

DIOCESE OF SIOUX CITY 
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**COVID - 19 Mitigation & Prevention Plan
 2021-2022**

Updated August 9, 2021 – Plan subject to change based on state, local, and diocesan recommendations.

Mitigation	Explanation	Links
FACE COVERINGS	<p>Iowa law prevents schools from requiring face coverings for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors. The CDC, however, recommends universal indoor masking in K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Therefore, mask wearing is still recommended for unvaccinated individuals; as it is one of the layered prevention strategies to keep our students healthy. Parents should determine what is best for their child(ren), and also discuss the importance of respecting the face-covering decisions of others.</p>	<p>HF847 CDC- FC IDPH</p>
PHYSICAL DISTANCING	<p>The CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students when possible.</p> <p>St. Patrick's School will work to maintain 3 feet of distance within the school setting when possible.</p>	<p>CDC- PD</p>
HAND WASHING	<p>The CDC states handwashing is a proven prevention strategy and is one of many important layers of protection for students.</p> <p>St. Patrick's School will utilize reminders and scheduling to promote consistent hand washing throughout the school day. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school building.</p>	<p>CDC- HW</p>
CLEANING AND DISINFECTING	<p>The CDC states proper cleaning and disinfection are important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.</p> <p>St. Patrick's School will continue cleaning and disinfecting efforts throughout the school day including increased cleaning of restrooms, frequently touched surfaces, and eating areas.</p>	<p>CDC- C&D</p>

VENTILATION	<p>The CDC recommends multiple strategies for increasing ventilation to maintain a healthy environment at school.</p> <p>St.Patrick's School has invested in air purification devices for schools and classrooms and will utilize outdoor spaces when possible.</p>	CDC- V
WATER FOUNTAINS	<p>Water fountains will be sanitized frequently and water bottle filling stations will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.</p> <p>St. Patrick's School students should bring their own water bottles to reduce spread of illness.</p>	CDC- C&D
VACCINATIONS	<p>Our Iowa Bishops, CDC, and IDPH encourage all eligible Iowans to receive the vaccine.</p> <p>St. Patrick's School does not require staff or students to be vaccinated, but encourages all those eligible to give it their fullest consideration.</p>	Diocese of SC IDPH CDC - Vacc
VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS	<p>Volunteers and visitors are welcome, however, those who have tested positive need to follow isolation requirements and may not come on site for a minimum of 10 days.</p> <p>St. Patrick's School welcomes volunteers and visitors, but recommends mask wearing for unvaccinated individuals along with handwashing and distancing when possible.</p>	CDC- Q&I
COVID TRACKING & QUARANTINING	<p>IDPH advises exposed children and staff should not be required to stay home, regardless of mask usage. When there is a positive case, parents should be given information around exposure to COVID-19 in order to make their own informed decisions regarding risk.</p> <p>St. Patrick's School tracks all student illnesses (Influenza, COVID-19, Norovirus, etc) and will communicate with the school community and IDPH when more than 10% of our students are absent due to illness.</p>	IDPH CDC- CT
ISOLATION	<p>Those testing positive for COVID must be excluded from school for 10 days after symptoms start and 24 hours with no fever and improved symptoms OR 10 days after positive test (if no symptoms).</p> <p>At St. Patrick's School, students and staff must follow the guidelines above after receiving a positive COVID diagnosis.</p>	IDPH CDC- Sick at School
STAYING HOME WHEN ILL	<p>Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.</p> <p>St. Patrick's School asks all parents to stay diligent in keeping students home when ill. School staff will also be asked to stay home with any sign of infectious illness.</p>	CDC- Q&I

<p>MONITORING</p>	<p>The CDC states localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies.</p> <p>St. Patrick's School will continue to work with the O' Brien County Health Department and review guidance from the IDPH, CDC, DE, and Sioux City Diocese Catholic Schools Office.</p>	<p>CDC CDC COVID Data Tracker</p>
<p>VIRTUAL LEARNING</p>	<p>St. Patrick's School will offer a short-term virtual learning option for students needing to isolate or quarantine. When an illness or desire to quarantine is reported to school, the school office will provide information about short-term virtual learning.</p>	
<p>TRANSPORTATION</p>	<p>St. Patrick's School follows public school guidance related to public school busing/transportation.</p> <p>Students are not required to wear face coverings in private vehicles, even when transporting for school purposes.</p>	<p>IDPH USDE CDC-Transportation</p>