



Acknowledgment of the Plans for 2021-2022 School Year
For the Schools in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond

We very successfully navigated having our schools open 5 days a week for the 2020-2021 school year during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was possible because of the hard work and dedication of our school administrators, faculty, staff, students, and parents.

It is time now to look ahead to the 2021-2022 school year. We are committed to having our teachers and students in a safe and supportive environment to enhance their academic, social, emotional, and spiritual development. We will follow the CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools as currently written and including future updates.

The following are key takeaways of the CDC guidance and what that means in our diocesan schools:

- Masks *should* be worn by individuals (older than 2) that are not fully vaccinated when indoors. The wearing of masks in our schools will be a personal and individual decision. Parents will make that decision for their children.
- Multiple layers of prevention strategies should be in place. Strategies in our schools will include handwashing, respiratory etiquette, proper ventilation, cleaning, disinfecting, and incorporating distancing, when possible, particularly in classrooms of students under 12 who cannot be vaccinated at this time.
- It is critical that faculty, staff, and students closely monitor their health and must stay at home when they are having any symptoms of infectious illness. Students or employees who are exhibiting symptoms or have a temperature over 100.4 degrees will be sent home and not be able to return until their symptoms have subsided, and they are temperature free without fever reducing medicines for at least 24 hours.
- Schools will still monitor exposure and positive cases. Contact tracing will be conducted, and quarantining based on current CDC/VDH recommendations for those exposed to and positive for COVID-19 will be followed. Only individuals directly exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be notified.

Additional Information:

- Our schools will not require COVID-19 vaccinations, disclosure of COVID-19 vaccination status, proof of COVID-19 vaccination, or COVID-19 testing of any individuals.
- The decision of employees or parents to send unvaccinated or vaccinated students to school with or without masks is a personal decision and should not be questioned or disputed with them. It is vital that we extend grace to all and treat each other with respect.
- Parents who want their child to wear a mask indoors at school should notify their teacher and make sure your child has a mask with them. Masks will not be provided. If the child does not comply parents will be notified.
- If the CDC guidance changes or Executive Orders are put into place that require us to alter these plans, you will be notified immediately.

Thank you for your acknowledgement of these plans and willingness to follow them for us to maintain a safe environment in our school buildings and to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 or any viruses within our schools.

Printed Employee or Family Name: _____

Employee or Parent(s) Signature

Date