

August 6, 2021

Dear St. Aloysius School Families,

I have received updated information from Superintendent Mary Beth Bowling regarding our reopening plans. Our Catholic School Office of the Archdiocese continues to work with many sources to help us prepare for a successful and safe start to our school year. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time as directions and recommendations adjust due to changing conditions in our community.

Since the guidelines were issued a week ago, the following developments prompted this revision:

- Jefferson County is now in the red zone, and their positivity rate is 11.5%.
- Cases have tripled in Jefferson County over the last week and cases in the state doubled from Monday to Wednesday of this week.
- The positivity rate for the state of KY has risen to 10.27%.
- Our elementary schools serve the largest number of unvaccinated students.
- An abundance of caution is necessary as it relates to our children and staff.

More detailed information is again provided in the attached letter from Superintendent Bowling, but to give you a basic overview of our new Covid requirements for the start of the school year, please see below:

- Masking - Masks will be required for all persons while indoors in all classroom and non-classroom settings unless otherwise exempted (e.g., cannot wear a mask due to disability) regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.
- Physical Distancing - We will do our best to physical distance at least 3 feet in the classrooms where not everyone is fully vaccinated.
- Hygiene and Cleaning - We will continue teaching and reinforcing hand washing and using hand sanitizers. Also, we will continue to clean our facilities to the greatest extent possible and will frequently clean high-touch surfaces.
- Quarantining - All adults and students are expected to stay home if they exhibit any Covid-19 symptoms. We will continue to work with our local health department to determine when isolations and quarantines should occur. Fully vaccinated persons do not need to quarantine following an exposure to Covid-19 unless they are experiencing symptoms.
- Visitors - Non-essential visitors and volunteers will be limited inside the school building. All visitors are asked to wear masks when in the school building.
- NTI - Students who are sick or quarantining will not be able to follow class online in real time. As with any absence, students will be able to access missed work as outlined in the handbook.

We hope this change will be temporary. We will continue to stay abreast of the most current information and communicate that to you. Policies will likely evolve in light of updated guidance.

Again, we hope this is a short term need, but one that will keep our community healthy. Thank you for your continued support and understanding. I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Many blessings,

Paula Smith, Ed.S.

Principal

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Layers of protection are recommended when schools open for in-person instruction for the 21-22 school year to maintain safety. Ages of children served by Archdiocese of Louisville schools and associated social and behavioral factors may affect the risk of transmission and also impact implementation of prevention strategies. Knowing that children under the age of 12 currently cannot receive the vaccination, we offer the following guidelines:

<u>MASKS</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Masks will be required for all persons while indoors in all classroom and non-classroom settings unless otherwise exempted (e.g., cannot wear a mask due to disability) regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.• Masks do not need to be worn outdoors unless there is sustained close contact with unvaccinated individuals.• In accordance with President Biden’s Executive order, those riding school buses must be masked at all times, including the driver even if vaccinated. Buses should use assigned seating to aid with contact tracing.
<u>PHYSICAL DISTANCING</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical distancing of at least 3 feet is recommended in classrooms where not everyone is fully vaccinated. It is recommended that desks are facing the same direction and assigned seating used for purposes of contact tracing. Non-essential furniture should also be removed to allow for adequate physical distancing.• Maximize physical distancing for unvaccinated persons who are eating meals indoors. When able, outdoor space for eating is recommended.• Consider the use of cohorts or pods as an additional strategy that will facilitate more efficient contact tracing and minimize opportunities for transmission.
<u>VENTILATION</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve facility ventilation to the greatest extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air and increase delivery of clean air. Utilize outdoor spaces, where possible.
<u>HYGIENE</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for 20 seconds or use of hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
<u>ISOLATION</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the school day, anyone experiencing the following symptoms should be isolated until at which point they are able to leave the building if exhibiting the following symptoms:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fever or feeling feverish (e.g. chills, sweating)- Difficulty breathing- Vomiting or diarrhea- New cough- Sore throat- New loss of taste or smell- Muscle aches or body aches• Encourage those exhibiting the symptoms of COVID-19 to see a health care provider for further evaluation.• Ensure those testing positive for COVID-19 follow the guidelines recommended by the local health department for isolation.• All adults and students are expected to stay home if they exhibit any of the symptoms above.
<u>QUARANTINE AND CONTACT TRACING</u>

- Schools will continue to work with their local health departments to facilitate case investigation and contact tracing to identify individuals who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Jefferson County Catholic Schools are required to enter any new case into Red Cap to expedite contact tracing. Use of masks will determine level of quarantines needed using the definition of a close contact - 6ft for 15 minutes or more while the infected person was contagious.
- Unvaccinated students, teachers, or staff who are identified as close contacts should be instructed to self-quarantine regardless of whether the exposure was in or outside of the school setting. Quarantine can be discontinued when:
 - The local health department determines the individual is safe to be around others or;
 - After 7 days if the individual is symptom-free and receives a negative COVID test 5 days or later after the last date of exposure to the case;
 - After day 10 without testing if the individual is symptom free.
- Fully vaccinated persons do not need to quarantine following an exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 if he/she is not experiencing symptoms.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

- Improve facility cleaning to the greatest extent possible. Cleaning once a day is enough and sufficient to remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. Consider cleaning high-touch areas more frequently.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Non-essential visitors, volunteers and activities with people who are not fully vaccinated should be limited, if there is a moderate to high COVID-19 transmission in the community.
- Because we are returning to full in-person instruction, those students who are sick or quarantining will not be able to follow class on-line in real time. As with any absence, students will be able to access information and obtain missed work as is outlined in each school's handbook.
- Archdiocese of Louisville Secondary Schools should be consulted individually for more information about their re-entry plans.