



**Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools 2021-22 School Year Mitigation Plan
(August 11, 2021)**

<p>FACE COVERINGS</p>	<p>The Diocese of Des Moines Catholic schools are accredited schools with the Iowa Department of Education and are required to follow all guidance directed from the DE and the Governor’s Office. House File 847 (noted below) prohibits schools from mandating masks for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors.</p> <p>280.31 Facial coverings. The board of directors of a school district, the superintendent or chief administering officer of a school or school district, and the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school shall not adopt, enforce, or implement a policy that requires its employees, students, or members of the public to wear a facial covering for any purpose while on the school district’s or accredited nonpublic school’s property unless the facial covering is necessary for a specific extracurricular or instructional purpose.</p> <p>The Diocese of Des Moines encourages mask wearing; it is one of the layered prevention strategies to keep our students healthy. Parents should discuss with their child(ren) their family’s decision and the importance of respecting the face covering decisions of others.</p> <p>Bishop Joensen 8-5-2021 release: Effective immediately, masks will again be strongly encouraged for all parishioners over the age of five, vaccinated and unvaccinated, during all indoor liturgies and other parish events.</p>
<p>HAND WASHING</p>	<p>The Diocese of Des Moines schools will promote consistent hand washing throughout the school day. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school building.</p>
<p>CLEANING AND DISINFECTION</p>	<p>The Diocese of Des Moines schools will continue cleaning and disinfection efforts throughout the school day including increased cleaning of restrooms, frequently touched surfaces, and eating areas.</p>
<p>VENTILATION</p>	<p>The Diocese of Des Moines schools have routine HVAC checks. Windows will be open and outdoor space will be utilized when possible.</p>

WATER FOUNTAINS	The Diocese of Des Moines schools encourage students to bring their own water bottles to reduce spread of illness. Water fountains and bottle fillers will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.
VACCINATIONS	The Diocese of Des Moines schools do not require staff or students to be vaccinated, but encourages all those eligible to give it their fullest consideration.
COVID TRACKING & QUARANTINING	<p>The Diocese of Des Moines values parents as partners therefore they will receive notification of COVID positive cases. Due to the wide range of school sizes the local entity will determine how the contact will be given.</p> <p>Following IDPH guidance, the Diocese of Des Moines schools will track all student illnesses (Influenza, COVID-19, Norovirus, etc) on a daily basis. Schools will communicate with the school community and IDPH when more than 10% of students are absent due to illness.</p>
STAYING HOME WHEN ILL	The Diocese of Des Moines schools are asking all parents to be diligent in keeping students home when ill. School staff will also be asked to stay home with any sign of infectious illness.
VIRTUAL LEARNING	The Diocese of Des Moines schools will not offer sustained virtual learning.
STUDENT TESTS POSITIVE	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). The Diocese of Des Moines schools students and staff will follow the guidelines after receiving a positive COVID diagnosis.
FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE	If a household member tests positive, student/s cannot attend class or activities for a <i>minimum</i> of 24 hours. If students within the household remain asymptomatic, students may return to school. If the student in the household becomes symptomatic we strongly encourage testing.
TRANSPORTATION	The Diocese of Des Moines schools will follow federal law requiring masks to be worn when on school bus transportation. Many Catholic school students utilize public school bussing options, in these situations they will be required to follow the public school protocols. Students are not required to wear face coverings in private vehicles.