



Updated September 16, 2021

We remain committed to providing our students and families with an educational experience of excellence grounded in our Catholic faith. It is with this in mind that we have developed a health plan that is flexible enough to be responsive to the ever-changing impact of COVID while being respectful of the dignity of our children, families, and staff. The protocols in this guide will be continually evaluated for effectiveness and adjustments will be made as necessary.

COMMUNICATION SHOULD PROTOCOLS CHANGE OR YOUR CHILD IS POTENTIALLY EXPOSED

If there is a lab-confirmed case of COVID in your child's classroom we will notify you by email.

Information about illness and safety protocols continue to change. As they do, you will be updated through E-Happenings and One Call Now, our emergency broadcast system.

WHAT WE WILL DO TO PROMOTE A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

- Emphasize and teach good hand-washing and respiratory etiquette.
- Disinfect and clean high-touch surfaces during the school day.
- Maintain physical distances where practical, and where it does not interfere with the important work of educating our students.
- Encourage frequent hydration. Students should bring a water bottle to school daily.

COVID VACCINATIONS

We do not require COVID Vaccinations.

COVID POLICIES GRADES K-8

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The first and most important line of defense to mitigate the spread of illness is to keep children home when they have symptoms. Put simply, children **MUST** stay home when they are sick. All parents are asked to do daily health checks on their children before sending them to school. If they are sick, keep them home; if they are healthy, send them to school. Temperature checks will not be done on the students during their school day unless they are showing signs of illness.

FACE COVERINGS

Children's face coverings will be left to the discretion of their parents. Parents are well positioned to determine if their child should/should not wear a face covering. This will be the case at all times unless the student receives outside services during the school day, including: bus transportation, SPED, and Title 1.

CONTACT TRACING and QUARANTINE IN HOUSEHOLDS

- We will not perform contact tracing on potentially exposed students unless requested by the DHS.
- Effective 9-17-21, we will not exclude a healthy child from school. This means that until further notice, siblings of a student sent home with COVID symptoms will not be sent home.
- Should there be a positive COVID test in a household, children (siblings) must remain home until the person with the lab-confirmed case of COVID is free to return to school.
- Should 20% of the students in one classroom obtain a lab-confirmed case of COVID within ten consecutive days, a classroom quarantine will be evaluated and, if deemed necessary, put in place. Parents will be notified by email.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS OF COVID

Symptoms of COVID fall into two categories: More Common and Less Common:

- **More Common Symptoms:** fever of 100.4, new cough or a cough that gets worse, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.
- **Less Common Symptoms:** sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, extreme fatigue, new severe headache, new nasal congestion, runny nose.

Should your child develop the following during the school day, you will be called to pick them up:

- ONE More Common Symptom OR
- TWO or more Less Common Symptoms

Students sent home due to COVID symptoms may return to school after **ONE** of the following:

- They obtain a negative COVID test:
 - From a medical facility providing documentation of the negative test.
 - From a home kit with the following documentation: a hardcopy or emailed photo of the test administered, the name and signature of the person administering the test, and the date and time that the test was administered.
- They obtain a signed doctor's note to return to school stating the child does not have COVID.
- They complete 10 days of Quarantine.

Lab-confirmed cases:

Students and staff with a lab-confirmed case of COVID will not be allowed to return to school or school-sponsored activities until **all of the following** are complete:

- They are no longer contagious—meaning, they feel better (no cough, shortness of breath, etc.)
- Ten days have elapsed since they first felt sick or tested positive
- They have no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

Education Model for students who must be away from school due to illness or quarantine for more than two days:

- **Middle school students** who will be out for two or more days due to illness or quarantine will attend Core Classes (Theology, Latin, History, ELA, Math, Science) remotely via Google Meet, provided they are well enough to learn. Attendance will be taken remotely for all Core Classes. Parents are asked to contact the school nurse, Mrs. Bemis, healthoffice@epiphanymn.org, to notify the school that their middle school child will be home ill or quarantined for more than two days.
- **Students in grade K-5** will receive information from their child's classroom teacher about assignments and homework. Parents should contact our nurse, Mrs. Bemis, healthoffice@epiphanymn.org, to notify the school that their K-5 child will be home ill or quarantined for more than two days. Parents may pick up books and materials at their convenience.

The following procedures are in place to ensure the safety of our students and staff. If you have questions, please email our health office: healthoffice@epiphanymn.org, or call our school at 763-754-1750.