



THE DIOCESE OF HOUMA THIBODAUX

Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools

SAFE SCHOOL PROTOCOLS

2022-2023

The Department of Health has provided updated guidance for K-12 Schools to help administrators support safe, in-person learning. It is recommended that all who are eligible for vaccines be updated on all vaccinations including COVID -19 vaccinations. All schools should teach and reinforce proper handwashing and covering of coughs and sneezes. All surface areas should be cleaned and disinfected at least once per day. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 or who is identified as a close contact should follow isolation/quarantine guidance as followed below.

Anyone with Covid-19 related symptoms should stay home and get tested. If the test is negative, the individual can return to school as long as he/she meets the return-to-school requirements.

Tested POSITIVE for COVID-19:

- Regardless of vaccination status, if someone tests positive for COVID-19, that person must isolate at home through Day 5. Day 0 is the day of onset of symptoms or test day if asymptomatic. (If an asymptomatic person develops symptoms within 10 days of the negative test, the clock restarts at day 0 on the day of symptom onset.)
- **Return-to-School:** A person may return to school on Day 6 as long as fever free for 24-hours without fever reducing medication and other symptoms have improved.
- It is recommended that the person wear a face covering while at home in isolation to reduce spread of the virus. It is also recommended to wear a face covering through Day 10 following a positive test while around others.
- Positive persons should notify anyone who would be considered a close contact. The school will no longer conduct contact tracing.

Identifying Close Contacts:

- **Close Contact** is defined within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hr period or having direct physical contact with an infected person.



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If exposed to someone with COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status):

- **Individuals do not need to quarantine unless symptoms develop.**
 - If symptoms develop, isolate immediately and get tested. Continue to stay home until results are received.
 - Self-monitor for symptoms until 10 days after the last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
 - It is highly recommended to wear a mask for 10 days while around others.
 - It is highly recommended to get tested on Day 5. If positive results, follow guidance for isolation.

Guide for School Reporting Requirements:

In collaboration with the Louisiana Department of Education, the Louisiana Department of Health is implementing a statewide reporting system for all school-associated cases of COVID-19. This system is intended to record COVID-related illness in schools and to give schools a platform to document case information, assisting in their ability to mitigate potential for school spread.

See School Registration attachment for more information.

The Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools will require the following guidelines for internal reporting. **Administrators will be required to report student COVID cases twice a month. You will report via a link on the Office of Catholic Schools newsletter.**