



COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR PSR FALL, 2021

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.
- Masks are required for all individuals, age two and older, while indoors at the beginning of the year for all religious education programs.
- Programs should maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask-wearing, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, it is especially important to continue with multiple prevention strategies (hand sanitizing, masking, hand washing, etc.)
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide each location.
- Masking is required of all passengers and drivers on buses and other transportation used for a program-related activity.

Diocesan Guidelines for Catholic Schools and Parish Religious Education Programs:

Starting in the fall of the 2021 school year, all schools and religious education programs will return to in-person learning with a normal schedule. The Diocese has adopted the above recommendations from the CDC.

Because layered mitigation approaches have proven to be most successful, things such as three (3) feet social distancing, consistent and appropriate mask wearing, hand washing, cleaning, disinfecting, and quarantining should continue when appropriate. The Diocese will continue to work with local administrators and local health departments to continuously evaluate COVID protocols and will adjust mitigation efforts and recommendations for individual locations when necessary.

Vaccination

Receiving the vaccine is a family decision that should be made in consultation with the family's physician. Vaccination status may not be a requirement of eligibility to attend any event or to be a member of any parish/school organization. Public identification of vaccination status is not allowed, and no action should be taken against, or required of, an individual employee or child because of their vaccination status. Families may be asked to voluntarily inform their location of their child's COVID 19 vaccination status but are not required to provide this information. The only exception to this is in the case of an outbreak or exposure situation, in which case, quarantining and safety decisions need to be taken to protect those who are unvaccinated. In such a circumstance, every precaution should be made not to publicly identify the vaccination status of individuals.