



SAINT PATRICK SCHOOL OPENING PLAN 2021-2022 Health and Safety Protocol

School Location: Saint Patrick School
87 Marsh Drive, Carlisle, PA
Updated 9/3/2021

Date of Opening: August 23, 2021

Saint Patrick School will continually review this plan in light of the Diocese, CDC, and Department of Health guidelines and in collaboration with school principals. (last update: September 1, 2021)

Health & Safety Team

Fr. Donald Bender, Pastor
Antoinette Oliverio, Principal
Mary Gronkiewicz, Nurse
Jay Raines, Middle School Science Teacher

SAINT PATRICK SCHOOL GUIDELINES

Acknowledgement Forms:

All parents will be required to sign an updated “acknowledgements and notices” form, a document which states that you have read and will follow this Health and Safety Protocol, before the start of the 2021-22 school year.

Weekly Data Collection:

Saint Patrick School will continue to complete the weekly survey from the Office of Catholic Schools on Covid-related matters until further notice in order to ensure consistent data collection efforts. The re-opening committee at the Diocese of Harrisburg will review the data weekly and will consider adjusted mitigation strategies, if necessary, for the following school week for each school.

Virtual Learning - Individual Request:

Permission must be given for students to attend virtually in the 2021-22 school year. We believe it is best to have our students in school in person, whenever possible.

Parents may apply to the *Re-opening Committee of the Diocese of Harrisburg* (not the principal, Mrs. Oliverio) for consideration for virtual education. The application includes completion of a Google Form and an email including the needed medical documentation. Only medically-documented reasons will be considered. When the re-opening committee receives the application, the committee will consult with the building principal on the matter. The application, pertinent dates and email link can be found [here](#).

Virtual Learning - Response to Exposure:

If quarantine is needed for a group of students, Saint Patrick School will strive to accommodate that group through a combination of virtual and traditional learning methods. Saint Patrick School will be prepared to offer virtual instruction in case an entire class needs to be quarantined.

Temperature & Symptom Checks:

Temperature checks will not be done on a daily basis; rather, they will be reserved for screening potentially ill students or faculty and staff.

- Parents will be asked to be vigilant in checking students for symptoms of illness and to keep students home when ill.
- As details of specific symptoms of concern are known, Saint Patrick School will advise parents of any symptoms that require students to remain at home.
- Faculty and staff are asked to do a daily self-check for symptoms.

Social Distancing:

Students are expected to be three feet apart in the classroom, to the extent feasible.

Masks:

Masks **will** be required in Saint Patrick School for faculty, staff and students.

Vaccines:

Vaccines will not be required for anyone.

- Those vaccinated will not be required to quarantine if exposed to Covid.

Record of Vaccines:

The nurse will need to know the vaccination status of the people in the buildings in order to be aware of the overall health situation

in the schools and to be able to make quarantine decisions, if needed.

- Faculty and staff in our schools will inform the nurse/principal about their vaccination status at the proper time and through the proper channels.
- Parents of students are encouraged to let the nurse know if their child/ren have been vaccinated. This can be put in writing via email or handwritten and sent to the school nurse.
- In all cases, Saint Patrick School will take every reasonable precaution to safeguard the privacy and dignity of all students, faculty and staff regarding vaccination status.

Quarantines:

We will await more information from the state to see if contact tracing and quarantine are required at all for those students and faculty and staff who are exposed to a Covid-positive person. We will assume that we will operate as we did in 2020-21 unless told otherwise.

Therefore, unvaccinated faculty, staff or students who are exposed to a Covid-positive person will need to quarantine based on time frames established by the CDC and adopted by the State of Pennsylvania. Fully vaccinated faculty, staff and students will NOT need to quarantine, and no contact tracing is needed. Clearly, any student or faculty or staff member who tests positive for Covid must quarantine, with the length of the quarantine to be determined by the Board of Health. Guidance can be found here:

[COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation](#)

Parents, visitors and volunteers:

Parents, volunteers and other visitors will be allowed in school.

- All visitors and volunteers will be asked to wear masks.
- Signage will be posted prominently in the lobby/office indicating that parents, visitors and volunteers in our school are asked to wear masks while in the school.

Cleaning:

Areas in school for common use -- that is, used regularly by multiple groups within the school -- need to be cleaned regularly.

- Gyms, band and chorus areas, and any other spaces used by multiple school groups will be cleaned in the middle of the week, ideally, but at least once a week.
- Lunchroom surfaces need to be sanitized between lunch shifts.
- Classroom desks and high-traffic areas will be cleaned daily at the end of the school day.

Ventilation:

Saint Patrick School will make every effort to provide as much ventilation as possible in each classroom, as we did in 2020-21. Leaving windows and doors open in an appropriate manner is the simplest approach.

Handwashing and hygiene:

Students will be asked to wash/sanitize hands at sensible times, as always: at start and end of the school day, before and after lunch, when they have sneezed or used the restroom, and as needed. Water fountains may not be used; however, water filling stations may be used. We ask that students bring water bottles to school daily.

Field trips:

Reasonable field trips can be taken in the local area and that decision resides with the school. Proposed trips beyond the local area are to be brought to the Diocese of Harrisburg's Secretary for Education for discussion. However, the responsibility to vet the locations and situations encountered on these trips resides with the school. Saint Patrick School will do homework and be sure of the situation students will encounter during the field trip: crowded areas, etc. -- and will prepare appropriately.

Social, emotional and spiritual care for students:

We need to make sure, at Saint Patrick School, that we are carefully monitoring student learning and providing all possible resources to meet individual learning needs and to provide the best resources for social, emotional and spiritual growth for our students. As we did last year, we will take a team approach in our school: the school nurse, counselor, and priests will bring powerful resources to benefit our students. That team will need close collaboration with parents and with teachers, who know the needs of their students well.

Groupings: cohorts, assemblies, Mass, small group work

While we will not start the year with the strict cohorting system as last year, Saint Patrick School will plan the daily interaction of student groups. We will determine the range of those groups. In the end, if there is a potential exposure to Covid, we need to know how to proceed. As an example: a school may decide that one group will be grades K-2, as they need to eat lunch at the same time.

Saint Patrick School may have small groups work together within the classroom, maintaining the three-foot distance, to the extent feasible.

Groupings - Cafeteria:

The cafeteria may be used. To the extent feasible, students should be three feet apart in the cafeteria. Commonly-used surfaces in the cafeteria must be cleaned between lunch shifts. A clean and simple approach for the school is to make the groups mentioned above the same as the lunch groups that share the cafeteria.

Groupings - Assemblies:

Saint Patrick School may have assemblies, as needed. As assemblies will bring together more than one school group, we will start with a small number of assemblies in the first quarter of the school year, until we see the overall impact.

Groupings - Mass:

School Masses will continue, as per Diocese of Harrisburg guidelines for Mass.



September 1, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians in our Catholic Schools:

We pray this letter finds you and your families well and excited for this new school year! Thank you for your ongoing support, partnership and belief in Catholic education during this challenging time.

As you are aware, our School Reopening Committee worked thoughtfully and prayerfully this summer to develop a health and safety plan. That plan honored the decisions of parents and guardians as the primary educators of their children. However, yesterday, the Pennsylvania Department of Health announced that masks will be required in all K-12 schools, private, parochial and public, for students, faculty and staff when indoors, effective September 7, 2021.

Throughout the pandemic, we have followed every state mandate, and, when developing our safety plan for this school year, stated that we would continue to follow state COVID-19 mandates. We understand there are various positions and feelings regarding masking, but, as we have a mandate that applies to parochial schools, our cooperation is required. As such, ***face masks will be required for all students, faculty, staff, visitors, et al., when indoors in all 36 Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Harrisburg, regardless of vaccination status, effective Tuesday, September 7, 2021.*** Based on the Department of Health's mandate, our masking protocols include:

- A face mask, covering the mouth and nose, must be worn by all students, teachers, staff and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, when inside our Catholic schools.
- Face masks are not required when:
 - Wearing a mask would cause a medical condition or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues, mental health conditions or a disability.
 - In these cases, a face shield is recommended to be worn.
 - Engaging in an activity that cannot be performed while masked, like eating and drinking or playing a musical instrument.
 - Participating in physical education classes and athletic practices or events, whether indoor or outdoor.
 - The individual is under two (2) years of age.

Our Catholic schools will follow CDC guidelines in the event of a COVID exposure. As guidelines are reviewed and updated, we will share these updates.

Let us celebrate the gift of this school year with joy, and, together, find opportunities to bring God's children closer to Christ. May God bless you and your family.

In Christ,

Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer
Bishop of Harrisburg

Mr. Daniel Breen
Secretary for Education
Superintendent of Catholic Schools