



Mary of Lourdes School COVID-19 Plan 2021-2022

As of September 3, 2021

Any significant changes to this plan will be shared with staff and families electronically

Vaccination:

- Vaccinations are not required for adults and students in diocesan Catholic schools but are strongly encouraged by the Diocese of St. Cloud for those eligible to receive them.
- Vaccinated employees and students at Mary of Lourdes (MOL) are not required to quarantine for close contact exposures.

Face Coverings

- At this time, MOL will not mandate mask wearing for students and staff.
 - Our plan will include regular review of recommendations from MDH, CDC, Morrison County Public Health, and consultation with the diocese.
 - MOL will communicate clearly and promptly with families upon any changes to policy and practices.
- In close contact situations, students who are exposed are not required to quarantine if the student with the confirmed infection and the close contact were both wearing properly fitting masks.
- Students and staff who wish to wear face covering may do so.
- All students will be able to participate without penalty or stigma regarding the use of face coverings.
- Face coverings are required for all persons when riding district provided or public transportation, in accordance with federal mandates.

Visitors

- All persons who enter MOL must comply with health and safety procedures, including a self-screening for symptoms of illness and exposure to COVID-19.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- Staff will teach and promote routines of proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes).
- Please review resources on page 4 for guidance regarding experiencing symptoms.

Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested

- Employees or students experiencing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 may not come to school. They may return to school when symptom-free, and without using medication to reduce symptoms for a minimum of 24 hours.
- Employees or students who test negative for COVID-19 may return to school when symptom-free, and without using medication to reduce symptoms for a minimum of 24 hours.
- Employees or students who have a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 may not return to school until all the following are true:
 - They feel better. Their cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms have substantially

improved.

o It has been at least 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive.

o They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medication that lowers fever

Busing

- Federal mandates currently require all bus passengers to wear masks, including passengers on school buses. This includes our students and any staff that may be a passenger on a bus.

Cafeteria

- Students will sit with their classes approximately 3ft apart from each other. The tables will be disinfected between classes. The rows of tables will be spread apart as much as possible to allow for distancing between classes.

Cleaning

- The custodial staff will clean high touch surfaces at mid day and at the end of the day. They also will disinfect any area where a sick child or staff member was, after the ill person leaves that area.
- As much as possible, equipment will be used by only one class. Class sets of playground balls will continue to be used. Musical instruments and PE equipment used with one class will be cleaned and/or left untouched for at least 24 hours before used by another class. When equipment is shared within a class, it is recommended that students wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before and after the activity.

Drinking Fountains

- We value hydration, but drinking fountains can be germier places. Mary of Lourdes requests that all students bring a water bottle to school to use. If students forget their water bottle, they should drink carefully from the fountains, trying to keep their lips from touching the metal parts of the fountain. Maintenance staff will disinfect the fountains at midday and at the end of each day.

Sending Sick People Home

- If a student or employee becomes ill with signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they must immediately be sent home, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status or prior history of illness.

Reporting Cases, Close Contacts and Quarantines

- If an employee or student has a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, MOL will complete a report to MDH, in accordance with Minnesota Rule 4605.7070. The report link is located on Resource page 3.
- To identify potential exposures, MOL must gather and review the employee or student's activities during the time they were infectious, two days prior to the date symptoms started, or two days prior to the positive test if there are no symptoms. Close contacts include those that were within 6 feet of the infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
 - o In classroom settings, close contacts DO NOT include students who were properly wearing well-fitting masks.
 - o Household members (siblings, e.g.) attending the school are considered close contacts of the infected person.
- MOL must notify any visitors who are identified as close contacts as soon as possible.
- MOL, per St. Cloud Diocese requirement, must utilize quarantine measures for employee or student close contacts to suppress potential transmission of COVID-19. This is a critical mitigation strategy for keeping COVID-19 infections out of schools.

- o Unvaccinated close contacts must quarantine for ONE of the following:
 - 10 days, if no symptoms develop and no COVID-19 test is pursued
 - 7 days, if no symptoms develop and the close contact has a negative lab-confirmed (PCR) test no sooner than 5 days after the date of exposure.
- Fully vaccinated persons and those who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days, including household members also in the school, are not required to quarantine, unless they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19. MOL must verify vaccination status for students or employees for them to not be required to quarantine.

Resources

Vaccine Information

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/index.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

The Congregation on the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF)

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html

Vaccines and ethical considerations in light of COVID-19 (Central Minnesota Catholic, Dec 2020)

<https://thecentralminnesotacatholic.org/ask-father-tom-vaccines-and-ethical-considerations-in-light-of-covid-19/>

Tracking COVID-19 transmission rates

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

Wearing of Masks on Public Transportation

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

Reporting and Handling COVID-19 Cases

COVID-19 case reporting form

<https://redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=KKWLDH3ARC>

MDH Recommendations for Handling a confirmed case of COVID-19

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/casehandle.pdf>

COVID-19 fact sheet for school use

<https://www.hennepin.us/-/media/hennepinus/residents/health-medical/infectious-diseases-fact-sheet/s/covid-19-provider-technical-fact-sheet.pdf>

COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Settings

Minnesota Department of Health

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/schoolrecs.pdf>

Centers for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k12-guidance.html>

American Academy of Pediatrics

<https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Diocese of Saint Cloud Coronavirus Updates

<https://stcdio.org/coronavirus-update/>