccinated and unvaccinated.
- We hope to be responsive to community transmission with required testing for return from illness:
  - If community transmission is lower (yellow or green, medium or lower) on COVIDACTnow.org for Jackson County, then no testing is required to return to school and faculty, staff, or students can return as soon as symptoms resolve.

- If community transmission is higher (yellow-orange to red, moderate or higher) on COVIDACTnow.org for Jackson County, then a negative COVID test is required to return to school if a student, staff, or faculty member is exhibiting flu-like symptoms. Of course, students who prefer not to test may remain out for 10 days following the start of symptoms instead of testing.
- Tests are available with a 24-hour turn-around for free at many local partners, including Henry Ford, Walgreen's, Center for Family Health, and MedExpress. Home COVID rapid tests with 15-minute results are now available for about \$15 each at local pharmacies. These rapid tests require a swab only in the lower nostril and can be completed at home.
- Students are excused from the 10-day absence requirement for the year, as required to stay home with flu-like symptoms or in quarantine.
- Please inform the school immediately when your student is sick, if anyone in your house has tested positive for COVID-19, or if your student has been a close contact of someone positive for COVID-19.

#### Policy Review

- The Jackson Catholic School administration and its board of trustees will conduct a comprehensive policy review over the 2021 holiday season. Any amendments to the policy will be based on the most up-to-date county and school data.