



2022-2023

# COVID-19 Safety Guidelines for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Austin

Updated July 14, 2022

The Office of Catholic Schools has outlined below minimum COVID-19 safety guidelines for the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Austin. These guidelines will be reviewed and updated as needed throughout the year based on the most up-to-date information available. Schools will share their specific COVID-19 safety plans with their school community. \*

- ▶ All schools will provide in-person instruction.
- ▶ Masks may be optional for students, employees, and visitors.
- ▶ Schools will establish cleaning procedures to include regular cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing of facilities.
- ▶ Schools should have students and employees continue with handwashing and hygiene protocols.
- ▶ Extra-curricular activities, including sports and clubs, field trips and library services will continue to be provided.
- ▶ Schools will establish protocols to welcome volunteers and visitors.
- ▶ The class, activity group, or sports team will be notified when a positive case occurs in a corresponding group. Close contacts will not be required to quarantine unless they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- ▶ Schools will follow the current CDC isolation guidance for any individual who tests positive for COVID-19:
  - CDC: isolate for at least 5 days from symptom onset or if no symptoms from date of test. Students and staff may return to school after 5 full days if fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and other symptoms have improved if symptoms were present. For calculating the return date, "day 0" is the day symptoms began or if no symptoms, when tested.

*\*In order to mitigate the spread of the virus, we will continue to monitor guidance from the various local, state, and federal agencies. As we monitor the current health environment, school leaders have the ability to strengthen and update these guidelines to combat an increase or spike in COVID-19 cases in their area.*

