

ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Reopening Health Protocols

Revised August 19, 2020

“Be joyful in hope, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12 (This is our new scriptural theme for the school year, reminding us that we will persevere and we find hope in God’s will for all of us.)

GENERAL GUIDANCE

Students, staff, vendors, parents, guardians, or guests are not allowed on-site if they:

- a. Are showing symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever of 100.4 or higher, sore throat, chills, loss of taste or smell)
- b. Have been in “close contact*” with someone who has confirmed or suspected COVID-19 in the last 14 days. (Close contact is defined as fewer than six feet, without a mask, for more than 10 minutes.)
- c. Have a household member or have had close contact with someone with a pending COVID-19 test. Please wait for results to show negative before entering the school.

*Health care providers, EMS workers, and educational staff associates who wore proper PPE are ok to attend (mask, gloves, goggles, and gown).

HIGHLIGHTS OF COVID-19 PREVENTION PROTOCOLS:

We know that four things when used altogether decrease the likelihood of spreading the virus:

Sanitizing, Distancing, Masks, and Screening. All four will be covered in this document.

- a. Face coverings will be required for all students and staff, ages 5 and older.
- b. *The Secretary of Health has ordered all individuals to wear a face covering in any indoor public setting or when outdoors and unable to maintain 6 feet of physical distance from others. Face coverings can be unsafe for some people with certain health or medical issues. The order includes some exemptions for those individuals, meaning they are not obligated to wear a face covering and they are not subject to fines or citations. Children under of the age of 2 should not wear a face covering. (Children ages 3-5 are encouraged to wear a covering, children 5 and older are required.)*
- c. Students will be spread out in classrooms to achieve a minimum of six-foot distancing and plastic barriers may also be constructed.
- d. Students will be grouped in “cohorts” equal to the size and spacing of the classroom (usually maximum of 16 desks spaced six feet apart). Rooms have been set up to accommodate fewer students in each classroom - 8th grade in the two end classrooms on the third floor; 6th grade in the adjacent rooms on the east side of the third floor; fourth grade in tech lab and regular classroom; second grade in the two adjacent rooms on the second floor; Kindergarten in preschool room and their regular homeroom.
- e. Temperature checks will be done in the morning at drop-off for students as they are exiting the car, while the parent waits for results.

- f. Mandatory handwashing 3-4 times per day, hand-sanitizing stations in each classroom. Handwashing stations for students will be located:
 - Kindergarten (Whelan) in classroom
 - Kindergarten (Lawrence) students to hallway bathroom
 - First grade to teacher workroom
 - 2nd grade has sinks for both classes
 - 3rd grade- teacher bathroom on second floor; 4th grade (Thomas)- 1st floor bathrooms
 - 5th grade to middle room on third floor
 - 4th grade (Town)- library sink
 - Sixth grade to teacher bathroom on third floor
- g. Posters with protocols from the CDC will be posted and referred to by teachers and staff.
- h. *Health Screening Station* is at the entrance to the school for any students not checked in at the gym and any adults entering the building throughout the day. School volunteers and parents entering the building will need to pass through this each time.
- i. Main bathrooms can be used for two students at a time, separated by six feet and plexiglass in between the sinks. Individual bathrooms on each floor can be used by students.
- j. School Masses- Students will attend Mass every other week. K-4 will attend the first week and 5th-8th grades will attend the second week. This rotation will continue throughout the school year.
- k. Staff will create short videos and show them to students routinely to help them understand what will happen if there is exposure.
- l. Cleaning and sanitizing done twice per day by custodial staff.
- m. Field trips, assemblies, and other large gatherings have been temporarily canceled.

Training that will be provided for all students

- a. Students will be trained on the use of face coverings, including how to put it on and take it off, over the nose and over the mouth, and reinforcing how the mask should fit.
- b. Students will be given regular lessons on how to properly wash their hands.
- c. Staff and students will be reminded how to treat someone who might have COVID or shows symptoms with kindness, patience, and understanding.
- d. There is one hand sanitization station per floor, but we will encourage hand-washing.
- e. Bathrooms- marks will be placed outside the door to stand and wait until others come out so that only two are in at a time.

Training that will be provided for all staff

- a. The school has designated staff members who are responsible for ensuring health protocols and proper cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting.
 - i. COVID Supervisor, Dayna Dennis
 - ii. Cleaning Team: Dan Anderson, Rita Hawkes, Lisa Blas

- b. People at high risk for health problems are protected under Proclamation 20-46 and should consult with health care providers regarding whether or not to participate in or provide for student activities.
- c. Staff will be educated in the language they understand best about coronavirus and how to prevent transmission and the school's COVID-19 policies.
- d. PPE is provided to all staff at no cost including gloves, goggles, face shields and face coverings. If the individual has a medical condition or disability that makes wearing a facial covering inappropriate or when the job has no in-person interaction, he/she may have an exemption.

PROCEDURES FOR DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Morning Drop-Off:

Parents will drop off students at the entrance to the gym. School staff and volunteers will check temperatures as they are being dropped off and will line up students from the gym to the entrance to the school using markers that are placed six feet apart. Students will be let into the school building in sibling groups. (Note: Parents can get volunteer hours by helping take temperatures and helping students line up starting at 7:40 am every morning.)

Afternoon Pick-Up:

Students should be dismissed from their classes in five-minute intervals by two grades. For example, if dismissal is 3 pm, K-2 is dismissed at 2:45, 3-5 at 2:50, 6-8 at 2:55 to go to their signs. (Temporary dismissal for September will be: 1:45, 1:50, 1:55) All students exit to the stairwell and doors at the south side of the school building, not through the main office. Parents should plan to pull through the traffic loop multiple times if they have children in separate grade levels. Signs will be organized by grade level, not alpha.

Entering and Exiting the Building:

All traffic will be one-way, entering through the main doors and exiting one of the side doors. The only exception is Kindergarten who will go out the closet and down the hallway to go out to recess. First Grade and Kindergarten will go out the door by the elevator, all other classes use the other door on the first floor. Follow the arrows for one-way entry and stairwells.

Health Screening Station at Entry:

A Separate Health Screening Station will be set up at the entrance to the school if a student does not get checked in at the gym and for any adults coming into the main office area.

School staff or volunteers will ask if your child has any of the following symptoms (after a break or for a new student)

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- A fever of 100.4 or higher
- Sore throat
- Chills,
- Loss of taste or smell
- Muscle or body aches

- Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
- Congestion/runny nose not related to seasonal allergies
- Unusual fatigue

MASKS (and other PPE)

Face coverings- Acceptable masks are cloth masks, disposable masks and N-95 masks. Masks with one-way valves, gaiters/bandanas or face shields are not permitted. Exceptions to this may be made for students with special needs or with a medical condition.

MORNING RECESS AND LUNCH RECESS

Students will be on a 20-minute rotation to go to recess in cohorts of 2-3 at a time. For example, Kindergarten will go from 9:20 to 9:35, 1st and 3rd grades 9:35 to 9:50; 2nd grade 9:50 to 10:05 am; 4th and 5th grades 10:05 to 10:20.

WHAT IF THERE IS AN OUTBREAK OR AN INFECTION ON CAMPUS?

a. Isolation Room

If a child is symptomatic during the school day, or a staff member becomes sick during school hours, he/she will go directly to the isolation room where one of the office staff will meet them there. Isolation room is under the stairwell by second grade. Two cots set up in there if needed and parents will be asked to pick up the child when showing symptoms. Students can leave through side door to Virginia St. A parent will be called to pick the child up and the child will be tested that day.

b. The Whatcom County Health Department will be notified.

We rely on the health department to inform us of next steps. All parents in that class will be informed without identifying by name the student who went home that day. If there has been an exposure at school, the health department will tell us who needs to be quarantined or isolated. They define “close contact” as fewer than six feet, without a mask, for more than 10 minutes. Not all students will need to quarantine or self-isolate, but we’ll defer to direction from the health department.

Not all students and their siblings will necessarily be quarantined or isolated right away, but parents will have the option to keep their children at home until the test results come back. If the results are positive and anyone has had close contact with that individual, steps will be taken for isolation and quarantine either by family, by class, or for the whole school. The dignity of the human person is so important in this stage, so we encourage all students to be kind to and not to stigmatize or tease anyone who may have gone home with COVID-like symptoms.

c. Decontamination of the isolation room:

Decontamination procedures of the isolation room will be conducted immediately following a person with symptoms. The cleaning team and COVID supervisor on site will provide instructions for this that include necessary PPE and solutions to use for disinfecting and sanitizing that space.

These health and safety protocols were taken from:

1. Reopening Washington Schools 2020: District Planning Guide
2. CDC- Considerations for K-12 Schools: Readiness and Planning Tool:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/School-Admin-K12-readiness-and-planning-tool.pdf>
3. CDC Other considerations for schools- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>
4. Whatcom County Health for Child Care Administrators (July 26) and the overview of mask order as of July 20 https://coronavirus.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/Overview%20of%20mask%20order_July20.pdf