

2021-2022 COVID-19 Protocols for St. John the Baptist School

Thank you for your patience as we developed our COVID-19 policies for the 2021-2022 school year. After reading through the guidance from the Hamilton County Health Department, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and reviewing other policies from schools in our area, we have developed the following COVID-19 policies for the 2021-2022 school year. Please read through the following document as there are some important changes from last year. As always, please remember this is a fluid process, as the guidance changes so will our policies. Please continue to check the Blue Jay Newsletter each week for any updates or policy changes.

- **MASK POLICY** - To start the school year, masks will be **recommended** but not required for all staff and students. Please note, according to guidance from the Hamilton County Department of Health, if your child wears a mask consistently, they will not be considered a close contact as long as the mask has been properly worn during the time of the potential exposure. *This is new guidance from the Ohio Department of Health.
 - If you wish to have your child wear a mask at school, please email your son/daughter's teacher to let them know your wishes; however, it is not the responsibility of the teacher to police the mask wearing of the students. Please have this discussion with your child(ren) before the first day of school.
- We will **not** be taking temperatures before students enter the building each morning. We are asking each family to complete a wellness check at home prior to leaving for school. If your student has any known COVID-19 symptoms including, but not limited to, a new or worsening cough, shortness of breath/ difficulty breathing, fever or chills, extreme fatigue, and body aches, please keep them home from school.
- If your child or someone else in your house has tested positive for COVID-19, please contact the school immediately so we can complete the appropriate contact tracing required by the Hamilton County Health Department.
- We will be working with a contact tracer from Hamilton County Health Department that will guide us on who needs to quarantine if an outbreak occurs within our school.
- Late arrival and early dismissals will stay the same from last year. Please report to the blue awning to be buzzed into the office. You will sign your child in/out on the table outside the office. Parents are asked to stay at the table until their child is called down (early dismissals).
- Parents will not be permitted to walk their student(s) into the school building or to their classrooms.

- Volunteers will be very limited for the 2021-2022 school year and will not be allowed in the classrooms until further notice. We will bring back a few volunteers to start the school year, such as library, copy moms, and cafeteria volunteers, but parents are expected to stay in the area in which they have been approved to volunteer.
- Any forgotten items (lunches, homework, eyeglasses, snacks, water bottles etc.) can be dropped off until 9:00am each morning. We understand that children forget things on occasion, but if it becomes a habit we will discuss alternative actions.
- As of right now, the playground equipment will be open for use at recess.
- We do our best to maintain maximum physical distancing whenever possible. Seating charts will be used in all places, including classrooms and the cafeteria.
- Students are strongly encouraged to bring a water bottle to school daily. Water fountains will only be available for bottle-filling purposes. Please make sure your student's water bottle closes completely and will not spill if tipped over.

Resources

- For further information please check out the following links.
 - [Guidelines for Quarantine - Flow Chart](#)
 - [Hamilton County School Guidance for Covid-19](#)

If you have any questions please contact the principal or nurse for clarification.

Thank you,

Courtney Weinheimer
Principal

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School Health Associate