

St. Aloysius Catholic School Pandemic Response Plan

St. Aloysius Catholic School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all its students, parents, employees, and guests. We have developed the following Pandemic Response Plan (PRP) for the 2020–21 school year that will guide our decisions regarding the reopening of our school building to students and employees as well as our overall program. We recognize that through the implementation of the following coordinated efforts, we can greatly reduce, not eliminate, the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our community. We strive to balance our mitigation policies with the known benefits of children experiencing in-person learning at school.

St. Aloysius Catholic School will update this PRP as federal, state, and local guidelines and regulations change. It will also be included as a temporary addendum to St. Aloysius Catholic School’s Parent/Student Handbook and Employee Handbook. Until communicated otherwise, the rules and guidance of this PRP control to the extent that there is any inconsistency between it and the existing Parent or Employee Handbook. If you have any questions regarding current policies or procedures, contact the school office.

Reference Guide

- **Resources and Guiding Entities**

St. Aloysius Catholic School’s Pandemic Response Plan is based on recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), Ohio Department of Health (ODH), the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), federal [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA) standards related to COVID-19, and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine’s [recommendations](#) as they pertain to COVID-19. Our plan is centered on the understanding that the greatest risk of transmission is when two people are within six feet of each other for fifteen continuous minutes. A committee of **St. Aloysius Catholic School’s** community members with varied expertise worked together using all the recommendations to develop this plan.

As part of our planning, St. Aloysius Catholic School has taken into account the mounting evidence regarding COVID-19 in children and adolescents, including the role they may play in transmission of the infection. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, *COVID-19 appears to behave differently in children and adolescents than other common respiratory viruses, such as the flu, on which much of the current guidance regarding school closures is based. Although children and adolescents play a major role in amplifying influenza outbreaks, to date, this does not appear to be the case with COVID-19. Although many questions remain, the preponderance of evidence indicates that children and adolescents are less likely to be symptomatic and less likely to have severe disease resulting from SARS-CoV-2 [COVID-19] infection. In addition, children may be less likely to become infected and to spread infection.*

- **Implementation**

In order to help keep our St. Aloysius community healthy, it is essential that families and employees self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19". We will continue to keep families and employees informed and assist with reminders and updates

To be effective, **St. Aloysius Catholic School's** PRP requires the full cooperation of all our community members, and everyone is responsible for implementing and complying with St. Aloysius Catholic School's PRP. This plan includes steps—such as face coverings, physical distancing, screening procedures, contact tracing, and enhanced cleaning—that St. Aloysius Catholic School is taking to mitigate COVID-19 contagion.

This PRP addresses the health and safety procedures that **St. Aloysius Catholic School** has implemented and the responsibilities of St. Aloysius Catholic School and its community members, including:

- o prevention procedures, including hygiene and respiratory etiquette;
- o procedures for safe physical distancing and limiting visitors, including parents, to school building;
- o cleaning and sanitizing information;
- o screening procedures and policies for anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms;
- o prompt identification and isolation of sick individuals and protocols for contact tracing;
- o protection and controls for student pick-up and drop-off; and
- o employee training and ongoing communications.

- **School Program: On-Campus Learning and Distance Learning**

Our current plan is to start the 2020-21 school year with on-campus learning.

Safeguarding the health of our community members is our top priority, and we are prepared for a delayed school opening or switching to distance learning throughout the St. Aloysius Catholic School year if public health guidelines or circumstances require us to do so.

On-Campus Learning

We are excited to welcome students back to **St. Aloysius Catholic School** for on-campus learning, and we will offer a full-day schedule that includes hot lunch, recess, specials classes, and our Extended Day Program. **St. Aloysius Catholic School's** physical and human resources enable us to provide an at-school, in-person education under new health and safety guidelines. Some program modifications that you may see will include: new uses of our available space; limiting student travel during the day; a plan to pivot to distance learning quickly if necessary; limited in-person, large group meetings and

activities; limited off-campus travel; increased use of outdoor spaces for student learning and socialization; and enhanced technology, including personal electronic devices for all students.

Distance Learning if the School Building is Closed

We learned a lot through our distance learning experience in the spring, and if we are required to move to full distance learning, our students will still experience the meaningful, faith-filled and joyful learning that is a hallmark of **St. Aloysius Catholic School's** education. Students will participate in developmentally appropriate schedules that are a balance of live and recorded content. All students will have access to their own electronic device. St. Aloysius Catholic School will continue to utilize a number of digital tools—including Google Educational Tools, and Exact Path—for learning, engagement, and assessment.

- **Social-Emotional Support**

Supporting our students' social-emotional development is more important than ever during these trying and uncertain times. We will pray together for the health and safety of our school community and for those we love.

In addition to your child's teachers, our school counselor will be available to help parents regarding their children's adjustment back to school and any other related concerns.

Our counselor, Mrs. Dever, will be available to meet with children individually once school resumes. Our principal, Mrs. Puhl, will continue to support teachers and students as needed. Mrs. Puhl and Mrs. Dever are also resources for families who want outside support for children who need more help transitioning back to school.

Considerations for Parents

Children are looking to their parents to let them know how they should be feeling about things. As much as possible, parents should try to be a non-anxious presence in their children's lives and communicate their confidence in their children's ability to cope with stressful situations, including going back to school.

Parents are encouraged to help children reestablish routines at home that will help prepare them for coming back to school. This [linked article](#) from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta has some great suggestions to prepare for reentry.

Once parents read through St. Aloysius Catholic School's PRP and understand more about the 2020–21 school year, they are encouraged to communicate clearly with their children about the return to school to begin to prepare them for how things are going to look different this school year. Frequent brief conversations—e.g., “See how the mailman

has a mask on? You and your teachers will wear masks at school, too!”—are recommended instead of one or two long conversations that hash out all of the changes.

Parents are encouraged to reinforce the idea that children have agency in keeping themselves safe and healthy rather than emphasizing the many unknowns. Although no one knows exactly what the school year will bring, it is important that children feel a sense of comfort knowing that there are specific things they can do (e.g., hand washing and maintaining a safe distance) to help keep themselves and others healthy.

Ample evidence shows that maintaining balanced nutrition, getting moderate exercise, practicing mindfulness, establishing good sleep habits, and having adequate social support are the best ways to counteract the effects of stress on children (and adults). Little things can help to make big improvements in the reduction of stress!

Parents can help St. Aloysius Catholic School by communicating with their children that although every family has dealt with COVID-19 differently, the **St. Aloysius Catholic School** community supports each other. There will be a different set of expectations at school, and we hope that everyone will respect differences in how families have approached dealing with the virus. We will consistently remind students that we take these precautions out of Christian love for each other.

- **Mitigation Strategies**

We recognize that through the implementation of coordinated efforts, we can greatly reduce, not eliminate, the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our community. St. Aloysius Catholic School strives to balance our mitigation policies with the known benefits of children experiencing in-person learning at school.

We have implemented basic infection prevention measures, including the promotion of handwashing and respiratory etiquette and the use of face coverings and physical distancing. Continual on-campus learning will only be possible with all of us working together to follow these health and safety guidelines, on and off-campus.

Handwashing

Frequent handwashing is critical in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Sinks are in every classroom and sanitizer dispensers (that use sanitizers of greater than 70 percent alcohol) are at other locations throughout St. Aloysius Catholic School. Students, employees, parents, and visitors should wash or sanitize their hands after entering the building. Everyone is instructed to frequently wash their hands throughout the day for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, but especially at the beginning and end of their time on campus, before and after mealtimes, and after using the restroom.

Respiratory etiquette

Everyone should cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing and avoid touching their face, in particular their mouth, nose, and eyes, with their hands. They should dispose of tissues in provided trash receptacles and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward. Respiratory etiquette signage will be displayed throughout St. Aloysius Catholic School.

Face coverings

Following the governor's mandate, students in KR-8 will be expected to wear masks throughout the school day with scheduled breaks provided by their teachers when no one is moving around the classroom. According to public health officials, individuals can spread COVID-19 to others even if they do not feel sick. While not a substitute for physical distancing, the use of face coverings is an important way that we, as a community, can protect each other by mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

Everyone must wear a face covering while arriving on campus and provide their own face coverings. Students should have two clean face coverings available each day at school. Any decoration on the masks should be appropriate for school, avoiding mature or violent images. Political statements should also be avoided.

Exceptions to our mask policy may be made with consideration for documented medical reasons and to accommodate eating and drinking; outdoor and physical activities, including P.E.; and instructional time when physical distancing can be maintained and additional preventative measures are in place.

CDC guidelines provide [general considerations for wearing and maintaining a face covering](#), including the following:

- o The mouth and nose are fully covered
- o The covering fits snugly against the sides of the face so there are no gaps
- o The wearer does not have any difficulty breathing while wearing the covering
- o The face covering can be tied or otherwise secured to prevent slipping

Face coverings do not have to be worn by employees when they are alone in their classroom or office.

Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

St. Aloysius Catholic School uses CDC-approved disinfectants and has implemented updated cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilation practices. This includes routine cleaning and disinfecting throughout the campus. We will frequently clean and disinfect

high-touch areas and items, such as manipulatives, door handles, elevator panels, railings, and copy machines.

Limiting School Access

As virus spread is more likely among adults, we are restricting parent and visitor access to our building.

- o Parent and visitor access is restricted to the main office. We ask you to help your child be prepared for school to avoid unnecessary trips into the building.
- o No one delivering food from local restaurants will be allowed to enter the school building.
- o Contact the parish office for their current schedule and entry procedures.

Physical Distancing, Student Cohorts, and Group Gatherings

All individuals at St. Aloysius Catholic School will maintain a safe physical distance of six feet as feasible. All classroom desks will be arranged with six foot distancing. Signage throughout St. Aloysius Catholic School will reinforce physical distancing.

St. Aloysius Catholic School will maintain cohorts of students and teachers to minimize crossover among children and adults within St. Aloysius Catholic School. For our purposes, each homeroom will be its own cohort. We will minimize travel throughout the building when feasible, including some lunches being delivered to classrooms and Specials teachers (excluding P.E. and band) traveling to classrooms to facilitate learning. In addition, teachers will take advantage of **St. Aloysius Catholic School's** outdoor spaces when possible.

We will limit in-person large group meetings. We are reimagining how we come together as a community, including the opportunity for students to perform and speak in public through virtual and small group settings.

Physical Barriers

Mobile physical barriers will be used throughout the campus, such as on the reception desk and in learning support rooms when necessary.

Shared Items

Teachers will limit the sharing of classroom materials and workspaces between students and will sanitize items as needed. Only items that can be easily disinfected will be used.

Drinking Fountains

Students and employees should bring and use a refillable water bottle. We are working to replace our drinking fountains with water bottle refilling stations. Please label your child's water bottle. Water fountains will be available for refilling bottles only.

Travel and Field Trips

We ask that all community members limit non-essential travel. If a student travels to an area that is a hot spot for COVID-19 they may be asked to quarantine or be tested.

Off-campus field trips will not be permitted at this time. Decisions on camp and the 8th grade class trip will be made at a later date.

Student Drop-off and Pickup

New drop off and pick up procedures will be introduced for the 2020-2021 school year. Details will be included in our back to school mailing.

- o Everyone should wear face coverings when they arrive on campus.
- o During student drop-off and pickup, employees and students will wear face coverings, maintain six feet of physical distance whenever possible, and avoid physical contact with other individuals.
- o Parents will be asked to remain in their vehicles for both drop off and pick up.

Birthday Celebrations

Students will not be permitted to pass out birthday treats. We will celebrate by announcing their name on morning announcements and giving them a small gift from the office.

● Health Screenings and Symptom Assessment and Reporting

We will continue to inform and expect families and employees to self-monitor for [signs and symptoms of COVID-19](#). As defined by the CDC, individuals with COVID-19 may have any of the following symptoms, which may appear two to 14 days after exposure to the virus: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle or body aches, congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Also according to the CDC, this list of symptoms does not include all possible symptoms. Please contact your healthcare provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

St. Aloysius Catholic School has implemented the following policies and procedures to assess a person's health status prior to entering St. Aloysius Catholic School; to provide

guidelines for screening individuals before they are allowed to enter the building; and to provide a process for families to report when they are sick, experiencing symptoms, or if they or anyone in their household have come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

Before arriving at school

Anyone who is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or knows that they have COVID-19 should isolate at home. In addition, parents should communicate with St. Aloysius Catholic School if one of them or a member of their household tests positive for COVID-19, experiences symptoms of COVID-19, or has close contact* with someone who is positive or symptomatic of COVID-19.

*[CDC currently defines](#) “close contact” as “someone who was within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated.”

Parents should take their children’s temperature before arriving on campus and keep their child home if they have a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit or above.

Parents should continue to report student absences, COVID-19 symptoms, close contacts, and COVID-19 diagnoses via telephone or email to the school office.

All parents will receive regular reminders to monitor their child’s health and stay home if they are sick or showing symptoms. There will be no perfect attendance awards presented during the 2020-2021 school year as we expect everyone to err on the side of caution when making decisions about sending your child to school. It is critical to the health of our students and faculty that students displaying symptoms be kept home and are not sent to school after taking medication to mask a fever or other symptoms.

Screening Procedure for Students

- o A face covering is meant to protect others, therefore all employees, parents, visitors, and students are required to wear a mask in the public areas of the building, especially when physical distancing is not feasible.
- o Students will have their temperatures checked on campus at least once each day, including as they arrive at school in the morning. Any student with a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit or above must immediately leave the school building or be further evaluated by the St. Aloysius Catholic School nurse.

Screening Procedures for Employees, Parents, and Visitors

- o Employees must report to the office upon entrance to the school building.

- o Anyone entering the school beyond the main office will be screened (inspectors, contractors, etc.)
- o Parents will not be allowed past the school office once school resumes unless they have an appointment or have received a communication from St. Aloysius Catholic School that states otherwise.
- o A face covering is meant to protect others, therefore everyone is required to wear a mask in public areas of the building, especially when physical distancing is not feasible.
- o Upon arrival, everyone will form one line, maintaining at least six feet of distance from others.
- o Anyone with a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit or above must immediately leave the school building or be further evaluated by the St. Aloysius Catholic School nurse.
- o All individuals should wash or sanitize their hands after entering the building.

- **Policies for Individuals Exhibiting Symptoms at School**

If a student is sick or experiencing symptoms at school, the teacher or other designated adult will escort the student directly to the isolation room and report to St. Aloysius Catholic School nurse. Both escort and student should wear face coverings.

Adults who become sick or experience symptoms while at St. Aloysius Catholic School should notify St. Aloysius Catholic School nurse and leave the building immediately or report to the designated isolation room until able to leave St. Aloysius Catholic School.

- **Contact Tracing and Returning to School**

Contact tracing is part of the process of mitigating the spread of infection. St. Aloysius Catholic School has a plan to work with public health officials if a community member tests positive for COVID-19. Public health officials will work with the infected person to identify close contacts and will notify community members who may be close contacts. Patient confidentiality will be maintained. Instructions that follow current CDC and state of Ohio guidance will be provided to the infected person and all close contacts regarding isolation and quarantine. If you have any questions about the plan, please contact our school nurse or the school office.

Returning to school after Illness

Health Department guidelines for return to school after an illness (whether or not that illness is Covid-19 related) are constantly evolving. We will share the current guidelines at the beginning of our school year and update them as needed throughout the year.

This includes returning to school after being sent home or staying home with symptoms as well as policies for returning after a positive test or quarantine.

- **Specials Classes**

We will continue to offer both core academic and specials classes, however, our library will be closed. Specials teachers (with the exception of P.E. and band) will teach the students in their homeroom, with teachers moving instead of the students.

Our band program is offered in partnership with the BGSU College of Musical Arts. We will work with them to design this year's curriculum and procedures.

- **Weekly School Liturgy**

Our church audio visual system is being upgraded with the intent to livestream weekly Masses into the classrooms with a limited number of students present in the church with appropriate distancing. If Masses are live streamed, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will bring the Eucharist to students in their classrooms at communion time. These will be private Masses for students and employees only. Others are welcome to pray with us on the live stream when it's available.

- **Extended Day Program**

Extended Day will look different this year with reservations required so we can have a plan for staffing and room usage that supports proper social distancing. Masks will be required at Extended Day with breaks given when sufficient social distancing can be assured. Specific Extended Day policies will be shared with families who make a reservation.

- **Preparedness**

This document will serve as the St. Aloysius Catholic School response plan for COVID-19.

Additional communications and training will be ongoing as COVID-19 guidelines and requirements change. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher, the principal or school nurse.

St. Aloysius, Pray for Us.