

# St. Patrick Policies for Returning to PSR Safely

**Welcome back to St. Patrick PSR! We are excited to begin this new year of religious education, and we have been working hard to ensure a safe return. We have based our reopening model on the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Your children's health and well-being, and education, as well as that of our volunteers, has been our priority in designing these return protocols.**

Adjustments are inevitable in our current climate and we ask for your patience and support as we navigate this unique year. This plan will undergo several changes before the beginning of the year as directives from the state are ordered and options within the diocese are offered.

This year will continue to present challenges to families and call for our sacrifices, as we are still in the midst of this pandemic. Some of the items in this document will be inconvenient. But they are necessary if we want to keep each other safe and keep open for learning.

In addition to fostering a safe learning environment, we are committed to nurturing faith, service, and leadership in all settings of parish and family life. The core values remain; the ways of living and celebrating them may be altered.

How we are responding to the pandemic is an expression of our faith as we care for our community and make sacrifices of things we might wish to be doing in exchange for doing things that benefit our St. Patrick community.

## Shared Responsibility

- Preventative measures to keep our students, volunteers, and families as safe as possible will require everyone's cooperation. Intentional, vigilant, and consistent application of health and safety protocols will reduce the risk of virus transmission within the school. We ask that all families maintain social distancing and continue to wear masks in public, so that all our families can enter a safe environment.
- Temperatures will be taken before any student enters the building on Sunday mornings for PSR. The student should be kept home if a temperature of 100 °F or above is registered. We are encouraging families to monitor this closely at home, but we will be taking them weekly at the door.
- **Parents are responsible for reporting absences to the PSR Office (330) 474-9746, to any illness, including COVID-19, by 9 a.m.**
- **All students** and volunteers will be required to wear face masks while in classes and at all times while in the building, and entering and leaving the building. This is a new

development from the governor and has come about from recommendations from the Ohio Children's Hospital Association and American Academy of Pediatrics Ohio Chapter. Exceptions are defined [here](#).

- Students are required to supply their own face coverings including masks and/or gaiters.
- All face coverings must cover the nose, mouth, and chin. They can be of any pattern or color that is appropriate.
- Reusable masks should be washed often to avoid skin irritation and infections. Please provide extra, clean masks in your child's backpack.
- St. Patrick PSR will supply disposable masks for those who forget a mask or if their mask becomes dirty or damaged.
- Students who are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons will be required to provide medical documentation to the PSR Office. Those students will be required to wear a face shield and maintain a social distance of 6 feet from other students and volunteers.

## Arrival/Departure

- Temperatures will be taken before any student enters the building on Sunday mornings for PSR. The student should be kept home if a temperature of 100 °F or above is registered. We are encouraging families to monitor this closely at home, but we will be taking temperatures weekly at the door. Any student who shows a temperature of 100°F or more will be required to return home.
- To maintain social distancing, students will be dismissed by grade level through the playground door of the school building. Parents may meet those in Kindergarten through 3rd grade at the base of the steps leading up to the door. Those in grades 4-8 do not need a parent to meet them. Older students who are responsible for meeting up with siblings may do so at the base of the steps at the same location.

## When to Stay Home

**Parents are expected to screen their children daily for symptoms of Covid-19.**

While we understand that these screenings will not detect every case of COVID-19, staying home may reduce the opportunity of sicknesses to be brought into the school and shared with

other families. Click this link for the [Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19](#) for CDC's understanding of K-12 schools' screening process and limitations.

Print this [Daily Home Screening checklist](#), and use it daily to determine if your child has possible symptoms of COVID-19.

These symptoms may indicate a possible COVID-19-related illness and could put your child at risk of spreading illness to others. **Even without a fever**, anyone who experiences any of the following symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should not report to school and should remain home and away from other people. Symptoms include:

- Temperature of 100°F or more—all temperatures should be taken without fever-reducing medications
  - Chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath/difficulty of breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
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- Parents should contact their health provider and notify the school immediately if a student is experiencing these symptoms. Parents or guardians should report student absences to the PSR Office at 330-474-9746 by 9 a.m.
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  - If a student experiences these symptoms while at PSR, (s)he will be placed in an isolated area or in the nurse's office until a parent or guardian can arrange pickup. We ask that all students have a parent/guardian available in case a student registers a fever and needs to leave school.

**We cannot stress enough that students showing any signs of illness should stay home. St. Patrick PSR will provide assistance for home-bound students, including homework, books, academic guidance, and other materials as needed.**

### **Additional Stay Home Guidelines**

Please have your child stay home if (s)he:

- Tests positive for COVID-19.

Anyone who tested positive but was asymptomatic may return to campus 14 calendar days after the positive test. We ask that the family please notify the office so we can

notify the Portage County Combined General Health District (PCGHD) and perform contact tracing as necessary.

Anyone who tested positive and experienced symptoms must meet all of the following criteria before returning to campus:

1. They must be without a fever without medication for 3 days; AND
  2. Respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) must be improved; AND
  3. At least 14 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Has been in close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is symptomatic, including any household members.
  - Is returning from certain locations, as guided by the [ODH](#) or local public health officials. If a student travels to one of these locations, ODH is recommending 14 days of self-quarantine after returning.
  - Has a fever or symptoms and chooses not to see a doctor or get tested for COVID-19 after being sent home. (S)he must remain at home for at least 14 days and then can return after three days with no fever and no symptoms. Both criteria must be met for a student to return.
  - Is sent home with a fever or symptoms and tests negative for COVID-19. (S)he can return with a doctor's note confirming the negative test and with a general clearance to return. The student must be asymptomatic to return.

**If a child experiences any of the above situations, parents should remain in close contact with their health-care providers and the school office for instructions as to when to return to school.**

### **Class Sizes**

- Class sizes will be limited to spacing recommendations according to the CDC guidelines.

### **Classroom Modifications**

- Students will be seated at recommended safe distances in classrooms where possible. Because class sizes are limited, proper spacing will be feasible.

- Schools and parishes will be using distances of three to six feet as the standard for developing social distancing routines. Exactly how much space for each activity will be determined by the nature of the activity or routine as well as the other layers of protection that are in place.

## **Cleaning/Disinfecting**

- Classrooms will be disinfected with an antiviral spray every day after students are dismissed.
- Catechists and students will be responsible for wiping their desks and personal areas before and at the end of class each week.
- Each classroom will be equipped with an ultraviolet cleaning device used to kill bacteria and viruses, and these will run 2-3 times a day.
- Staff will clean frequently-touched surfaces such as door handles, sink handles, stair railings, etc., within the school at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects (for example: gym equipment, art supplies, toys, games) will be limited when possible or cleaned between use.
- Cleaning and disinfection products will be stored securely away from children.
- We will discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
- Each child will have their own bag of supplies and will be wiped down at the end of each class and stored in the bins provided to each catechist.
- Approved cleaning products, sanitation wipes or disinfectants will be available in each room and common space.

## **Hand Sanitizing and Washing**

- Students will be required to wash their hands upon entering a classroom with either soap and water or hand sanitizer that contains recommended amounts of alcohol. Volunteers and students are encouraged to wash their hands frequently for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not readily available, they are to use hand sanitizer. Everyone is encouraged to avoid touching their eyes, mouth, and nose and other people in order to avoid becoming sick or spreading potential bacteria and viruses to others.

## When a Positive Case

If a volunteer, student, or a member of the student's household, is confirmed positive for COVID-19, we ask that the family inform the parish religious education office immediately. We should all be prepared for this likelihood. If a family member tests positive for COVID-19, the student should remain at home for at least 14 days and may return to PSR only after 3 days of all family members being symptom-free.

- **COOPERATION WITH LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS**

According to public health guidance, upon learning of a positive case of COVID-19 among our students or volunteers, the parish must provide notification to the PCCGH. We will provide this notification and expect to remain in communication with these officials for guidance as we care for our students and families.

- **CONTACT TRACING**

Local and state health officials will carry out their own contact tracing procedures. If a student, employee, or other person who has been in the building tests positive for COVID-19 we will take guidance from PCCGH and follow procedures as recommended.

- **HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**

According to the ODH, "if an individual in one's home has COVID-19 or is quarantined because of COVID-19, all household members should also quarantine for a minimum of two weeks."

- **COMMUNICATION AND PRIVACY**

In the case of a member of our parish community testing positive for COVID-19, we will prioritize the safety of all students while respecting the privacy considerations of the affected student. We will follow PCCGH and ODH guidance when making these decisions.

- **PSR CLOSURE**

Depending upon the situation, upon learning of a positive COVID-19 case, it may be necessary to temporarily close the school building for cleaning. In addition, we will closely monitor community transmission rates, our own PSR absentee rate, and the guidance of local health officials, in making these decisions. In the event of PSR closing, we will communicate the need to the parish community, and provide an in-home-learning platform for all students during the closure.

## Preparing for Flare-ups

In the event of a high incidence of cases within the St. Patrick community, parish administration will take measures above and beyond normal cleaning procedures. It may even be necessary for the entire school to close for purposes of cleaning and sanitizing.

We will remain in close contact with both state and local health officials for guidance in such a case. In such a case we would transition to remote learning.

### **Preparing for Remote Learning**

The staff of St. Patrick PSR is continually planning for the possibility of Remote Learning if Portage County should enter into the Purple stage or our PSR experiences a high incidence of cases.