October 5, 2021

St. Joseph’s Catholic School families,

Because COVID-19 is still a part of our everyday lives, St. Joseph’s School continues to be prepared to keep our students and staff healthy and safe. Some practices and guidelines that we implemented last year will no longer be in effect, while some will remain in place.

Despite taking every precaution outlined in our plan, there is no guarantee that our school will be without risk of students and staff contacting COVID-19. We continue to ask that our families partner with us to reduce the risk, both in and out of school. While these actions may not prevent a student or staff member from coming in contact with COVID-19, our desire is to diminish the risk.

We have researched and worked diligently to create a Health and Safety Plan that will assist us in accomplishing a safe and healthy school environment. The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. With guidance from the Bismarck Diocese, Upper Missouri District Health Unit, North Dakota Department of Education, our teachers and staff, School Board, and parental input we will continue to strive to evaluate each situation and make thoughtful decisions.

The following precautions are basic steps to remain open and continue in-school learning:

1. Handwashing/sanitizing personal surfaces
2. Practicing appropriate physical distancing
3. Remaining home if one has symptoms

We realize there may be additional questions regarding this plan. Please contact the school, and we will answer your questions the best that we can.

Thank you for taking time to review St. Joseph’s School Health and Safety Plan.

God Bless!

Julie Quamme

St. Joseph’s Catholic School Principal

**While many of these symptoms may present themselves as other illnesses, this checklist is designed to use as a checklist for symptoms EVEN IF the child has NOT had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.**

**Has your child had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Does your child have new or worsening shortness of breath?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Does your child have a new or worsening cough?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Does your child have a fever of 100.4 or greater?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Does your child have chills?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Does your child have a sore throat?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Does your child have a new loss of taste or smell?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Does anyone in the household have any of these symptom**s?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, **DO NOT** send your child to school. Contact your healthcare provider and your child’s school to inform them of your child’s absence.



If you are able to answer **NO** to ALL questions, please send your child to school.



**Health and Mitigation Procedures**

St. Joseph’s Catholic School is committed to providing a healthy and safe work environment for all who enter our schools. The following guidelines outline the school’s plan to respond to COVID-19.

**MASKS**

* St. Joseph’s School, in consultation with NDDohH (North Dakota Department of Health), will follow the guidance recommendation. All students, staff, and visitors will continue to have the option to wear masks as a mitigation strategy for COVID-19.

**Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

* Wash with soap and water for 20 seconds after using the restroom, blowing your nose, sneezing, or coughing.
* If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer (provided in all classrooms and common spaces).
* Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
* Students and staff are encouraged to wash their hands frequently throughout the day.
* Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
* Throw tissues away and wash hands or use hand sanitizer to prevent spread.

**Clean and disinfect**

* School staff and students should clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces often.
* Custodial staff will clean classrooms daily.
* All classrooms should be fogged on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

**Monitor your health daily**

* Staff and students who are sick should stay home.
* Temperatures of symptomatic students or staff may be taken at the school office.

**Traditional Learning**

All in-person learning will be the method of instruction unless circumstances prevent the school from staying open. Teachers and students maintain a daily schedule. Preventative practices will be enforced to ensure staff and student safety.

**Health & Safety Protocols**

**Student and Staff Health**

Monitoring the health of students and staff will be an important component of a safe and healthy educational environment. St. Joseph’s Catholic School will take the following measures to ensure all students and staff are healthy while they are at school.

**Identifying Students and Staff at Higher Risk**

* **Students**: If a child is at-risk, based on a health professional’s diagnosis, it is the parent/guardian’s responsibility to notify the school. This information will be provided to the Principal (COVID-19 Coordinator) who will contact the family and discuss instructional model options.
* **Staff:** If an employee is at-risk, based on a health professional’s diagnosis, it is the employee’s responsibility to notify the principal.
* When NDDoH informs the school of a student or staff member that is COVID-19 positive, that information will be communicated to the principal and appropriate individuals as allowable within the school policy and law.

**Isolation and Quarantine**

Definitions

* Isolation – A preventative strategy used to separate a person who is sick with the virus from healthy people.
* Quarantine – A preventative strategy used to monitor a person who is not sick but has been exposed to the virus for a period of time.
* St. Joseph’s Catholic School will follow isolation and quarantine guidelines and directives as set by the NDDoH.

**Return to School**

* A student or staff member will be allowed to return to school as directed by the NDDoH Guidelines, which includes being fever free for a minimum of 72 hours without fever-reducing medication.

**Students and Staff who test positive for Covid-19**

In the event there are Covid-19 cases among students or staff, targeted closures may be required (i.e. class, grade, department). Other classrooms may remain open.

A letter will be sent home to notify parents that a positive case was identified in their child(ren)’s classrooms. There may be times that a letter will be sent home to all parents within the school stating that positive cases of Covid-19 have been identified.

Students and staff that have been identified as being a “close contact” will be notified by the Administration. The Administration will determine, based upon length of contact, if the student/staff member will need to stay home to quarantine or wear a mask for a period of 7 days. All determinations will be under the consultation of the North Dakota Department of Health.