

**2021-2022 Holy Trinity Catholic School Opening Guidance**  
**Per Requirements by Diocese of Saint Cloud**  
Updated 08.24.2021

**Prevention Strategies to Reduce Transmission of COVID-19**

**Vaccinations**

- 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 Holy Trinity Catholic School (herein noted as HTCS) are not required to quarantine for close contact exposures.

Information about COVID-19 vaccines is found in the Resources on page 3 of this guidance.

**Face Coverings**

- At this time, HTCS 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.
  - HTCS 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 HTCS must comply with health and safety procedures, including a self-screening for symptoms of illness and exposure to COVID-19.

**Ventilation**

- HTCS's ventilation systems are operational and support exchanging air in indoor spaces.

**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 3 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.
  - It has been at least 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive.
  - They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medication that lowers fever

### **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, HTCS 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, HTCS 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.
  - In classroom settings, close contacts DO NOT include students who were properly wearing well-fitting masks.
  - Household members (siblings, e.g.) attending the school are considered close contacts of the infected person.
- HTCS must notify any visitors who are identified as close contacts as soon as possible.
- HTCS, 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.
  - 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. HTCS must verify vaccination status for students or employees for them to not be required to quarantine.
  - This may be accomplished by presentation of a vaccination card. HTCS will **NOT** file copies of vaccination cards. The vaccinated person must have reached fully vaccinated status at least 14 days prior to the exposure.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- HTCS will continue disinfecting and cleaning practices of high-traffic, high contact areas at regular intervals throughout each school day.

## 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](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>

### 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

Printable signs and posters

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/materials/index.html#posters>

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/>