



**Jackson Catholic Schools
Academic Year 2021 – 2022 COVID Policy
Effective Date: January 1, 2022**

Masking

- In general, masks will not be required effective January 1, 2022.
- Should a school experience an acceleration in positive cases, the school administration will send an alert to parents recommending that students wear a mask as a preventative measure.
- If community transmission rises to the level of “Extreme” in Jackson County per the CovidActNow.org tracking site (above 75 daily new cases per 100,000), then the administration of each school, in consultation with the Pastors, will review school data. Lumen Christi will consult with the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees or their designate. Consequently, masks may be required at one or more of our JCS schools until the Monday following a return to a lower transmission level.
- Please refer to the following link for the most current information:
https://www.covidactnow.org/us/michigan-mi/county/jackson_county/?s=27251612
- At all times when masks are optional, faculty, staff, students, and visitors will be respected with our core value of "Be Warm and Welcoming," regardless of their decision to mask or not mask.

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.

Symptoms and Positive Cases

- Students with a positive test are required to isolate
- A Positive COVID student is required to isolate for 10 days from symptom onset or positive test result. (MDHHS requirement for schools)
- If a student is a close contact and is symptomatic, they must isolate as a probable COVID case. Please refer to the attached most common symptoms or signs.
- A student with COVID symptoms is required to take a COVID test to return to school. Rapid testing may be available at the school if available.

No Quarantining

- Jackson Catholic Schools no longer requires quarantining for students determined to be a close contact and not showing symptomatic signs.
- Jackson Catholic Schools will continue to contact trace and notify parents via email if their child has been exposed.
- Please see attached notification.

Students Who Are a Close Contact Due to a Positive Family Member

- If the positive family member is isolated away from the family and the student is not showing signs or symptoms, the student can return to school.
- If the positive family member cannot isolate away from the rest of the family, family members will need to quarantine.
- If students are vaccinated and not showing signs or symptoms, they can return to school.

DEFINITIONS

Close contacts

- Anyone within three feet of a Covid-positive person for more than fifteen minutes, whether wearing a mask or not, is considered a close contact.
- Anyone within three to six feet of a Covid-positive person for more than fifteen minutes, if at least one is not wearing a mask, is considered a close contact.
- Because most classrooms are designed to be three feet apart, classmates are generally not required to quarantine if masks are being used.

Fully Vaccinated

- 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 or CDC recommendations.

Absence and Wellness Policies

- Because we are being less stringent on front-end policies like masking and quarantining, we must be very careful with illness. If faculty, students, or staff exhibit any COVID-symptoms (see most common symptoms and signs), 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) 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, red, or burgundy) 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 instead remain out for 10 days following the start of symptoms.
- Tests are available with a 24-hour turnaround 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 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.

COMMON SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS

Acute onset or worsening of at least two of the following symptoms or signs:

- Fever (measured or subjective)
- Chills
- Rigors
- Myalgia
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Congestion or runny nose

OR

Acute onset worsening of anyone of the following symptoms or signs:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Olfactory disorder
- Taste disorder
- Confusion or change in mental status
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone
- Inability to wake or stay awake.

If the close-contact symptomatic student is sent to school and meets the guidelines above, they will be sent home to isolate for 10 days.

If the student receives an alternative diagnosis from their physician (allergies, asthma, etc.) the student can return to school with a doctor's note. If the alternative diagnosis is a communicable disease (strep, influenza, etc.), the communicable disease guidelines for schools will be followed.

Notification to Parent

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child was in close contact with a student or staff member on _____ who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Each case of COVID-19 is reviewed by one of our Jackson Catholic Schools. As part of our review, the following protocols are in place:

- The person diagnosed is kept home from school until they are no longer infectious.
- Vaccination status of close contacts is assessed.
- Close contacts of the person with COVID-19 are recommended to stay home from school for 10 days after the exposure.

If your student being a close contact decides to quarantine, please contact the school office to let us know.

If your child develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

- Keep your child home from school and avoid other activities around other people.
- Seek medical care and testing for COVID-19.
- Quarantine your student.

Public health may recommend, or you may choose, to have your child tested for COVID-19 a week after they were around the person with COVID-19, even if your child does not have symptoms.