



Health and Safety Plan

St. Peter's Catholic School
2021-2022

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Introduction

Statement from Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone

The following guidelines were developed to support the reopening of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Charleston for the 2021-2022 school year. These guidelines were established in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control, state, and local recommendations for opening schools. A broad stakeholder group helped develop these recommendations and solicited feedback from teachers, parents, principals and pastors.

The areas of focus within this plan include:

Re-Opening

- Following Applicable state and local orders
- Providing reasonable protections for those at higher risk for severe illness
- Screening for symptoms and history of exposure

Health & Safety

- *Vaccinations: All eligible staff and students are encouraged to receive the vaccination for COVID-19, in consultation with their personal physician.*
- Require healthy hygiene practices such as handwashing and the wearing of cloth facemasks by employees and students, as needed.
- Maintain cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation.
- Implement social distancing through increased spacing, small groups and limited mixing between groups.
- Train all employees on health and safety protocols.

Ongoing Monitoring

- Develop and implement procedures to check for signs and symptoms of illness in students and employees daily.
- Encourage anyone who is sick to stay home. Have a plan for when students or employees come to school sick or become sick.
- Monitor developments and regularly communicate with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures.
- Monitor student and employee absences.
- Be ready to consult with local health authorities if there are cases in the facility or an increase in cases in the local area.

Academic Practices & Recommendations

- In developing schedules, priority must be given to ensuring the health, safety, and wellness of students and staff. This requires aligning all scheduling decisions with the latest recommendation and guidance from public health officials about best practices for preventing the spread of COVID-19.
- The lowest minimum social distancing for classrooms is 9 square feet per person. Masks are not required as long as students maintain 3 feet of social distancing. Anyone not vaccinated is encouraged to wear a mask.
- Teaching methodologies such as group work, labs, centers, etc., should continue, but a minimum of 3 feet of social distancing must be maintained, with masks being an option.
- Desks and other touched surfaces must be cleaned regularly.
- The sharing of materials is discouraged.
- School leaders will maintain/update a Distance Learning Plan that can be implemented if the school needs to close and switch to virtual learning. All Distance Learning Plans must contain procedures for how to track and document student engagement and attendance.

- School Leaders will train students in the use of whatever platform will be implemented to deliver virtual instruction.
- Equip classrooms with the equipment necessary to livestream instruction daily to students that are participating from home due to illness or mandatory quarantine.
- Volunteers and visitors are permitted. Masks recommended.

Re-Opening Guidelines

St. Peter's Catholic School's reopening plan and guidelines are consistent with applicable state and local orders. St. Peter's Catholic School is prepared to protect children, staff, and teachers at higher risk for severe illness. Protections are in place for both children and adults.

High Risk Groups	<p>People 65 years or older</p> <p>People of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well-controlled, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma • Serious heart conditions • Immunocompromised. Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immunodeficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications • Severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher) • Diabetes • Chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis • Liver disease
Accommodations, considerations for staff & students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear masks • Strongly recommend vaccination in consultation with medical professional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff requests for accommodations will be reviewed with Human Resources • Care plans will be updated and accessible

Our school is prepared to screen students and employees for symptoms and history of exposure to coronavirus:

Health Checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and staff are encouraged to stay home if they are sick. Parents are encouraged to keep sick children at home. • Teachers will monitor their students for possible illness upon arrival to class. • Any health check (e.g. temperature screening and/or symptoms checking) of staff and students will be done safely, respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws or regulations. <i>Confidentiality will be maintained.</i>
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Watch for Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor students and staff for symptoms. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure: Fever or chills Cough Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing Fatigue, muscle or body aches Headache New loss of taste or smell Sore throat Congestion or runny nose Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
Screening for History of Exposure	<p>Prior to returning to school, we will screen students/staff for a history of exposure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have staff or students tested positive for COVID-19? • Released from isolation and quarantine (10-14 days)? • Note from healthcare provider to return? • Have staff or students had a known exposure to COVID-19?

Guidelines are posted and communicated for staying home when ill:

Requirement to Stay Home When Sick	<p>St. Peter's Catholic School will require families and staff to sign a Statement of Understanding regarding safety protocols.</p> <p>A communication plan has been developed for staff and families to stay home if ill.</p> <p>Anyone who:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tested positive for COVID-19 or shows symptoms; or 2. Came into close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 must stay home.
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St. Peter's Catholic School has established a procedure in case someone comes to school with symptoms or develops symptoms:

Isolating if Ill	St. Peter's Catholic School will have a room to isolate and monitor children or staff that are showing symptoms of illness during the day.
Not Allowing Entry to Someone Symptomatic	If a student or faculty member is identified as being symptomatic during the school day, administration has the authority to deny that person entry into the school building.

Isolation and Quarantine Measures	<p>St. Peter's Catholic School will require that both staff and students not return until they have met specific criteria to return:</p> <p>Isolation: for those diagnosed by test of physician with COVID-19</p> <p>An employee or student must isolate until they have met the isolation requirements established by the CDC/DHEC and have a note from a health care provider that they are allowed to return to normal activity.</p> <p>Quarantine: for those exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19</p> <p>Please see: DHEC Covid19 Contact Guidance https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-contact-guidance</p>
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Health & Safety Guidelines and Recommendations

St. Peter's Catholic School will require healthy hygiene practices, such as handwashing, and require employees and students to wear cloth face masks, as feasible.

Handwashing and Sanitizing	<p>Each classroom will provide times and opportunities for students and staff to wash their hands often (<i>with soap and water for at least 20 seconds</i>), especially after being in a public place, blowing nose, coughing or sneezing.</p> <p>St. Peter's Catholic School will maintain adequate soap and hand sanitizer (60% alcohol) throughout the school.</p> <p><u>Note:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty will remind students frequently to not touch their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. • St. Peter's Catholic School teachers will teach and reinforce washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, rules of engagement, and social distancing. • There will be a hand sanitizing station in the front lobby for students to sanitize their hands immediately upon entry. <p>St. Peter's Catholic School will disseminate a paper for families outlining expected hygiene practices and rules for parents to go over with their child(ren) prior to school starting.</p>
Supplies to Support and Encourage Handwashing	<p>Soap and paper towels will be available in all restrooms and at all sinks.</p> <p>Tissues will be made available and accessible in classrooms and at all sinks.</p> <p>Trash cans will be emptied daily, or frequently if needed.</p> <p>Hand Sanitizer will be available in multiple spaces: classrooms, hallways, doorways, outside offices, entrances to building</p>
Face Coverings	<p>Students and Staff Wearing Face Coverings</p> <p>The lowest minimum social distancing for classrooms is 9 square feet per person. Masks are not required as long as students maintain 3 feet of social distancing. All staff and students who are vaccinated and unvaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear a mask when indoors.</p>

	<p>**CDC Guidance- Given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, CDC has updated the guidance for fully vaccinated people. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html</p> <p>It is strongly encouraged that students wear masks anytime they are doing group work and social distancing cannot be maintained.</p> <p>There may be times during the school year when masks may be required, such as during large group gatherings or when there is an elevated spread of COVID-19 in the school or local community. This will be at the discretion of the principal in consultation with the pastor, advisory council and the Catholic Schools Office. All students and staff must have masks readily available.</p> <p>Staff and students will not be allowed to use a face mask meant for a healthcare worker (N95, etc.)</p> <p>Staff and students throughout the day must continue to keep about 3 feet between themselves and others. A cloth face covering is not a substitute for social distancing.</p> <p>If parents want their children to wear masks throughout the day, teachers should encourage compliance.</p> <p>Acceptable Face Coverings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloth face coverings including masks, gaiters, etc. • Paper/surgical masks • Face Coverings <i>can be purchased at Lands End but any mask from home is acceptable</i> <p>Cloth face coverings should be washed daily at home.</p> <p>Frequent Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will face coverings/masks be available in the building, or will students and staff bring their own? Students masks will be made available through LandsEnd. Disposable masks will be available for students who lose, damage, or forget their own. ○ Will masks be made available if someone loses it, damages it, or forgets it? Yes
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Cleaning, Disinfecting, & Ventilation

St. Peter's Catholic School will increase cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilation efforts.

Cleaning & Disinfecting if Someone is Ill	<p>All guidance for cleaning and disinfection comes from the CDC.</p> <p>St. Peter's Catholic School will ensure the school has appropriate cleaning products.</p>
Ensure Appropriate Ventilation	<p>St. Peter's Catholic School will make sure there is proper ventilation in all classrooms and student/staff areas. The HVAC is regularly maintained and HVAC filters regularly replaced.</p> <p>Classrooms windows/ doors may be opened for additional ventilation.</p>

Social Distancing

St. Peter's Catholic School will implement social distancing through increased spacing, small groups and limited mixing between groups. Individuals should stay at least 3 feet (one arm length) from other people.

Classrooms	<p>The lowest minimum social distancing for classrooms is 9 square feet per person. Masks are not required as long as students maintain 3 feet of social distancing.</p> <p>Additional measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Configure the classroom with students facing in one direction. • Space out the desks. • Teachers can set up their desk in front of classroom and distance themselves behind the desk as an additional measure. • Assign cubbies or lockers to each child for individual use and storage of items (<i>no co-mingling or sharing</i>).
Hallways	<p>Social distancing will be maintained, and students and staff will mask in hallways when social distancing cannot be maintained.</p> <p>Additional measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Markers along the floors/walls to indicate 3 feet. ○ Clear delineation of hallways between 2-way traffic.
Avoid Sharing Materials & Objects	<p>Sharing must be avoided. Staff will disinfect frequently if items must be shared.</p>
Lunchroom	<p>Use of the cafeteria and/or other spaces is allowed with social distancing requirements implemented. Regular cleaning and sanitizing must be followed after each lunch period.</p> <p>It is recommended to use single-serve containers for lunches to prevent cross contamination.</p>
Recess	<p>Maintain 3 feet social distance. The use of outdoor spaces is encouraged when feasible. Utilize designated areas and times with no overlap, and no shared personal equipment.</p>
Arrival & Dismissal	<p>Arrival: Students will report directly to their classrooms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty and students entering the building will be screened: health questionnaire <p>Dismissal: Students will wait in classrooms and have staggered dismissal times to avoid crowding in hallways.</p>

Field Trips	Field trips are permitted but COVID-19 protocols must be created for each trip. Parents should be informed of these protocols prior to the trip. All Diocesan policies regarding field trips must be followed.
Emergency Drills	All emergency drills will take place as required. Faculty and students will follow social distancing guidelines.
Liturgies	School liturgies should follow diocesan guidelines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will participate in school Mass on a rotating schedule in order to accommodate all students following social distancing guidelines.
Parent Meetings	Parent meetings are permitted with appropriate social distancing and masking for those not vaccinated. St. Peter's Catholic School will consider virtual parent progress conferences and meetings, as needed. Severe discipline issues should still follow social distancing protocol.
Fundraisers and Events	Gatherings can/should be limited to the guidelines set forth for group gatherings from the DHEC and/or the Diocese of Charleston regarding size allowed and measures required to ensure social distancing and cleanliness. St. Peter's Catholic School will reconfigure and plan for other types of celebrations for grade level activities (i.e., school activities such as Halloween parties, saint parades, Veteran's Day celebrations, Grandparents Day, etc.) Consider virtual fundraisers.
Volunteers and Visitors	Volunteers and visitors are permitted. Masks recommended.
Front Office	Protection for front office workers is essential. St. Peter's Catholic School will establish a protocol for sanitizing after each visitor to the office. Limit visits to essential business only. Establish a protocol for dropping off essential items (call to the school office).
Extended Care	Maintain consistency with daily protocols followed throughout the school day. Ensure that social distancing requirements are met and followed.

	<p>Snacks should be in single-serve containers to prevent cross contamination. Guidelines for cleaning and sanitizing must be followed after each activity period, switching of groups, and at the end of the day.</p> <p>The use of outdoor spaces is encouraged when feasible. Consider utilizing designated areas and times with no overlap, and no equipment being shared.</p> <p>Devise a strategy for student arrival at extended care programs to prevent congregating and to follow social distancing recommendations.</p>
Extracurricular Activities	Extracurricular clubs and activities are permitted following regular school hour protocols.
Community Service	Schools may participate in or require any community service that takes place outside the school following regular school hour protocols.
Religious Education & Church Groups	All religious education and church groups using the school facility must follow school health guidelines. All areas used must be cleaned after use, following the school's required cleaning protocols.
Outside Groups	Outside groups are permitted to use school buildings if they follow regular school hour protocols.

Health & Safety Protocols

All staff and employees will be trained for appropriate health protocols. St. Peter's Catholic school will develop and implement procedures to check for signs and symptoms of students and employees daily upon arrival, as feasible. We will develop procedures if someone comes to school with symptoms or develops them later in the day. We will require anyone who is sick to stay home. Our staff will regularly monitor developments of cases and exposures and updates to policies and procedures. We will continue to monitor student and employee absences and develop flexible leave policies and practices. Our school is prepared to consult with local health authorities if there are cases in the facility or an increase in cases in the local area.

Communication	Communication to key stakeholders regarding COVID-19 will come from Mrs. Katie Labelle, Interim Principal, Mrs. Aubrey Wall, Principal or Mrs. Diane Davis, Administrative Assistant
Sharing School Protocols	<p>For Staff: Share planning and conduct training prior to opening; review during in-service week; evaluate on a regular basis and make improvements.</p> <p>For Parents: Notify through letters, newsletters, emails, Zoom meetings; encourage parent discussions with child(ren) prior to the start of school on what changes to expect.</p> <p>For Students: Share the opening week of school. Model, practice, and reinforce protocols, proper handwashing and hygiene.</p>
Procedure for Monitoring Health	Protocols have been established for checking for symptoms and signs of illness. Confidentiality will be maintained.
Staying Home	St. Peter's Catholic School encourages anyone who is sick to stay home.
Continual Screening	<p>St. Peter's Catholic School will screen employees and students who get sick during the day. Privacy will be maintained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature checks during the day for those who become ill.
Symptoms	<p>St. Peter's Catholic School will monitor the following symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature 100.4 or greater • Cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Fatigue • Muscle or body aches • Headache

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New loss of taste or smell Sore throat • Congestion or runny nose • Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
Isolate	St. Peter's Catholic School will designate a location to isolate a person who has become ill. Appropriate supplies have been acquired: masks, gloves, etc.
Exposure to COVID-19	<p>St. Peter's Catholic School will regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees and families regarding cases, exposures and any updates to policies or procedures.</p> <p>In the case of an exposure of staff or students to COVID-19, the principal must be contacted. The principal will then contact the health department and Catholic Schools Office to determine necessary actions. The needs of the student will be considered- both learning and emotional. HR will assist with staff.</p>
Monitor Absences	Staff and student attendance will be monitored through FACTS SIS and Attendance on Demand.
Leave Policies & Practices	Contact HR for leave policy guidance.
Monitor Cases	St. Peter's Catholic School will consult with the local health authorities if there are cases in the facility or an increase in cases in the local area.

Academic Guidelines

The lowest minimum social distancing for classrooms is 9 square feet per person. Masks are not required as long as students maintain 3 feet of social distancing.

In developing schedules, priority will be given to the health, safety and wellness of students and staff. All scheduling decisions will follow the latest recommendations and guidance from public health officials for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

- To the greatest extent possible, we will seek to minimize student transitions during the day.
- Staggered transitions by floor, grade, etc. will limit the amount of contact among multiple students.
- Teachers will rotate instead of students whenever possible.

Group work, labs, centers, etc., should continue and must maintain 3 feet of social distancing.

- Students will be encouraged to wear masks during small group activities.
- When small group work occurs, teachers will set up the room prior to student arrival to ensure proper distancing.

Desks and other touched surfaces must be cleaned between classes.

- Each classroom will be equipped with supplies to clean furniture and equipment, plus hand sanitizer.

Sharing of materials is discouraged. If they are shared, they must be disinfected between uses.

- The sharing of materials will be discouraged. When the sharing of materials is necessary, they will be disinfected between use.
- Students will receive individual supply packs for special areas (art and music) and whenever else appropriate and feasible.

Students will be assessed upon their return to school in math and ELA/reading.

- MAP assessments will be administered during the Fall, Winter, and Spring.

Should virtual learning need to take place, students will be trained within the first two weeks of the school year or prior to the virtual practice days.

- Teachers will maintain a Google Classroom where lessons and communication can be found.
- Classrooms will be equipped with daily live stream capabilities should a student become ill.

Individuals providing a service (student screening, Title Services, etc.) authorized by school administration, are permitted to visit schools, but must follow all school health guidelines.

- Virtual attendance via Zoom for guest speakers will be encouraged.
- Specialists should travel to the classroom instead of students, wherever possible.