

## **COVID-19 – SCHOOL REOPENING – PARENT/GUARDIAN**

In developing plans for the reopening of its schools, the Diocese of Oakland is required to implement the health and safety standards established by the State of California Department of Public Health and/or the county in which your student's school is located. If there exists a conflict, the Diocese of Oakland will follow the more stringent standard. Focusing on the county in which your school is located, please thoroughly read the applicable reopening guidelines. Additional information can be found at each county health department's websites. Here are the hyperlinks for each county:

- [Alameda County Schools: 2020 – 21 Reopening Guidelines](#)
- [Alameda County Public Health Department Website](#)
  
- [Contra Costa County Schools: 2020 – 21 Reopening Guidelines](#)
- [Contra Costa Health Service Website](#)

This document is incorporated by reference into the Parent-Student Handbook at the school your student attends.

### **Expectations for Parents/Guardians/Students/School Employees:**

Parents, guardians, students and school employees must work together to create a healthy school campus. Working together requires the following:

1. Anyone entering the school campus must comply with the applicable county COVID-19 requirements. Failure to comply is a violation of law. Unless specifically exempted by the applicable county health guideline, anyone entering the school campus must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) covering his/her nose and mouth. The school will limit visitors to those visits essential for the school's operations and limit the duration of time a visitor shall be on campus.
2. No parent, guardian, student, employee or visitors shall enter the school premises if that person has: (a) received a positive test result for COVID-19; (b) has sought medical treatment for COVID-19 symptoms; (c) is quarantined or self-quarantined because of COVID-19, whether diagnosed or not; or (d) has a temperature of 100 or greater. In all such cases, the person shall not enter the campus without obtaining written medical clearance and providing it to the school principal.
3. All parents, guardians, students and employees must immediately notify the school principal if a student or employee has come into contact (through living arrangements or otherwise) with any person that has: (a) received a positive test result for COVID-19; (b) has sought medical treatment for COVID-19 symptoms; or (c) is quarantined or self-quarantined because of COVID-19, whether diagnosed or not. In any of these situations, the person will not be allowed on school property, until the minimum county isolation/quarantine requirements have been met.

4. During the 2020-2021 school year, the school will require parents, guardians, students and employees to answer basic health screening questions related to COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school. Further, once present at school, if an employee, student or visitor exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, the school may conduct health screening and isolate the person, consistent with county guidelines. (No medical testing, blood or saliva draw will be performed.)

With the above guiding principles, the following are general expectations moving forward to reopen our Catholic schools in the 2020/2021 school year.

**The School Will:**

1. Clean and disinfect the school building, including classrooms, using a commercial cleaning service before in-person instruction begins. Janitorial service will occur on school days after school hours.
2. Have an adequate supply of liquid soap and disinfecting supplies available for use by employees, students and janitors both in the classrooms and bathrooms.
3. Have a limited amount of surplus PPE for students should they lose, soil or misplace their own PPE while at school.
4. Wipe down and disinfect desks, chairs and tables during the school day. Students may be asked to participate by disinfecting their own desks, chairs, and personal property.
5. Determine when parents, guardians or visitors shall be permitted on campus, the duration of such visits, as well as what PPE they shall be required to wear on campus. These determinations will be posted at the building entrance(s) and on the school website. The school may restrict the number of visitors to the school building, both during and after school hours. The school may refuse entry to visitors who do not comply with the county's requirements, or the school's visitor requirements.
6. Communicate in writing with parents/guardians regarding protection measures for COVID-19, including changes in practices that start after the school begins in-person learning.

**Parents/Guardians Will:**

1. Check your student for symptoms of COVID-19 daily before he/she attends school. A list of COVID-19 symptoms and a self-checker is available on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website at [Symptoms of Coronavirus](#) and guardians are to submit any information requested by the school regarding the presence or absence of any COVID-19 symptoms before your student arrives at the school entrance(s).

2. Provide students with PPE covering their nose and mouth, and clean or replace such protective coverings as necessary.
3. Provide students with personal water bottles and small bottles of liquid hand sanitizer to carry in backpacks for use in class, at lunch or during recess. Explain these water bottles and liquid hand sanitizer bottles should not be shared and should be marked with the student's initials.
4. Explain to your student the importance of social distancing, understanding the minimum social distance and wearing of PPE when required. Explain to students the importance of not touching other students, and not touching other students' backpacks, clothing, cell phones, food or personal property.
5. Comply with all PPE requirements of the applicable county guidelines.

**Waiver and Release of Liability:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created serious, unexpected challenges for the entire world, including our schools. We are dedicated to the goal of resuming the mission of providing Catholic education in the classroom and taking reasonable mitigating measures. At the same time, there is no ability on the part of the school to guarantee a virus-free school environment.

The undersigned expressly understand and assume the risk of contracting COVID-19. Further, the undersigned expressly waives and releases any and all claims or lawsuits against the Diocese of Oakland, its affiliated corporations, parishes or schools, including clergy, agents and employees, arising from or related to alleged negligence concerning any type of harm or injury caused by COVID-19. This waiver of liability and release shall be enforced to the full extent permitted by California law. Parents/guardians signing this waiver and release of liability are signing both on behalf of their children and themselves.

Parent/Guardian Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student Names: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_