

# **Pandemic Response Plan Fall 2021 (revised)**

St. Aloysius Catholic School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all its students, parents, employees, and guests. We have adapted our Pandemic Response Plan (PRP) for the 2021–22 school year that will guide our decisions for continuing to offer quality in-person education. We recognize that through the implementation of the following coordinated efforts, we can greatly reduce, not eliminate, the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our community. We strive to balance our mitigation policies with the known benefits of children experiencing in-person learning at school.

**St. Aloysius Catholic School will update this PRP as federal, state, and local guidelines and regulations change. It will also be included as a temporary addendum to St. Aloysius Catholic School's Parent/Student Handbook and Employee Handbook. Until communicated otherwise, the rules and guidance of this PRP control to the extent that there is any inconsistency between it and the existing Parent or Employee Handbook. If you have any questions regarding current policies or procedures, contact the school office.**

## **Reference Guide**

- **Guidance**

*The following is from an August 27th Letter from Matthew Daniels, Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Toledo, regarding 2021-2022 School Year and COVID-19 Policies:*

Our goal has been and continues to be keeping our students in our Catholic schools for in-person learning; we believe that this best supports the formation and education of our young people. We must also acknowledge the fact that this virus continues to present challenges to our community, is unpredictable, and, at times, is very destructive. Therefore, we are providing additional policies at this time:

- Masks are strongly recommended and may be mandated when local circumstances are considered. We continue to join the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and strongly recommend that students, faculty, and staff who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask. We support individual schools as they decide to create policies which may require masks for some or all indoor spaces based on local conditions. Masks may be required for a period of time in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in a school or community, or for any reason in which a local health department deems it to be necessary due to local circumstances.

- Schools must provide for social distancing of at least 3 feet between desks, as possible. Earlier this month, the ODH has issued new guidelines for students and adults who are exposed to COVID-19 in a classroom setting. As part of the guidance, when all three prevention measures are in place including the use of a mask, physical distancing of at

least 3 feet between desks, and other prevention policies (i.e. protocols for cleaning, identification of those experiencing symptoms, etc.) students and adults may not need to quarantine. In many cases, social distancing continues to be a safe, effective, and unobtrusive prevention measure.

- Proper quarantine procedures have been updated and must be followed. As part of the previously mentioned ODH guidelines, students and adults who are unvaccinated and unmasked are required to quarantine for a minimum of 7 days with a negative COVID-19 test or quarantine for 10 days without a test, following exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual at school. Those who are masked, regardless of vaccination status, will be permitted to remain in school and participate in sports or extracurricular activities provided they follow the ODH guidelines. An individual school's quarantine policy cannot be more permissive than the state's published policy. The policy along with a flow chart can be found on the ODH's website or by clicking the following link: <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/media-center/odh-news-releases/odh-news-release-08-05-21>

Other policies including sanitation procedures, occupancy, required masking on public transportation (including school busses), and encouraging but not mandating vaccines for eligible individuals at this time, have not changed from what we communicated on July 31, 2021. *[See July letter here: <http://www.stalloysius.tld.pvt.k12.oh.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/letterforbacktoschool20212022.pdf>]* Our Catholic school communities continue to come together with health leaders, community leaders, and our school families, to adjust nimbly to the pandemic's ever-changing conditions. Thank you for your continued perseverance and fortitude. This approach has, since March of 2020, enabled Catholic schools to navigate the pandemic's challenges and provide the best possible education and formation. We will continue to monitor the situation across our Diocese.

- **Implementation**

**In order to help keep our St. Aloysius community healthy, it is essential that families and employees self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. We will continue to keep families and employees informed and assist with reminders and updates.**

To be effective, **St. Aloysius Catholic School's** PRP requires the full cooperation of all our community members, and everyone is responsible for implementing and complying with St. Aloysius Catholic School's PRP. This plan includes steps— physical distancing, screening procedures, contact tracing, enhanced cleaning and additional air filters—that St. Aloysius Catholic School is taking to mitigate COVID-19 contagion.

This PRP addresses the health and safety procedures that **St. Aloysius Catholic School** has implemented and the responsibilities of St. Aloysius Catholic School and its community members, including:

- o prevention procedures, including hygiene and respiratory etiquette;
  - o procedures for safe physical distancing and limiting visitors, including parents, to school building;
  - o cleaning and sanitizing information;
  - o screening procedures and policies for anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms;
  - o prompt identification and isolation of sick individuals and protocols for contact tracing;
  - o protection and controls for student pick-up and drop-off; and
  - o employee training and ongoing communications.
- **School Program: On-Campus Learning and Distance Learning**

Our current plan is to start the 2021-22 school year with on-campus learning.

Safeguarding the health of our community members is our top priority, and we are prepared for a switch to distance learning during the St. Aloysius Catholic School year if public health guidelines or circumstances require us to do so.

### **On-Campus Learning**

As we were last year, we are excited to welcome students back to **St. Aloysius Catholic School** for on-campus learning, and we will offer a full-day schedule that includes hot lunch, recess, specials classes, and our Extended Day Program. **St. Aloysius Catholic School's** physical and human resources enable us to provide an at-school, in-person education under new health and safety guidelines. Some program modifications that were made last year will continue with further adjustments including uses of our available space; student travel during the day; limited in-person, large group meetings and activities; limited off-campus travel; increased use of outdoor spaces for student learning and socialization; and enhanced technology, including personal electronic devices for all students.

### **Distance Learning if the School Building is Closed**

We learned a lot through our distance learning experience in the spring of 2020, and if we are required to move to full distance learning, our students will still experience the meaningful, faith-filled and joyful learning that is a hallmark of **St. Aloysius Catholic School's** education. Students will participate in developmentally appropriate schedules that are a balance of live and recorded content. All students will have access to their own electronic device. St. Aloysius Catholic School will continue to utilize a number of

digital tools—including Google Educational Tools, and Exact Path—for learning, engagement, and assessment.

- **Social-Emotional Support**

Supporting our students' social-emotional development is more important than ever during these trying and uncertain times. We will pray together for the health and safety of our school community and for those we love.

In addition to your child's teachers, our school counselor will be available to help parents regarding their children's adjustment back to school and any other related concerns.

Our counselor, Mrs. Dever, will now be here full time and available to meet with children individually once school resumes. Our principal, Mrs. Puhl, will continue to support teachers and students as needed. Mrs. Puhl and Mrs. Dever are also resources for families who want outside support for children who need more help transitioning back to school.

### **Considerations for Parents**

Children are looking to their parents to let them know how they should be feeling about things. As much as possible, parents should try to be a non-anxious presence in their children's lives and communicate their confidence in their children's ability to cope with stressful situations, including the new school year. .

Parents are encouraged to help children reestablish routines at home that will help prepare them for coming back to school.

Once parents read through St. Aloysius Catholic School's PRP and understand more about the 2021–22 school year, they are encouraged to communicate clearly with their children about the return to school to begin to prepare them for how things are going to look different this school year. Parents are encouraged to reinforce the idea that children have agency in keeping themselves safe and healthy rather than emphasizing the many unknowns.

Although no one knows exactly what the school year will bring, it is important that children feel a sense of comfort knowing that there are specific things they can do (e.g., hand washing and maintaining a safe distance) to help keep themselves and others healthy.

Ample evidence shows that maintaining balanced nutrition, getting moderate exercise, practicing mindfulness, establishing good sleep habits, and having adequate social support are the best ways to counteract the effects of stress on children (and adults). Little things can help to make big improvements in the reduction of stress!

Parents can help St. Aloysius Catholic School by communicating with their children that although every family has dealt with COVID-19 differently, the **St. Aloysius Catholic School** community supports each other. There will be a different set of expectations at school, and we hope that everyone will respect differences in how families have approached dealing with the virus. We will consistently remind students that we take these precautions out of Christian love for each other.

- **Mitigation Strategies**

We recognize that through the implementation of coordinated efforts, we can greatly reduce, not eliminate, the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our community. St. Aloysius Catholic School strives to balance our mitigation policies with the known benefits of children experiencing in-person learning at school.

We have implemented basic infection prevention measures, including the promotion of handwashing and respiratory etiquette and physical distancing. Continual on-campus learning will only be possible with all of us working together to follow these health and safety guidelines, on and off-campus.

### **Handwashing**

Frequent handwashing is critical in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Sinks are in every classroom and sanitizer dispensers (that use sanitizers of greater than 70 percent alcohol) are at other locations throughout St. Aloysius Catholic School. Students, employees, parents, and visitors should wash or sanitize their hands after entering the building. Everyone is instructed to frequently wash their hands throughout the day for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, but especially at the beginning and end of their time on campus, before and after mealtimes, and after using the restroom.

### **Respiratory etiquette**

Everyone should cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing and avoid touching their face, in particular their mouth, nose, and eyes, with their hands. They should dispose of tissues in provided trash receptacles and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward.

### **Face coverings**

It is recommended that faculty, staff and students wear masks while inside the school building. While this is optional, there are benefits to mask wearing. In addition to reducing the risk of illness, if your child wears a mask consistently and correctly at

school and keeps a social distance of at least three feet, they will not have to stay home if they are exposed to a covid case in the classroom.

These quarantine guidelines may be found on the Schoolgram page of our school website. <http://www.stalloysius.tld.pvt.k12.oh.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/covid-19-fact-sheet-k-12-exposure-and-quarantine-flow-chart.pdf>

### **Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Ventilation**

St. Aloysius Catholic School uses CDC-approved disinfectants and has implemented updated cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilation practices. This includes routine cleaning and disinfecting throughout the campus. We will frequently clean and disinfect high-touch areas and items, such as manipulatives, door handles, elevator panels, railings, and copy machines. We are adding air filters to each of our classrooms that removes at least 99.97% of airborne contaminants in one pass and circulate the air of an average classroom 5.2 times per hour.

### **Limiting School Access**

As virus spread is more likely among adults, we are restricting parent and visitor access to our building.

- o Parent and visitor access is restricted to the main office. We ask you to help your child be prepared for school to avoid unnecessary trips into the building.
- o No one delivering food from local restaurants will be allowed to enter the school building.
- o Contact the parish office for their current schedule and entry procedures.

### **Physical Distancing, Student Cohorts, and Group Gatherings**

All individuals at St. Aloysius Catholic School will maintain a safe physical distance of six feet as feasible throughout the building. All classroom desks are arranged with a minimum of five feet distancing with six feet whenever possible.

St. Aloysius Catholic School will maintain cohorts of students and teachers to minimize crossover among children and adults within St. Aloysius Catholic School. For our purposes, each homeroom will be its own cohort. In addition, teachers will take advantage of **St. Aloysius Catholic School's** outdoor spaces when possible.

We will continue to limit in-person large group assemblies or gatherings at school.

## **Physical Barriers**

Mobile physical barriers may be used throughout the campus, such as on the reception desk and in learning support rooms when necessary.

## **Drinking Fountains**

Students and employees should bring and use a refillable water bottle. All drinking fountains have been replaced with water bottle refilling stations. Please label your child's water bottle.

## **Travel and Field Trips**

We ask that all community members limit non-essential travel, especially to areas that are hot spots.

Off-campus field trips will be permitted depending on the level of contagion in our area. Teachers are encouraged to plan field trips within walking distance with outside or socially distanced options. Flexibility should be built into all plans due to the quickness at which variants may spread. Decisions on camp and the 8th grade class trip will be made at a later date.

## **Student Drop-off and Pickup**

We will continue the drop off and pick up procedures which we used last year.. Details will be included in our back to school mailing.

- o During student drop-off and pickup, employees and students will maintain six feet of physical distance whenever possible, and avoid physical contact with other individuals.
- o Parents will be asked to remain in their vehicles for both drop off and pick up.

## **● Health Screenings and Symptom Assessment and Reporting**

We will continue to inform and expect families and employees to self-monitor for [signs and symptoms of COVID-19](#). St. Aloysius Catholic School has implemented the following policies and procedures to assess a person's health status prior to entering St. Aloysius Catholic School; to provide guidelines for screening individuals before they are allowed to enter the building; and to provide a process for families to report when they are sick, experiencing symptoms, or if they or anyone in their household have come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

## **Before arriving at school**

Anyone who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or knows that they have COVID-19 should isolate at home. In addition, parents should communicate with St. Aloysius Catholic School if one of them or a member of their household tests positive for COVID-19, experiences symptoms of COVID-19, or has close contact\* with someone who is positive or symptomatic of COVID-19.

\*[CDC currently defines](#) “close contact” as “someone who was within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated.” This definition applies in all settings, except the classroom, regardless whether the infected or the contact or both were wearing masks. “Close contact” in the classroom is the same unless the contact is wearing a mask, the safe distance is reduced to three feet.

Parents should take their children’s temperature before arriving on campus and keep their child home if they have a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit or above.

Parents should continue to report student absences, COVID-19 symptoms, close contacts, and COVID-19 diagnoses via telephone or email to the school office.

All parents will receive regular reminders to monitor their child’s health and stay home if they are sick or showing symptoms. There will be no perfect attendance awards presented during the 2021-2022 school year as we expect everyone to err on the side of caution when making decisions about sending your child to school. It is critical to the health of our students and faculty that students displaying symptoms be kept home and are not sent to school after taking medication to mask a fever or other symptoms.

## **Screening Procedure for Students**

- o Students will have their temperatures checked on campus at least once each day, including as they arrive at school in the morning. Any student with a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit or above must immediately leave the school building or be further evaluated by the St. Aloysius Catholic School nurse.

## **Screening Procedures for Employees, Parents, and Visitors**

- o Employees must report to the office upon entrance to the school building.
- o Anyone entering the school beyond the main office will be screened (inspectors, contractors, etc.)
- o Parents will not be allowed past the school office once school resumes unless they have an appointment or have received a communication from St. Aloysius Catholic School that states otherwise.



- o Anyone with a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit or above must immediately leave the school building or be further evaluated by the St. Aloysius Catholic School nurse.
- o All individuals should wash or sanitize their hands after entering the building.

- **Policies for Individuals Exhibiting Symptoms at School**

If a student is sick or experiencing symptoms at school, the teacher or other designated adult will escort the student directly to the isolation room and report to St. Aloysius Catholic School nurse. Both escort and student should wear face coverings.

Adults who become sick or experience symptoms while at St. Aloysius Catholic School should notify St. Aloysius Catholic School nurse and leave the building immediately or report to the designated isolation room until able to leave St. Aloysius Catholic School.

- **Contact Tracing and Returning to School**

Contact tracing is part of the process of mitigating the spread of infection. St. Aloysius Catholic School has a plan to work with public health officials if a community member tests positive for COVID-19. Public health officials will work with the infected person to identify close contacts and will notify community members who may be close contacts. Patient confidentiality will be maintained. Instructions that follow current CDC and state of Ohio guidance will be provided to the infected person and all close contacts regarding isolation and quarantine.

It is our policy to follow the recommendations of the Wood County Health Department regarding quarantine of students, faculty and staff. If, after contact tracing or testing, it is recommended that someone be excluded from school or activities, it is our expectation that the identified case or contact remain home until the return date established by the Wood County Health Department.

### **Returning to school after Illness**

Health Department guidelines for return to school after an illness (whether or not that illness is Covid-19 related) are constantly evolving. You can find the current guidelines on our school website on the Schoolgram page.

[http://www.stalloysius.tld.pvt.k12.oh.us/guidelines-for-minimizing-contagious-disease\\_08272021/](http://www.stalloysius.tld.pvt.k12.oh.us/guidelines-for-minimizing-contagious-disease_08272021/)

This includes returning to school after being sent home or staying home with symptoms as well as policies for returning after a positive test or quarantine.

- **Specials Classes**

We will continue to offer both core academic and specials classes with some modifications. Depending on the level of contagion in the community and the class size/ability to social distance, specials teachers (with the exception of P.E. and band) may teach the students in their homeroom, with teachers moving instead of the students.

Our band program is offered in partnership with the BGSU College of Musical Arts. We will work with them to design this year's curriculum and procedures.

- **Lunch**

Students will be six feet apart at lunch as they will have their masks off as they eat. Siblings may be asked to sit together if they have the same lunch period as we will be setting up additional tables to maintain the six feet social distancing during this time.

- **Weekly School Liturgy**

We will continue to livestream weekly Masses into the classrooms with a limited number of students present in the church with appropriate distancing. When Masses are live streamed, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will bring the Eucharist to students in their classrooms at communion time. These will be private Masses for students and employees only. Others are welcome to pray with us on the live stream.

- **Extended Day Program**

Specific Extended Day policies will be shared with families who make a reservation.

- **Preparedness**

This document will serve as the St. Aloysius Catholic School response plan for COVID-19.

Additional communications and training will be ongoing as COVID-19 guidelines and requirements change. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher, the principal or school nurse.

St. Aloysius, Pray for Us.