ARCHDIOCESAN PROTOCOLS FOR SAFELY REOPENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

Most Recent Revision: 8/24/20

ARCHDIOCESAN PROTOCOLS FOR SAFELY REOPENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS

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Introduction to the Archdiocesan Protocols

Educating young people in the light of Christ is foundational to the mission of the Catholic Church. While the Church has carried out this work of education in the midst of social, health, and political crises, the current global COVID-19 pandemic has prompted unprecedented reflection on education and the central role of the physical school community in promoting the academic, spiritual, and emotional growth of the child. In preparing for the start of the 2020-21 school year, our local Church and the wider educational community throughout the state and the country will be required to make morally responsible decisions for how we educate the future citizens and leaders of our society during a pandemic, with special consideration for those children who are the most vulnerable among us. With the information that is currently available, we affirm that the most prudent decision for Catholic schools is to plan for the safe reopening of its school buildings at the start of the 2020-21 school year. We invite you to continue reading to learn more about the considerations that went into making this decision and the plans we have to prioritize health and safety in the upcoming academic year.

What We Have Learned: Since the Archdiocese made the recommendation to close its Catholic school buildings in March 2020 in response to the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, new scientific research with implications for reopening of schools has started to emerge. While we recognize that science is advancing daily, a current summary of scientific research with implications for the reopening of schools is summarized in the next section. In addition to the emerging research on COVID-19, we have learned that there are significantly adverse physical, academic, social and emotional consequences for many children when school buildings close. We have learned that some COVID-19 educational policies can disproportionately affect students of color and vulnerable families and children.

Morally Responsible Educational Leadership: While the research on COVID-19 and the research on the effects of school building closure on students and families is still emerging, it has becomes clear that there are risks in opening school buildings and risks in not opening school building. When it comes to partnering with families to provide for the educational needs of their children during a pandemic, the question before educational leaders is determining the responsible way to proceed in educating children when there are no risk-free options. Science can help inform our considerations. It is an essential data point. Ultimately, though, we are faced with a decision about moral value. Educational leaders must exercise prudential wisdom through morally responsible leadership to weigh the many risks and benefits and prudently chose the course of action that is best suited to provide for the good of all.

Responsible Planning and Transparent Communication: In order to welcome students back into the school building, we have responsibly planned and will take a number of action steps to lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission and intend to transparently communicate with all stakeholders throughout the implementation of these processes and procedures. These action steps required for all our Catholic schools are contained in this document, *Archdiocesan Protocols for Safely Reopening Catholic School Buildings*. When taken as a whole, these protocols create a framework that provide multiple safeguards that reduce the spread of COVID-19. As the CDC has recently noted, these steps are similar to the layers of protections that exist

when driving our cars. They include strategies that each individual can take, such as using your seat belt, as well as environmental strategies, such as speed limits, and social expectations like requiring a test to get a driver's license. Like we reduce the risk of driving, stacking these best practices with several layers of safeguards in a school help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and therefore lower the risks when we re-open our Catholic school buildings in the fall.

Culture of Health and Safety: The protocols are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk. No single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk. Our schools are not depending on one mitigation strategy, but a <u>combination</u> of all these strategies that when taken together substantially reduce the risk of transmission. In other words, establishing a culture of health and safety in our schools that focuses on regularly enforcing these important practices is more important than any one measure.

Educating Together: Each Catholic school is preparing to implement these special sets of policies and procedures for pandemic preparedness and response in order to help keep our Catholic school children, employees, and community safe and healthy. We recognize that the decision to return to school this fall is a deeply personal decision for each family. We pray for all our families, as they too have to make prudential decisions based on a multitude of considerations of their own particular situation. We ask for the prayers of the entire Catholic school community as we all seek the wisdom and courage to continue our sacrificial work for the sake of one of our noblest endeavors—the education of our children.

Emerging implications from the medical literature on childhood susceptibility to and transmission of COVID-19

A. Excerpt from the American Academy of Pediatrics (June 25, 2020):

Policy makers must also consider the mounting evidence regarding COVID-19 in children and adolescents, including the role they may play in transmission of the infection. SARS-CoV-2 appears to behave differently in children and adolescents than other common respiratory viruses, such as influenza, on which much of the current guidance regarding school closures is based. Although children and adolescents play a major role in amplifying influenza outbreaks, to date, this does not appear to be the case with SARS-CoV-2. Although many questions remain, the preponderance of evidence indicates that children and adolescents are less likely to be symptomatic and less likely to have severe disease resulting from SARS-CoV-2 infection. In addition, children may be less likely to become infected and to spread infection. Policies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within schools must be balanced with the known harms to children, adolescents, families, and the community by keeping children at home.

B. The State of Massachusetts has published one of the most accessible and up-to-date summaries of the emerging themes and implications from the medical literature as it relates to children, COVID-19, and schools. In an open letter, Massachusetts' Commissioner of Education Jeffery C. Riley writes: "In discussions with infectious disease physicians, other medical advisers, and the COVID-19 Command Center's Medical Advisory Board, we were heartened to learn that – based on current data and research – the medical community supports the return of our students to in-person learning, with appropriate health and safety guardrails in place." The following section "Emerging implications from the medical literature" is reprinted from *Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance* published by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, June 25, 2020:

This section summarizes some of the emerging themes and implications from the medical literature on childhood susceptibility to and transmission of COVID-19 as of mid-June 2020. Because COVID-19 is a novel disease, this literature is growing rapidly, and new information is emerging almost every day. Our guidance will continue to evolve as the science develops.

At this time, the evidence suggests schools have not played a significant role in COVID-19 transmission and that children, particularly younger children, are less likely than adults to be infected with COVID-19. Furthermore, if they become infected, it appears children may be less likely to transmit COVID-19 to others. Based on these initial findings, the health and safety requirements throughout this guidance, as well as considering the key features of school programming at different grade spans, the current evidence supports a safe in-person return to school with implementation details varying for elementary schools (including pre-kindergarten programs), middle schools, and high schools.

• Schools do not appear to have played a major role in COVID-19 transmission. In a review of COVID clusters, only 4% (8 of 210) involved school transmission. In a case study from New South Wales Australia, after 18 cases were found in schools (12 in high schools and 6 in primary schools), only 0.3% of student contacts were infected (1 in 695 individuals in

¹ Leclerc, Q. J., Fuller, N. M., Knight, L. E., Funk, S., Knight, G. M., & CMMID COVID-19 Working Group. (2020). What settings have been linked to SARS-CoV-2 transmission clusters?. *Wellcome Open Research*, *5*(83), 83. Available at https://wellcomeopenresearch.org/articles/5-83/v2

10 high schools and 1 in 168 individuals in primary schools). No teachers or staff were infected.² Additional studies are included in Appendix A.

- In general, rates of COVID-19 infection are lower for children than for adults. Based on an analysis of data from six countries, children under 20 are half as susceptible to COVID-19 infection than adults.³ Furthermore, although children under the age of 18 make up 22% of the U.S. population, they account for less than 2% of all cases of COVID-19.⁴ In Massachusetts, children under the age of 19 were about four times less likely than the population at large to be diagnosed with COVID-19.⁵ Children are more likely to be asymptomatic, however, which underscores the importance of health behaviors for everyone (masks/face coverings, distancing, handwashing, surface cleaning).⁶ Additional studies are included in Appendix A.
- If exposed, children may be less likely to become infected with COVID-19. A meta-analysis of studies from several countries found that children were only 44% as likely as adults to become infected after exposure (note: pre-print study). In China, in households with COVID-19 exposure, children under the age of 18 were infected at a rate of 4% compared with 17% for adults. Additional studies are included in Appendix A.
- If infected, it appears children may be less likely to infect others with COVID-19. Most transmissions are from adults to children, rather than vice versa; this is different from some other respiratory viruses (note: pre-print study). In a U.S. study of 15 households, 73% of transmissions were from adult to child (the remaining were child-to-child or child-to adult). Additional studies are included in Appendix A.
- * Appendix A can be found in the full document: https://www.mass.gov/doc/dese-fall-reopening-guidance/download.

² National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) (2020). COVID-19 in schools – the experience in NSW. Available at http://ncirs.org.au/sites/default/files/2020-04/NCIRS%20NSW%20Schools%20COVID_Summary_FINAL%20public_26%20April%202020.pdf

³ Davies, N.G., Klepac, P., Liu, Y. et al. Age-dependent effects in the transmission and control of COVID-19 epidemics. Nat Med (2020). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-020-0962-9

⁴ Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Children — United States, February 12–April 2, 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020;69:422–426. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6914e4

⁵ https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting

⁶ Davies, N.G., Klepac, P., Liu, Y. et al. Age-dependent effects in the transmission and control of COVID-19 epidemics. Nat Med (2020). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-020-0962-9

⁷ Viner, R. M., Mytton, O. T., Bonell, C., Melendez-Torres, G. J., Ward, J. L., Hudson, L., ... & Panovska-Griffiths, J. (2020). Susceptibility to and transmission of COVID-19 amongst children and adolescents compared with adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *medRxiv*. Available at https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.20.20108126v1

⁸ Wei Li, Bo Zhang, Jianhua Lu, Shihua Liu, Zhiqiang Chang, Cao Peng, Xinghua Liu, Peng Zhang, Yan Ling, Kaixiong Tao, Jianying Chen, Characteristics of Household Transmission of COVID-19, Clinical Infectious Diseases, , ciaa450, https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa450

⁹ Zhu, Y., Bloxham, C. J., Hulme, K. D., Sinclair, J. E., Tong, Z. W. M., Steele, L. E., ... & Gilks, C. (2020). Children are unlikely to have been the primary source of household SARS-CoV-2 infections. Available at https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.26.20044826v1

¹⁰ Mannheim, J., Gretsch, S., Layden, J. E., & Fricchione, M. J. (2020). Characteristics of Hospitalized Pediatric COVID-19 Cases—Chicago, Illinois, March—April 2020. *Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society*. Available at https://academic.oup.com/ipids/advance-article/doi/10.1093/jpids/piaa070/5849922

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Principles for Safely Reopening Catholic School Buildings

The principles articulated below form the backbone for all deliberations as they relate to reopening Catholic school buildings in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis for the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year. These principles guide the creation of the *Archdiocesan Protocols for Safely Reopening Catholic School Buildings*. The goal of the *Archdiocesan Protocols* is a responsible and prudent approach to reopening our school buildings. School leaders are encouraged to utilize these principles as they consider the practical details and establish appropriate school-level processes and procedures.

- Mission-aligned: Protocols are aligned with the mission of Catholic education.
- Tailored to Catholic schools: Protocols meet the unique capabilities and needs of Catholic schools which may be distinct from other public educational institutions.
- **Safeguarding high quality education:** Protocols help ensure that Catholic schools provide a high quality education that advances excellence for every student in all areas of their lives.
- Research-based: Protocols are grounded in the most current research and infectious disease mitigation strategies.
- Broad: Protocols are overarching, high-level that allow for school-specific modification and implementation.
- Feasible: Protocols can be implemented at a systems-level with minimal time for training.
- **Flexible:** Protocols are flexible enough to be able to respond to changes in community spread or public health guidance and the publication of new research.
- Accessible: K-8 Catholic schools will have access to the resources needed to implement protocols.
- Fiscally responsible: Protocol implementation is financially viable and reflects responsible stewardship.

The following graphic illustrates how the Archdiocesan Principles for Reopening relate to the creation of the school-level Pandemic Preparedness and Readiness Plan (PPRP). The Archdiocesan Principles for Reopening drive the development of the *Archdiocesan Protocols* which set the requirements for school-level procedures found in the PPRP.



Explanation of Format

ARCHDIOCESAN PROTOCOLS

FOR SAFELY REOPENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS

DOMAIN: The health and safety practices are divided into four overarching domains that describe the key areas for pandemic preparedness and response. The four domains are highlighted in blue.

Benchmark: Each of the four domains has a series of benchmarks to assist schools in recognizing health and safety practices in the four domains for reopening Catholic school buildings. The benchmarks are highlighted in yellow.

Protocols

This column articulates the high-level requirement that must be implemented in order to meet the **Benchmark**. These high-level requirements are called **Protocols**. Schools must have procedures or processes in place to implement each **Protocol**.

Resources

This column is reserved for links to resources to guide school's implementation of the **Protocols**. These resources include public health guidance, like recommendations from MDH and CDC.

School Level Procedures

This column is reserved for school-level processes and procedures. Each Catholic school completes this column for its own school. This column is the substance of the school's Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan. Following the requirements stated in the **Protocol** and with consideration to the references and guidance documents provided in **Resources**, schools develop their school-level processes and procedures to meet the **Benchmark**. Schools keep track of the most recent review or revision date of the procedures in the column to the left.

It is expected that some school-level processes and procedures will be considered interim and may change as more information becomes available.

Date

Most recent review or revision date for procedure s and processes developed at the school-lev el.

ARCHDIOCESAN PROTOCOLS

FOR SAFELY REOPENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS

A NOTE ON THE PROTOCOLS:

When taken as a whole, these Protocols outlined below create a framework that provides multiple safeguards that reduce the spread of COVID-19. As the CDC has recently noted, these steps are similar to the layers of protections that exist when driving our cars. They include strategies that each individual can take, such as using your seat belt, as well as environmental strategies, such as speed limits, and policies like requiring a test to get a driver's license. Stacking these best practices with several layers of safeguards help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and lower the risks when we re-open our Catholic school buildings in the fall.

In order to welcome students back into the school building, Catholic schools will use these Protocols to responsibly plan, transparently communicate, and implement a number of action steps to lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission. As school leaders prepare the PPRP for their schools, it is important to remember that it is not one mitigation strategy, but a <u>combination</u> of all these strategies taken together that will substantially reduce the risk of transmission. The Protocols are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk. No single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk. In other words, establishing a culture of health and safety in our schools that focuses on regularly enforcing these important practices is more important than any one measure.

Some school-level processes and procedures that are developed in the month of July may need to be considered "interim." As more information is made available throughout the summer and into the start of the 2020-21 school year, it is expected that interim school-level processes and procedures will be reviewed and revised as needed. The Archdiocese will continue to provide guidance as more information becomes available.

KEY HEALTH AND SAFETY COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS FOR SCHOOL PROCEDURES DEVELOPMENT

MDH School Planning Guide (MDH)

CONSIDERATIONS FOR K-12 SCHOOLS: READINESS AND PLANNING TOOL (CDC)

COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry (AAP)

ARCHDIOCESAN HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

FOR SAFELY REOPENING CATHOLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS

DOMAIN I: Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

Benchmark A: Staying home when appropriate

Only students, employees, and visitors who show no signs of illness are present in the school building. Students who were sick and are no

, , , , ,	,	the student's health care provider.	· O
Protocol 1: Students and employees are required to stay home when they are sick. Schools must promptly send children and employees home when they display symptoms of COVID-19 illness.	(Resources) MDH: If You Are Sick: COVID-19 CDC: Coronavirus Disease 2019: Symptoms	Most updated procedures and guidelines from "MDH: If You Are Sick:COVID-19" and "CDC: Coronavirus Disease 2019: Symptoms" will be included in weekly whole school communications in the designated "COVID-19" section. These will also be communicated in our weekly staff memos, and a print out will be posted in the office and designated "sick" area. Staff will be trained to send any school members (including themselves) to the office immediately if they show signs of illness and office and nurse staff will safely check school members and isolate them if necessary.	(Date) 7/15
Protocol 2: When determining when students or employees may return to school, schools will follow the directives of an individual's health care provider. In the event that no advice has been sought or given, schools will use guidelines provided by public health officials.	MDH: If You Are Sick: COVID-19: How long to stay home if sick MDH: Decision Tree MDH: COVID-19 and When to Return to Work	If a school member has been absent due to illness, they will need to check in with the COVID-19 Designated Point of Contact to discuss their condition before it is determined when they are able to return. The COVID-19 Designated Point of Contact will help determine this by surveying the school member and reaching out to health officials as appropriate and necessary.	7/15
Protocol 3: Eliminate or prudently modify employment and student attendance policy incentives that could cause a student or employee to come to school when ill (e.g., "perfect attendance awards").		The school will continue to not provide incentives for attendance, and will review the context of absences on an individual basis, modifying and accommodating as appropriate.	7/15

Protocol 4: Schools will designate an employee to be the primary COVID-19 Designated Point of Contact and a different employee to serve as a back-up COVID-19 Designated Point of Contact if the primary COVID-19 Designated Point of Contact is unavailable. This Point of Contact is responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns (e.g. school nurse, head of school). All school employees and families should know who these individuals are and how to contact them.	MDH Planning Guide for Schools, p. 4	The principal will serve as the COVID-19 Designated Point of Contact, and the administrative assistant will serve as the back-up COVID-19 Designated Point of Contact. This will be communicated in newsletters in the designated "COVID-19" section, as well as in the overview of our plan that we communicate with all stakeholders.	7/15
Protocol 5: Schools will inform families and employees of the public-health recommendations for quarantining after exposure to COVID-19.	MDH School Planning Guide, pp. 12-13 MDH: What to do if you have had close contact with a person with COVID-19	The document "MDH: What to do if you have had close contact with a person with COVID-19" will be available each week in the designated "COVID-19" section of the whole school newsletter.	7/15
Benchmark B: Practicing personal Basic infection prevention measur hygiene measures, including proper	es are being implemented	at the school. All members of the school community are practicing personal atory etiquette.	l
Protocol 1: Schools will teach and reinforce proper handwashing hygiene.	MDH: Hand Hygiene MDH: Teaching Hand Hygiene MDH: Hand Hygiene for Schools and Child Care	Our school will teach employees proper handwashing techniques and provide resources for teachers to teach their students proper handwashing techniques. Proper handwashing techniques include washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.	7/15
Protocol 2: Schools will monitor compliance in a practicable manner to		Reminders will be posted in the bathrooms providing visuals and directions on appropriate hand hygiene. School staff will intervene and reteach as necessary through observation.	7/15

help ensure adherence among students.			
Protocol 3: Schools will teach and reinforce respiratory etiquette.	MDH: Cover Your Cough CDC: Cloth Face Covering Guidance MDH School Planning Guide, pp. 7-8	Practicing proper respiratory etiquette includes 1) covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue 2) throwing used tissues in the trash and 3) washing hands using handwashing protocols after coughing or sneezing. If tissues are not immediately available, students and employees are coughing or sneezing into their elbow. Our school will 1) Educate all employees on proper respiratory etiquette. 2) Require teachers to instruct and remind students weekly of proper respiratory etiquette 3) Ask that teachers discreetly encourage individual students to practice proper respiratory etiquette on an as-needed basis.	7/15
Protocol 5: Schools will encourage students to avoid touching their faces.		Encouraging students to avoid touching their faces will be included in the school's efforts to teach and reinforce respiratory etiquette.	7/15
Benchmark C: Social distancing Schools implement appropriate so	cial distancing practices to	reduce the spread of disease.	
Protocol 1: Schools will consider all public health recommendations for social distancing and implement those that are reflective of students' ages and abilities; without negative impact on the learning and social-emotional environment; and responsive to the level of community spread in the wider local community.	MDH: COVID-19 Prevention Guidance	Signage indicating social distancing will be present in especially high traffic areas of the building. Classrooms have been measured out to have students 6 ft apart as much as possible, and to have proper facial coverings as an extra effort to support safety during movement within the classroom. Social distancing will be taught and practiced within the classrooms and in a way that is non threatening and age appropriate. The school will also keep closely informed on local community cases and spreads and respond promptly as information is obtained and necessary.	7/16
Domain II: Maintainin	G HEALTHY FACILITIES		
Benchmark A: Cleaning and disin	fecting efforts		

Protocol 1: Schools will develop a schedule for increased, routine	Appendix D: Cleaning Log	Catholic Mutual guidelines and templates will be used for cleaning specific areas and documenting cleaning. COVID19 designated point of contacts will do regular checks on	7/16
cleaning and disinfecting. Protocol 2: Schools will identify frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the school and clean all frequently touched surfaces daily or between use as much as practicable.	MDH Playground Guidance MDH COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidance	documentation and clearing, and regular check-ins with maintenance staff. Catholic Mutual guidelines and templates will be used for cleaning specific areas and documenting cleaning. COVID19 designated point of contacts will do regular checks on documentation and clearing, and regular check-ins with maintenance staff. Playground equipment will be cleaned as much as possible, and the playground will be used by one cohort at a time.	7/16
	MDH School Planning Guide, pp. 9-10	Community of Saints will follow all "Right to Know" for chemicals and will provide quick access to "Safety Data Sheets" for each chemical.	7/16
		have been purchased and are available for use in accordance with product being used with required personal protective equipment for the product.	labels
Protocol 1: Schools will provide adequate supplies for implementing cleaning and disinfecting.	School Cleaning Supplies IEA Creating your Restart Blueprint for COVID-19	Community of Saints has funding for PPE products as well as an ordering and restocking plan in place to ensure school members have access to the cleaning and disinfecting. The school has assessed high priority and commodity needs and is ordering and stocking immediately.	7/16
Benchmark C: Separate physical sp	pace for students with sy	mptoms of COVID-19	•
Schools have a snace for students w	with symptoms of COVID-2	19. This space is supervised, safe, and regularly cleaned.	
serious have a space for stadents v			7/16

leave the building. This space will be regularly cleaned and sanitized.	consider having this room close to an exit door, if possible.		
Protocol 2: Schools will establish procedures to decrease the risk of spread among (or to) employees who are responsible for supervising students who have COVID-19 symptoms.	Catholic Mutual recommends that those responsible for supervising students who have COVID-19 symptoms be provided person protective equipment, including mask, shield, gloves, and gown when possible.	Community of Saints has protective equipment for employees responsible for supervising students who have COVID-19 symptoms. This gear includes masks, face shield, gloves, and gowns.	7/16
Benchmark D. Engineering contro	ols		

All HVAC and plumbing systems are operating in a way that promotes a healthy environment. As much fresh air as possible is being brought into the workplace, air recirculation is being limited and ventilation systems are being properly used and maintained.

CDC Building Reopening	The school is currently looking into Energy Recovery Ventilation units and if they could be installed in the classrooms. Classroom doors and windows will be left open during the majority of the school day.	7/31
	Rooms with little to no ventilation will not be used, or the space will be altered to allow increased ventilation.	
MDH Planning Guide, p. 13 CDC Building Reopening	Drinking fountains will be turned off other than the water bottle filling station, and there will be disposable water cups stationed at each drinking fountain. A water filling station will be added to the downstairs. We will also be adding 7 more touchless sinks, and seven more soap dispensers.	7/16
•	MDH Planning Guide, p. 13	they could be installed in the classrooms. Classroom doors and windows will be left open during the majority of the school day. Rooms with little to no ventilation will not be used, or the space will be altered to allow increased ventilation. MDH Planning Guide, p. 13 CDC Building Reopening Drinking fountains will be turned off other than the water bottle filling station, and there will be disposable water cups stationed at each drinking fountain. A water filling station will be added to the downstairs. We will also be adding 7

DOMAIN III: MAINTAINING HEALTHY OPERATIONS

Benchmark A: Symptom monitoring and screening

Families, students, and employees regular health checks.	s have been informed of an	d encouraged to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 through	
Protocol 1: Schools will articulate expectations for regular health checks at home and at school (e.g., temperature screening and/or symptom checking) of employees and students.	MDH School Planning Guide, pp. 10-12 Catholic Mutual recommends posting videos on website and sending reminders about home health checks via email, letters and calls every day of the first week of school as parents and families are building back-to-school routines.	Onecallnow reminders will be sent to families the first couple weeks of school providing guidelines and expectations for regular health checks at home. Temperature screening of staff and students will occur at school upon entry as well.	7/16
Protocol 2: Health checks that occur at school will be conducted safely and protect student's privacy.	CDC Supplemental Guidance for Childcare CDC General Business FAQ Catholic Mutual requires a separate health file and form for each person. Health information must be kept in a confidential and secure location.	Health checks will be done as privately as possible. Student names will be protected when communicating any cases of illness are required to be communicated to the community. The majority of screenings will occur prior to allowing entrance. This will eliminate attention being directed on people inside of the building. Another health check will occur during the school day.	7/31
Benchmark B: Caring at school fo	r students who become si	ck with symptoms of COVID-19	•
Any student who displays sympton possible. Families are provided inf	-	ed from other classmates and is picked up by a parent or guardian as soon of points of contact.	is
Protocol 1: Schools will separate employees and students who develop COVID-19 symptoms (such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath) while at school.	MDH School Planning Guide, pp. 12-13	The Door 4 entrance will be used to temporarily separate any individual experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. This entrance has the least amount of traffic and allows for an efficient car pick up without anyone needing to enter the school building.	7/16
Protocol 2: Students who develop COVID-19 symptoms while at school will be taken to a separate, supervised	MDH School Planning Guide, pp. 12-13	The Door 4 entrance will be used to temporarily separate any individual experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. This entrance has the least amount of traffic and allows for an	7/16

physical space until a parent/guardian is able to pick up the student.		efficient car pick up without anyone needing to enter the school building. Students will be accompanied and supervised by a staff member until the individual is picked-up.	
Protocol 3: The school's COVID-19 point of contact person will communicate with the student's family regarding current public health guidance for caring for others who are sick, the school's procedures for the student to return to school and reporting of any diagnosed case of COVID-19.	MDH School Planning Guide, pp. 12-13	COS will have templates prepared for communication to families on a situational basis. The Decision Making Tree from MDH will be posted in the office and available in the designated "COVID-19" section of weekly communication.	7/16
Benchmark C: Classroom environ	ment		
With consideration to the Principle physical building to reduce the spr		ill implement appropriate procedures in light of its educational plan and its	
Protocol 1: In the development of their schedules and classroom procedures, schools have implemented public health recommended strategies at the classroom-level to mitigate the spread of disease.	MDH School Planning Guide	The school is working on a schedule that would stagger cohorts or students and distance them in ways where they can still have full school experiences, but with less cross-cohort interactions. Any unnecessary furniture will be removed and stored in order to create more space for social distancing. 6 feet apart allows 16 students at a time; 3-6 feet would allow full class size-have students all face the same way if this would occur. Also, desk shields have been ordered 1 for every two students to support safe group work and teacher to student interactions. Visual spacers such as yoga mats or beach towels will be used in lower grades. Hooks will not be used to store student items; instead, individual baskets will be assigned to students where they can store their items for the day without touching other students' items. Hand sanitizing stations will be present at each classroom entrance. Face masks are required for every student and face shields or face masks are required for every staff member in the building.	7/31
Protocol 2: To the degree possible, schools will limit the use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) or clean them between use.	CDC Considerations for Schools (Shared Objects) Catholic Mutual recommends that all rugs and moveable carpets in	Community of Saints is going to provide individual student classroom supplies that will be kept in school. Also, instructional communal objects will be sanitized after each use as much as possible and/or limited to individual cohort use.	8/24

	classroom be replaced with individual mats.	Gym will be held outside as much as the weather permits. In general, specialists will plan to travel to the different classrooms. Also, specialists will be assigned to fewer classes per trimester to reduce contact.	
Benchmark D: Large-group gathe	rings (e.g. assemblies and	field trips)	
With consideration to the Principle all large-group gatherings (e.g. as		ave implemented appropriate procedures to mitigate the spread of disease	during
Protocol 1: Schools will limit large, in-school group events, gatherings, or meetings during the school day.	CDC Considerations for Schools (Modified Layouts; Communal Spaces)	All school assemblies are on hold until further notice. Communal spaces will be used minimally and will be deep cleaned after each use. Mass will continue and the schedule will be figured out once we know how we are beginning the school year.	7/16
Protocol 2: Schools will pursue virtual activities and events where practicable in lieu of large group gatherings such as field trips, student assemblies, special performances, school-wide parent meetings, and spirit nights, as practical.	MDH School Planning Guide	The school has a calendar of community events that will be implemented in versions that align with the current and most up to date health and safety protocol guidelines.	7/16
Protocol 3: Schools will pursue options to convene sporting events and participation in sports activities in ways that minimizes the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to players, families, coaches, and communities.	MDH Sports Guide Minnesota State High School League COVID-19 Updates	The school is cancelling and rescheduling fall school sports in accordance to the CAA.	8/24
Benchmark E: Visitors			
Schools admit only those people w	ho are essential for contin	uing school operations or maintaining the academic environment.	
Protocol 1: All visitors to the school will follow all school-defined safety and personal hygiene procedures for entering the school.	MDH: Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist	Community of Saints will require each visitor to the building to verbally affirm that they have no symptoms of COVID-19 that cannot be attributed to another health condition according to the <i>Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist</i> . Visitors will be informed of and required to follow COS expectations for practicing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Visitors will NOT be allowed into the building without a mask.	8/24

Protocol 2: Parents and Volunteers Schools will have a plan for entrance and movement within the school building for parents and volunteers to minimize exposure.		Family members will not be allowed inside of the building. Volunteers will not be allowed inside of the building until further notice. Any visitors needing to enter the school building are expected to report to the office first, and then depending on the purpose of their visit, would be guided to the space where they will spend their time.	8/25
Protocol 3: Prospective Families Schools will have a plan for entrance and movement within the school building for prospective students and families to minimize exposure.		Prospective families will have an opportunity to tour the school during before and after school hours for the time being.	7/16
Protocol 4: Vendors Schools will have a plan for entrance and movement within the school building for vendors to minimize exposure.		Vendors will deliver items to entrance of door one and will be asked to leave the delivery at the entrance. Larger deliveries will be guided to Door 5 (library doors) where they will drop off the boxes and maintenance will disperse.	7/16
Protocol 5: Guests As much as possible, schools will limit guests, activities, and facilities use involving external groups or organizations – especially with individuals who are not from the local geographic area.		COS will not host activities or organizational gatherings that are not organically already using the school campus area on a consistent basis and/or are not from the local geographic area.	7/16
Benchmark F: Student and emplo	yee movement: entrance,	movement within the building, and dismissal	
With consideration to the Principle students and employees are movi		ave implemented appropriate procedures to mitigate the spread of disease hout the school building.	while
Protocol 1: Schools will review their student arrival and dismissal procedures with consideration of public health recommendations strategies to reduce the spread of disease.	MDH School Planning Guide, pp. 12-13	Arrival window has been adjusted to 8:15-8:30am. Teachers will need to be in their classroom by the time students start arriving. Students will go directly to their classrooms where they will eat breakfast. Car riders will have their temperature taken before they can get out of their car. Bus riders will have their temperature taken and be screened before they are able to get on the bus, and will not need to be screened again at school. Walkers-will enter through Door 2. Staff member will screen them at the door.	7/16

Protocol 2: Schools will develop procedures for student movement throughout the building during the school day.	MDH School Planning Guide, pp. 12-13 CDC Considerations for Schools	Middle school students will stay in their home base classrooms to begin the school year, and teachers will travel to the different classrooms. We will also begin the day in the classrooms for breakfast, where in the past, students gathered outside or in the cafeteria before school. Drop off procedures will not allow parent entry into the building unless there is a special need or circumstance.	7/31
		Social distance cues and visuals will be placed throughout the building to assist with safe movement within the building, especially in areas where foot traffic tends to be heavier. For example, the office space, bathrooms and drinking fountains. Also, markings will be on the floors to assist students in lining up while respecting social distancing.	
Protocol 3: Schools will develop procedures for employee use of all shared common work spaces (e.g. lounges, restrooms, common offices, meeting spaces, work rooms).	CDC Considerations for Schools	The staff lounge will be off limits for gatherings or eating. Full staff meetings will be done via Zoom. Small group meetings will include social distancing with the option of Zoom or phone call. Staff mailboxes will be moved out of the office and placed in the staff lounge to avoid unnecessary office traffic. Our administrative assistant may have her work space moved to increase airflow and avoid gathering in small spaces.	7/24
Protocol 4: Schools will review their procedures for bathroom use.	CDC Considerations for Schools	Classroom bathroom breaks will be staggered as needed. No more than four people will be allowed in the upstairs bathrooms at once, and no more than two at a time will be allowed in the bathrooms downstairs. There will be social distancing floor markings to assist students, and sinks will have sneeze shield dividers. The windows will be kept open in the bathrooms. A sink will be added in the upstairs hallway to avoid having to enter the bathroom every time a hand wash is necessary.	7/31
Protocol 5: Schools will review their procedures for the use of communal spaces (e.g. gym, playground, library, narthex).	CDC Considerations for Schools	Only one class cohort at a time will be allowed to use the playground. Also, each class will have their own equipment to play with. We will repaint some floor markings on the blacktop that add games that promote no touching and social distancing. Library-will be off limits for classes to enter for now. One possibility is for students to go online to search books they would like to check out, and then a volunteer or the classroom teacher would retrieve the books. The library will also be used for 1st grade overflow when their schedule relies on higher levels of movement.	7/31
Benchmark G: Food service plan	S	'	
Schools have implemented appro	priate procedures to mitigo	ate the spread of disease during meal time at school.	
Protocol 1: Schools will review their procedures and schedules for food service (e.g. breakfast, snack, lunch).	MDH School Planning Guide, p. 5 MDH: Hand Hygiene for Food Handlers	Breakfast will need to be eaten in the classrooms. This will eliminate cross-cohort contact before school as well as help with social distancing. Once students are screened they will walk directly to their classrooms OR walk directly to the cafeteria to retrieve their breakfast to take into their classrooms. During lunch times, we are able to have three students per table properly socially distanced 6 ft apart, allowing for up	7/16

	MDH COVID-19 Prevention Guidance, p. 4 CDC Considerations for Schools (Food Service)	to 50 students at a time in the lunchroom. A hybrid lunch schedule has been created to allow distancing.	
Benchmark H: School and health Schools have implemented approp		ate the spread of disease in school and health office operations.	
Protocol 1: Schools will analyze and adjust their physical space and front office procedures with consideration of public health recommended strategies to reduce the spread of disease.	MDH School Planning Guide, p. 4-6 CDC Considerations for Schools	Parts of the office area are not well ventilated and because of that there will be some rearranging. In an effort to reduce foot traffic into the office area, COS is assessing construction on one of the windows to allow window service for short interactions. ERV units are also being reviewed as a possibility for the office space. The isolation room will NOT be a part of the office area.	7/31
Protocol 2: Schools will review all procedures related to access and use of the health office.	MDH School Planning Guide	COS will collaborate with District 197 nurse support to comply with these procedures and guidelines.	7/31
Benchmark I: Transportation Schools have implemented proced	lures to mitigate the sprea	d of disease while transporting students.	
Protocol 1: Schools that manage their own transportation will analyze and adjust their transportation procedures and ensure availability of back-up drivers.	MDH School Planning Guide, p. 14 CDC Considerations for Schools (Transportation)	This protocol does not apply to Community of Saints.	7/31
Protocol 2: Schools who rely on their district for transportation will review district protocols and develop a contingency plan if the district is unable to provide transportation.		Community of Saints School will need to comply with the school families' residential transportation planning. The school is unable to fund alternate transportation modes, and some of our families are unable to provide household transportation. Therefore, distance learning will be provided for students unable to get to and from school due to transportation barriers.	7/20
Benchmark J: Communal prayer, a Schools have procedures for comm	-	ration of the sacraments consistent with parish protocols.	

Protocol 1: Schools will analyze and adjust their Mass schedule, liturgical practices and traditions to ensure that all public celebrations of the Mass and other sacraments comply with Archdiocesan and parish requirements.	The pastor or canonical administrator will provide direction on parish protocols.	Community of Saints will have Mass on a regular basis weekly or bi weekly depending on the current school schedule. Confessions will be available at Advent and Lenten season. Meeting with unbaptized students who seek to have their children initiated will take place.	
Benchmark K: Thresholds for build Heads of School are actively monit long-term closure of the school bu	toring and addressing cor	mmunity spread of COVID-19 as it relates to decisions about short-term or	
Protocol 1: School Level: Schools will develop transparent criteria for implementing a short-term closure of their school building. The Head of School and Pastor will consult with the Archdiocesan Director for Catholic Education before announcing short-term closures.	Awaiting Final Guidance	Community of Saints is waiting on professional, health expert-based guidance on how to plan for this. Community of Saints will be able to pivot to distance learning should a short-term closure need to be implemented.	7/16
Protocol 2: Systems Level: If the governor of Minnesota declares that all public school systems across the state will close, Catholic schools will follow the Archbishop's determination on how Catholic schools will respond.		Community of Saints will most likely need to follow the lead of West Saint Paul School District if Governor Walz closes public schools, due to food services and transportation. Community of Saints will be sure to communicate this to the Archdiocese.	7/16
Protocol 3: If the local public school district declares that its local public school or district will close, the Head of School and Pastor will be responsible for making a decision for its own school and will consult the Archdiocese as needed.		Community of Saints will most likely need to do whatever West Saint Paul does, as the community relies on its bus transportation and food programming. Community of Saints will be sure to communicate this to the Archdiocese.	7/16

Benchmark A: Communications and training

Protocol 1: Schools will post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that promote every day protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs (such as by properly washing hands).		Community of Saints will post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs (such as by properly washing hands).	7/16
Protocol 2: Schools will make regular, routine communications on reducing the spread of COVID-19.		The weekly school communication will have a designated "COVID-19" section that provides the most recent updates on best practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19.	7/16
Protocol 3: Schools will educate employees, students and families about when they/their child(ren) should stay home and when they may return to school if they have been sick, even prior to school opening.		Community of Saints will communicate regularly leading up to the school year as well as during the school year to educate school stakeholders on when students need to stay home and when they can return to school if they have been sick.	7/16
Protocol 4: Schools will train all employees, students, families, and community members (including volunteers) in school-level procedures found in the Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan (PPRP).		Staff were involved in school-level procedures found in the Pandemic Preparedness and Response Plan and various trainings will be held leading up to the start of the school year to ensure every staff member feels fully prepared. PPRP training will be a requirement of any volunteer prior to their service. Families and communities will be trained and educated through newsletters, videos and announcements. Students will be taught and will practice procedures during the start of the school year, and scaffolded practicing and learning will continue on a daily basis.	7/16
• 1	MDH Planning Guide, p. 12-13	Community of Saints will follow Catholic Mutual procedures of completing an incident report. The school will immediately contact health officials on next steps and have a communication template ready to distribute.	7/20
Protocol 6: Schools will communicate to families and staff their process for determining school-building closure.		Waiting for direction and recommendations from higher levels. This will most likely change as the school year gets closer, and plan and procedures will be communicated to all stakeholders.	7/31

Protocol 1: Schools will be mindful of the appropriate amount of COVID-19 information that is shared based on	Straction care in the in	Age appropriate approaches will be implemented to support students. Social distancing will be taught in a way that is visually concrete and still sensitive to our younger students. Respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene will be taught, reinforced	7/31
the development level of children.		and practiced regularly as a whole community. Staff will individually intervene in a respectful manner when a member of the community is not following protocol of our healthy and safety procedures.	
Protocol 2: Schools will be attentive and responsive to the social, spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of students and families.		Community of Saints will continue to implement instruction and educational experiences of students through the lens of faith, inclusivity and love. Social emotional learning will be on the forefront of the students' experience. Spirituality will continue to be a large part of the whole student experience at COS. Student Mass will continue to be celebrated, and religion will be taught in a way that support social emotional well-being.	7/31
distance learning if needed. Protocol 1: According to their ability,	See Appendix B & C	ve plans to provide an approach to hybrid learning and to efficiently transition	
		I Full distance learning will be available to tamilies in situations where students are not	7/31
schools will have a plan to provide educational continuity for children who may not be able to be present in the school building for in-person learning (e.g. due to underlying health	Sec Appendix B & C	Full distance learning will be available to families in situations where students are not able to be physically at school. In order to manage this as an instructor, the school will be providing high standard technology that will allow for synchronous learning in the classroom and at home simultaneously.	7/31
schools will have a plan to provide educational continuity for children who may not be able to be present in the school building for in-person learning	Sec. Appendix 5 & C	able to be physically at school. In order to manage this as an instructor, the school will be providing high standard technology that will allow for synchronous learning in the	7/31

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A: Additional Resources

Resources listed here do not indicate Archdiocesan approval or endorsement

Additional Health and Safety COVID-19 Resources for Schools

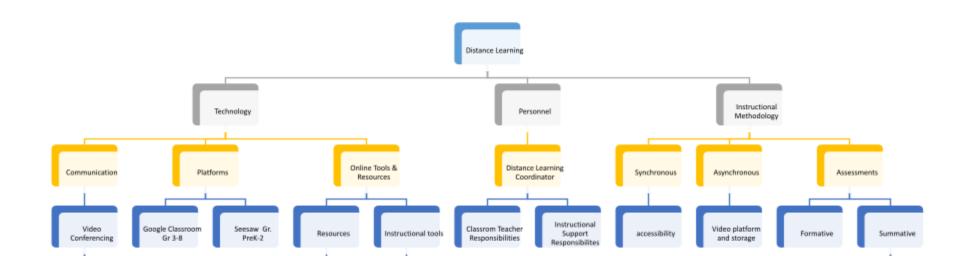
2020-21 MDE MINNESOTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS PLANNING GUIDE (MDE)

IEA Resources (provided by Catholic Mutual)

Initial Fall Reopening Guide (State of Massachusetts)

Recommendations for Reopening (Sick Kids Children's Hospital, Canada)

APPENDIX B: Sample of Distance Learning Planning Framework



Named resources are examples of possible options. They are not endorsements or recommendations.

APPENDIX C: Educational Planning Models

One of the most critical decisions each school needs to consider is how to meet the academic needs of all students – those who will learn in person and those who are unable to receive instruction in school and desire virtual instruction.

Three Models for Learning:

All students learn at school in a newly modified traditional model.
All students learn from home – distance learning.
A hybrid model that provides some students learning at school and some at home.

It is important to make plans that are flexible and can adapt to the ever-changing needs of your community. Every plan should consider the possibility that at some point in the 2020-2021 academic year, if there is a significantly elevated health risk, schools will need to shift to distance learning. Choices surrounding technology, responsibilities for personnel, and instructional methodology should be flexible enough to adjust to the change in educational modeling.

Questions to consider after reflecting on distance learning during the spring 2020

<u>Technology</u>

What platforms will best support/organize learning experience for students, teachers, and parents?

What online educational resources will help students in school and at home meet their learning goals?

What communication tools will provide access to learning for students utilizing distance learning?

<u>Personnel</u>

What are the expectations of your teachers for managing the learning of students at school and home?

Who will be responsible for overseeing learning from home?

How will all students with learning plans have their needs met if they are learning from home?

Instructional Methodology

If some or all students are learning from home at any point in the school year how will the instruction be delivered – synchronous or asynchronous lessons?

How will all students be assessed – formative and summative – if some students are learning from home? How do you ensure academic integrity?

APPENDIX D: Cleaning Log from Catholic Mutual

Cleaning Log	
Date:	

Time	Area Cleaned	Initials

APPENDIX E: Sample Area Cleaning Chart from Catholic Mutual

Space	How Often to Clean & Disinfect	When to Clean & Disinfect	Who is Responsible
COMMON AREAS			
Main Entrance/Vestibule Door Handles and Electronic Door Assist Buttons			
Main Office Door Handles	3 times/day	Input times	Input names and times per person
Bottle Fillers			
Check-In Counters/Front Office Counters			
Handrails			
Elevator Buttons			
Vending Machine Buttons, Cash Input/Output surfaces, pickup slot door			
Tables/Chairs in Common Areas			
MAIN OFFICE & TEACHERS LOUNGE			
Door Handles/Inside & Outside			
Tables			
Desks			Input names
Chairs - Armrests, Grip Areas	1 time/day	Input time	and times
Phones and Computers			per person
Break Room - Tables, Chairs, Appliance Handles, Cabinet			
Pulls. Remove all shared condiments			
CLASSROOMS	I		
Door Handles Identify all touch points during open/closing			
Door Frames			
Light Switches			Input names
Table Tops	1 time/day	Input time	and times
Desks	,		per person
Chairs (include hand grips)			
Cabinet handles/Pulls and Front of Doors			
Sink Faucets and Front Edge of Sink			