



FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

# **Diocesan Plan for the Reopening of Schools 2020-2021**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an Executive Summary of the protocols and procedures, known as the Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) *Diocesan Plan*, for reopening buildings for in-school student attendance at the Catholic Diocese of Peoria elementary and secondary schools. The *OCS Diocesan Plan* includes guidance on health and safety, human resources, finance, and communications.

There are three guiding principles of the *OCS Diocesan Plan* for the reopening of our schools:

1. Our school buildings will provide a safe and faith-filled environment for our students.
2. The course of the pandemic in Illinois remains fluid. As such, this *OCS Diocesan Plan* may be updated on a continual basis as pandemic data and guidelines are regularly reviewed.
3. OCS asks that our school families assist us in serving the common good and work in cooperation with not only their diocesan school but also with the Office of Catholic Schools and the Illinois Department of Public Health to the best of their ability.

The *OCS Diocesan Plan* was created from discussions and advisement of the medical community, Illinois Catholic school superintendents, Diocese of Peoria pastors and principals, Catholic Mutual Group, the diocesan Offices of the Bishop, the Chancery, and the Office of Catholic Schools. Guidance documents from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Board of Education, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Governor of Illinois' *Restore Illinois* plan were also studied.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

This section provides guidelines related to the safety, health and hygiene of students and include specific ideas for integrating into instruction and the school day.

### **THE COHORT MODEL**

The Catholic Diocese of Peoria's elementary schools are to operate under a "cohort" model when buildings reopen. Under a cohort model, students and staff are grouped by grade level. These groupings are designed to allow the same group of students to stay with the same staff (all day for young children and as much as possible for older children) while minimizing the risk of cross contamination between cohorts. It also allows single classes to be quarantined in the event of infection, rather than closing the entire school building. Grade level teachers are considered part of the same cohort as their students, but other teachers (including specials' teachers) and staff are considered outside the cohort.

Even while utilizing the cohort model, schools should strive to physically separate students in the same cohort as much as possible. Such separation will help mitigate risk. For example, classroom furniture should be arranged to maximize social distancing between students.

Diocesan secondary school administrators whose reopening plans cannot operate under a cohort model should design plans to meet the health and safety requirements of wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and using proper hygiene and safety.

Employees and students shall self-report to their individual school and/or their local public health department when experiencing any of the symptoms that are associated with COVID19 during the school day.

## **MASKS AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

All individuals in school buildings (students, employees) are to wear masks.

Families are asked to supply masks for their child/children. Reusable cloth masks are allowed with the stipulation that they be washed every night in preparation for the next school day if using the same mask.

Disposable masks are preferred in the school setting with the intention of disposing at the end of every school day. Parents should send students with extra PPE in case masks are damaged during the day.

Masks should not contain messages or images that would distract from the educational environment of the school.

Schools will ensure an ongoing supply of PPE (disposable face masks, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizers, etc.) for all employees and will maintain a minimum supply of masks for students in case students forget or break their personal mask.

Masks may be removed in special circumstances, i.e., when eating or drinking or engaged in outside activities or outside instruction per IDPH guidelines. Individuals should wash or sanitize hands before putting their face covering back on.

Schools will maintain a regular supply of gloves for cleaning surfaces and treating students with medical injuries/illnesses.

## **ARRIVAL PROCEDURES – WELLNESS CHECKS**

Students and employees will utilize as many exterior doors as possible and assign classes to enter through only their assigned doorway in order to minimize the risk of cross-contamination between cohorts. Congestion should be avoided when entering or departing the building.

All students and employees shall wear a mask when entering the building at the beginning of the school day.

Employees are responsible for taking their temperature every day. Any faculty or staff member (and in very limited instances, volunteers) with a temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit will be sent home.

Schools will perform “wellness checks” of all students. Employees shall temperature scan each student upon arrival, and any student with a temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit will be sent home.

Students shall wash hands or receive hand sanitizer upon entering the school each morning to assist with safety and hygiene.

Parents and guardians should not enter the building to escort students to/from classrooms at arrival and dismissal.

Student bus riders will be socially distanced as much as possible, and students will wear a mask and use hand sanitizer when traveling via bus. Per current guidance, no more than 50 individuals should be on a bus at one time.

## **DISMISSAL**

As with arrival, schools will utilize as many exterior entryways as possible and assign classes to exit through only their assigned doorway upon dismissal. Employees will accompany students as they are dismissed.

Parents will be instructed to remain in vehicles instead of congregating outside school exits. Schools should implement procedures to screen student pickups to ensure ongoing safety.

## **INTERNAL TRAFFIC FLOW**

Traffic flow will be designed with the intent of keeping cohorts physically apart throughout the building. Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and students remain at least three to six feet apart in hallways. Depending upon the layout of the school building, consider assigning classes to use specific routes. Principals will carefully think through how students travel through high-traffic areas of the school building, such as the cafeteria, gym, multipurpose room, bathrooms, etc.

Students shall not share lockers. If a school has extra lockers, student lockers in elementary and secondary schools will be spread out by cohort or grade level. Develop a schedule of locker access to mitigate breaking cohorts (e.g., cohorts/grade levels could access lockers at different times if lockers are located in the same hallway).

In the elementary school, passing periods should be avoided. As indicated below, it is recommended that students remain in their grade level classroom instead of traveling to other departmentalized classes.

## **GENERAL FACILITY CLEANING, HYGIENE, & SHARED SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

Schools will follow the building cleaning and disinfection procedures outlined in the guidance from the Catholic Mutual Group and in the ISBE/ IDPH's *Transition Joint Guidance*.

Sharing of school supplies such as pencils, markers and art supplies will be eliminated. Students shall maintain their school supplies in individually labeled containers, cubbies, desks, classrooms, or book bags. Shared equipment, such as one-to-one devices, will be used by as few children as possible and will be cleaned and disinfected before use by another student.

All rooms will have access to either a sink and soap in the classroom or in a bathroom for frequent hand washing and/or have access to hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.

Spray bottles of cleaning disinfectant will be readily available in each classroom and shared spaces for use throughout the day. Common surfaces in shared spaces (e.g. office, bathrooms, stair handrails, etc.) will be cleaned multiple times per day.

Installing physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions in shared areas, where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least three to six feet apart (e.g. main office desk), may be considered.

Food and drink will not be shared (including student snacks and lunches). Individually wrapped birthday treats may be shared during lunchtime.

Drinking fountains will *only* be used to fill reusable water bottles. Signs will be placed on water fountains indicating their sole use is for refilling water bottles.

When practical, increase the circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and inside doors. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk to students (e.g., risk of falling, triggering of asthma symptoms, etc.).

When possible, interior doors will be kept open to eliminate the need to use door handles. Be mindful of fire code and student safety when determining whether to keep internal doors open.

For the 2020-2021 school year, schools shall discontinue the use of perfect attendance awards.

## **CORE CLASSROOMS – REMAINING WITHIN COHORT OR CLASSROOM SUBJECT**

Students and staff will continue the use of masks within cohorts and classrooms.

Declutter classrooms with the intent of maximizing floor space. Consideration should be given to eliminating shared spaces, such as reading nooks or instructional breakout tables, until the pandemic has passed.

Arrange desks in rows facing the same direction and provide as much distance between desks as possible. If tables are used instead of desks, attempt to spread out students at tables. Consider taping off tables to separate student workspace.

Frequently clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces daily, including desks and door handles.

Shared classroom spaces, such as science labs, should be cleaned before and after usage by each cohort or classroom. When using the library, students should use hand sanitizer before touching books and afterwards, too.

Students and employees should use hand sanitizer or wash hands with soap after returning to the classroom from any location.

## **EARLY EDUCATION CONSIDERATIONS**

Follow guidelines that apply to core classrooms (see section above).

Classroom supplies may be shared, given the unique educational practices of early education, but limited to *essential use only* and cleaned frequently.

Snacks: Separate students as much as possible (3-6 feet or more). Students may remove masks while eating. Minimize student movement and prevent food sharing. Clean surfaces immediately after snack time.

Naptime (if applicable): Do not permit sharing of cots or bedding. Spread children out as much as possible, and masks may be removed if children are at least three to six feet apart.

## **DEPARTMENTALIZED CLASSES AND MIXED INSTRUCTIONAL GROUPS**

For departmentalized schedules (e.g. junior high and high school programs), students will try to remain in their classroom for all core subjects.

Students and staff will continue to use masks in the classrooms.

Some elementary schools mix students from various grades/classes when utilizing leveled math classes or Title I reading intervention; however, schools should consider avoiding such mixing when possible and use

technology to supplement instruction. At the very least, efforts will be made for students to wear masks and socially distance.

For secondary schools, mixing of students from different grade levels is not uncommon. However, students will wear masks and socially distance.

### **SPECIALS' CLASSES**

Whenever possible, specials classes (i.e., art, music, drama, foreign language, STEM, health, etc.) should be held in each cohort's grade level classroom or in the secondary school assigned classroom. Elementary school specials' teachers should try and go to the students, rather than students to the teacher. Specials' teachers will observe distancing in the cohort and wear a face covering.

If a shared classroom is used for specials' classes, such as a computer lab or library, the area will be thoroughly cleaned before being used by another cohort.

Specials' teachers will minimize shared supplies (e.g. art supplies). In any case, supplies will be cleaned between each use particularly when used by different cohorts or different grade levels as in the high school.

Music classes will try to avoid singing or asking students to play woodwinds, brass instruments, and recorders, in order to minimize risk of cross contamination *unless* social distancing can be maintained (*more information on band below*).

Whenever possible, move classes outside, especially physical education classes.

*Please note:* offering and scheduling specials' instruction is *at the discretion* of the pastor, chaplain and principal during the pandemic.

### **DRIVER'S EDUCATION BEHIND-THE-WHEEL**

In order to provide behind-the-wheel training to students in driver's education in compliance with all Secretary of State and IDPH safety requirements, the following procedures must be followed:

- Only two students and one instructor per vehicle.
- Masks must be worn.
- Eating and drinking are prohibited in the vehicle.
- Windows must be open whenever possible.
- Do not make any unnecessary stops during the training.
- Complete hand hygiene with soap & water or hand sanitizer, before and after driving.
- Clean and disinfect the steering wheel, door handles, seat belt fastener, controls/dials, keys, etc. in between each behind-the-wheel session.
- Conduct regular routine cleaning and disinfecting of the seats.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION, GYMNASIUMS, AND LOCKER ROOMS**

Physical activity can support students' overall health and help reduce stress and anxiety. Whenever feasible and weather permitting, our schools will select outdoor PE activities that allow physical distancing. If physical education must be taught inside, social distance between participants will be observed. Hand shaking, high fives, or other physical contact is prohibited.

Schools must consider eliminating the need for use of locker rooms, as well as allowing students to participate in activities without changing clothing. Shoe changes can be done prior to arrival in PE. Lockers will not be shared, and showers will not be required for activities.

Especially in our secondary schools, the use of shared equipment is not recommended. Any shared equipment must be cleaned between each student use, and it will be disinfected at the end of each class. Fitness center equipment, such as treadmills, elliptical machines, stationary bicycles, weights, etc., will be cleaned and sanitized before and after each class. Focus will be on frequently touched surfaces, such as keypads, hand weights, handles, etc. Maintaining 6 foot distance between participants may include using only every other treadmill/bicycle or installing dividers between each machine or equipment piece. Students and employees will perform hand hygiene at the start and end of each class period or when hands are visibly dirty. Students will also perform hand hygiene after the use of each piece of equipment.

### **OTHER PROGRAMS**

All other programs will be reviewed for feasibility. These programs will be adjusted as needed to apply protection measures while fulfilling any grant or educational requirements.

All athletic and extra-curricular activities will follow the most current IDPH/ISBE guidelines and guidelines provided by IESA and IHSA.

### **STUDENTS WITH ACCOMMODATIONS**

All students attending in-person learning will continue to have access to their individual service plans with accommodations.

### **TECHNOLOGY DEVICES & WEB ACCESS**

A device and web access will be required for both in-person and remote learning. For remote learning, parents will need to maintain this device and web access in their homes for student access to lessons, personalized learning, and assignment retrieval. In the event of a COVID-19 related closure, paper packets may be made available as needed. Our schools will make every effort to ensure that all students in grades K-12 will have access to a device and will work with families that have limited or no Internet access at home.

Diocesan school policies for acceptable use with technology will be implemented. If a family leaves our diocesan school, all school property must be returned to the school.

### **BATHROOMS**

Try to restrict bathroom use to three students or fewer, if possible. Students will wear masks and try to remain socially distant while in bathrooms.

Schools will post signage on bathrooms indicating that no more than three students (*whenever possible*) may be present at a time.

If a school has multiple bathrooms, classes will be assigned to use specific bathrooms at elementary schools instead of allowing students to choose.

### **MAIN OFFICE AND STAFF WORKROOM**

Consideration should be given to install physical barriers, such as sneeze guards, in the main office counter or desk area in diocesan schools.

Spread out seating in the main office to ensure distancing. Eliminate seating when distancing is not possible.

Use tape on the office floor to direct traffic flow and manage any lines, ensuring proper distancing is followed.

Teachers, administrators and staff shall wear masks and maintain distancing when in the main office or staff workroom.

Clean common surfaces multiple times per day, such as counters, desks, doorknobs, copy machines, etc.

Schedule parent, student and teacher meetings virtually, if possible. If face-to-face meetings are required, meet in large open areas instead of more confined spaces (such as the principal's office). Meeting participants should wear masks and maintain distancing.

## **LUNCH**

Consider eating lunch in classrooms to minimize the risk of cross contamination. Lunches may be delivered to the classrooms to avoid having students pick up lunches in the cafeteria.

If students pick up lunches in the cafeteria, only one cohort or classroom should pick up lunch at a time and social distancing will be maintained.

Students will wash their hands or apply hand sanitizer before and after eating.

Surfaces used for lunch should be disinfected after eating.

If using the cafeteria, the cafeteria will be cleaned and sanitized between uses. No more than 50 students (or following the most current IDPH/ISBE guidance) should utilize the cafeteria at one time. Only cohorts should sit within the same area and maintain social distancing.

Try to use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes) and non-disposable food service items should be handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher per IDPH and ISBE guidance. Hands shall be washed after removing gloves or after directly handling used food service items.

With varying elementary and secondary school sizes, the pastor/chaplain and principal will determine the most efficient way for students to eat lunch with the goal of always trying to minimize risk for hygiene and safety.

## **RECESS**

Recess in elementary schools will be scheduled with cohorts to decrease intermingling with other cohorts in order to minimize cross contamination.

Recess equipment, if not assigned to a specific cohort but used by multiple cohorts, will be cleaned between cohorts' usage. If using playground equipment (e.g., slides, swings, etc.), try to schedule for only a single cohort to use each day; thus, playground equipment will only have to be cleaned once a day versus several times a day.

When recess is outside, masks may be removed and social distancing maintained. As students re-enter the building, masks will be worn and hand sanitizer used.

## **SCHOOL MEETINGS**

In the elementary school, with the exception of the grade level classroom teacher and perhaps an instructional aide assigned to the classroom, all other teachers and staff are considered "outside" a cohort.



Administrators, front office staff, specials' teachers, cafeteria, custodial and maintenance personnel, etc., will continue to practice social distancing and wear masks when around others in the school building.

Faculty meetings, professional development and other teacher/staff activities, parent conferences, etc., should be conducted virtually. If this is not possible, masks and social distancing will be practiced.

### **MEDICAL CARE FOR STUDENTS**

Schools will provide ongoing medical care as described in the school's handbook policies. This includes the authorization to administer approved medications, prescriptions, and basic first aid (with the exception of nebulizer treatments, which should not be administered at school).

Staff should wear gloves and masks when providing medical care for students.

Office staff or nurses that assist with medical care should document when a student has symptoms associated with COVID-19 which will require the student to go home once a parent/guardian or designate has been contacted.

### **VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS**

Visitors and volunteers will have extremely limited access to the school building during the pandemic including events such as Grandparents' Day, etc. Parents will be limited to the main office only.

When volunteers are needed to assist under certain circumstances, the principal shall approve and ensure that health and safety protocols are followed.

The school office will keep accurate records of all visitors and volunteers, including the individual's reason for the visit, contact information and all locations visited in case contact tracing is needed.

### **STUDENT TRAVEL**

Students will self-quarantine after traveling to another country or to another state that is experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks, as determined by the most current guidance from the Governor of Illinois, IDPH/ISBE, and CDC.

Parents/students should inform schools immediately if they display COVID-19 symptoms during the self-quarantine period. Schools should follow the IDPH guidance on travel.

### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

International students will remain in their American residence for at least two weeks following travel to and from their country of origin and will be allowed to complete work remotely while at home.

Chaperone families and/or international students will inform schools immediately if anyone in the home displays COVID-19 symptoms during the quarantine period. Schools will follow IDPH guidance.

### **SHARING BUILDING SPACE**

Parish ministries (such as Religious Education classes) and "external groups" (e.g., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.) will be asked to use any vacant or unused instructional space. The pastor/chaplain and principal shall grant access to these required areas with the stipulation that the areas are thoroughly sanitized and disinfected before and after usage by the external groups.

## **SCHOOL and OUTSIDE REQUESTS for RETREATS**

TEC and Koinonia retreats will not be allowed in school buildings during the pandemic. In regard to school retreats, consideration should be given to scheduling any fall retreat to the spring semester. Regardless, when scheduling retreats, schools will follow the guidelines of social distancing, wearing masks, hand washing, and gathering in groups with the number of people as determined by the most recent CDC, ISBE/IDPH guidance.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS (HOLY MASSES, ADORATION, ASSEMBLIES, FIELD TRIPS, ETC.)**

Large group gatherings of special events (i.e., back-to-school information nights, etc.) should be avoided or conducted virtually pending the number of people who can gather safely in one place, as determined by the most recent CDC, ISBE/IDPH guidance, and the Governor of Illinois.

Field trips are prohibited during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Principals will work with their pastor or chaplain to determine the scheduling of school masses and the other sacraments within the parish church building following the IDPH guidance for gatherings of religious groups. Masks will be worn and social distancing observed.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament may be allowed in the school or parish church following the above mentioned guidelines of the CDC, IDPH/ISBE, and Governor of Illinois regarding the number of people who can be in a large gathering at one time for a religious group. Masks will be worn and social distancing practiced. Visitors will not be allowed in the buildings during school-scheduled times for Adoration in order to minimize the risk of cross contamination. Only school employees and students may be in attendance for Adoration if it is scheduled during the school day and is a part of the school's *Spiritual Development Plan* for ongoing faith formation.

## **EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Emergency drills in all diocesan schools will be conducted per ISBE requirements. Principals should contact their local fire department and law enforcement agency while schools to discuss scheduling of fire and armed intruder drills during the pandemic.

## **EXTENDED CARE (BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE)**

Schools will try to keep student cohorts separate and to use larger multipurpose rooms, cafeterias, libraries, gyms, etc. to maximize social distancing and floor space. This guidance applies to secondary schools as well.

Students and staff will wear masks.

Sharing any supplies, games, or toys will not be allowed.

Extended care rooms or areas must be cleaned before and after each extended care usage.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Principals will use their best judgment in determining whether extracurricular activities can be scheduled safely in the school setting. While schools are still under the pandemic, it may be best to cancel or postpone an extracurricular activity or schedule it virtually. School health and safety requirements will be followed, including social distancing, masks, PPE, and limiting the number of individuals in one space per IDPH/ISBE and the Governor of Illinois' *Restore Illinois* 5 phase reopening plan. Regulations published by IESA and IHSA concerning school events and activities will be followed.

**Band:** Large group practices (more than 15 students) may be conducted virtually or in a large space (gym, multipurpose room, cafeteria or outside in order for social distancing to be maintained.

Small group practices (involving 15 or fewer students) may be scheduled in the band/music room with social distancing of six feet. Sharing a musical instrument (i.e., drums) is discouraged, but at the very least, will be cleaned between every student use.

Practices for wind instruments (brass and woodwinds) may be conducted virtually, but if in person, 6 feet of social distancing is required.

**Choir, Drama/School Play, Christmas Programs:** These programs will be canceled, may be performed virtually, or may be conducted outside (i.e., choir, drama, etc.) while also following the large group gathering guidance from IDPH/ISBE, Restore Illinois, IESA and IHSA guidelines for practices and performances.

**Other Activities (e.g. academic clubs, debate, chess, etc.):** Consider conducting activities virtually. If this is not possible and face-to-face meetings are necessary, masks and social distancing will be maintained. If the activity involves sharing a space (particularly within a grade level class or high school activity), the space will be cleaned and disinfected before and after the activity's use. If it is an IESA- or IHSA-sponsored event, principals will also review and follow these organizations' guidelines during the pandemic.

## INFECTION PROTOCOL

### **PREPARING FOR WHEN A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER BECOMES SICK**

Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 or who shows any signs or symptoms of illness must stay home. In accordance with state and federal guidance, school community members who are sick should not return to school until they have met criteria to return. CDC and IDPH guidelines for school community members who are suspected of having COVID-19, whether they were tested or not, state that 72 hours must elapse from resolution of fever without fever reducing medication and 10 days must pass after symptoms first appeared.

Individuals who did not have **close contact (defined as with or without a mask, within six feet, for more than fifteen minutes)** with the person who is sick may continue to remain at school.

Those who had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, or is suspected of having it, should isolate at home and monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

### **PROTOCOL**

**If any student, employee or volunteer is COVID19 positive and it is reported to the diocesan school,** principals will immediately contact the local public health department and follow their protocol. As a matter of record, principals shall also copy the Superintendent of Catholic Schools on any report given to local public health department officials.

Furthermore, the local public health department officials will provide guidance to the diocesan school principal for gathering information of all teachers, staff, or students who have been in direct, close contact with a COVID19 positive person while at school. This information is collected for the purposes of contact tracing in the event of a world-wide pandemic as in the case of COVID19.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has provided the most recent **COVID-19 EXCLUSION GUIDANCE Decision Tree for Symptomatic Individuals in Pre-K, K-12 Schools and Day Care Programs** (08.20.2020) which has been provided to assist principals with determining the variables associated with COVID-19 and schools.

### **EMPLOYEE QUARANTINES: SICK DAYS**

The Office of Catholic Schools is working with the Chancellor/Diocesan Attorney for further direction regarding employment and COVID19 cases as current regulations are changing and/or being modified continually with the unpredictability of the virus. Therefore, principals should contact the Superintendent of Schools for guidance.

## **VIRTUAL ACADEMY**

For families that do not want their child(ren) to receive in-person instruction while schools are re-opened during the pandemic, they can choose to enroll their child(ren) into the diocesan elementary or secondary school's full-time e-learning virtual academy.

The Virtual Academy is not designed to be a "hybrid" model of in-class instruction on *some* days of the week, coupled with remote learning on the *other* days of the week. The Virtual Academy that each school will create is to allow parents, as the primary educators, to choose instruction in school five days a week or full-time e-learning five days a week.

Each school will determine the length of time that these options will exist, whether for one grading period (e.g., six weeks, nine weeks) or for one full semester or trimester. In other words, whatever option a family chooses will be the delivery of instruction for the indicated amount of time. For example, if a family chooses in-class instruction for one semester (per the published Virtual Academy guidelines for that school), they must stay enrolled for full-time in-class instruction until the beginning of a new semester when they would have the option to choose again.

Families who choose the Virtual Academy option for their children may not participate in athletic or extracurricular activities of the diocesan elementary or secondary school during the time the student is enrolled in remote learning.

Extenuating circumstances will be considered by the school's administration and in consultation with the Superintendent of Catholic Schools on a case-by-case basis should a family need to switch options in the midst of the published length of time for in-class or remote learning enrollment. An example would be if a child or family member is with a very serious illness, the family could approach the administration about an immediate change in the delivery of instruction via in-class or remote learning.

*Finally, please note:* Tuition will **not** be reduced or waived depending on the option that is chosen. Tuition rates will be applied equally no matter whether a family chooses in-class or remote learning. There will be no refunds unless a family terminates their enrollment with the school and then the school's tuition refund policy, as published in the school handbook, would apply.

# RESOURCES

## American Academy of Pediatrics

- <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
- <https://www.pjstar.com/news/20200718/peoria-pediatrician-weighs-in-on-controversy-back-to-school-during-covid-19>

## Illinois State Board of Education/Illinois Department of Public Health

- <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Part-3-Transition-Planning-Phase-4.pdf>

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/preventgetting-sick/prevention.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/07/21/how-long-should-you-isolate-if-you-test-positive-coronavirus-new-cdc-guidance-says-10-days-not-14/>

## Catholic Mutual Group

- <https://www.catholicmutual.org>