



**Christ King Parish School COVID-19 Protocols
2021-22 School Year**

Dear Christ King Families,

August 16, 2021

Christ, our King, has blessed us with another school year. We begin this year in joy, as disciples with hope to bring to the world.

Our hardworking COVID-19 Task Force (CTF) has continued to analyze data and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Wauwatosa Health Department, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), and many more research and policy institutions. Equipped with all of this information, we agree on these principles:

- ★ In-person school is the very best option for students
- ★ Mask-optional classrooms are our goal
- ★ The Delta variant urges us to proceed responsibly and responsively

Research shows that we are welcome to enjoy many benefits this year:

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|--|------------------------------------|
| → Free association (no cohorting) | → Lunch in North Hall |
| → One entrance each morning for all students (91st Street main entrance) | → One weekly Mass for all students |
| → Field trips | → Singing |
| → No masking outdoors | → Athletics |
| | → Birthday treats |

Thus, our school plan is less restrictive this year, and also less static. We have devised a responsible and responsive school plan that allows us to keep our students in person while working toward the goal of mask-optional classrooms. Two crucial concepts guide our plan:

1. Weekly evaluation of the positivity rate in our school building
2. Elimination of close contacts if that rate reaches or rises above 2%

NOTE: a "close contact" in a school setting is anyone who has been within 3 feet of an infected individual, unmasked, for more than 15 minutes in any 24-hour period. (Last year, our school plan allowed us to avoid all close contacts, and we never had to quarantine an uninfected student due to a close contact in the school building.)

At the moment, the positivity rate in our school building is 0%, of course! But very few people are here. To start the year with a relevant data point, we will use the positivity rate in Wauwatosa as our benchmark (see [Wauwatosa Health Department dashboard](#)). At 8.2% as of August 16, that benchmark leads us to start the year with masks for all individuals indoors.

Masking indoors for the initial six days of school ensures that all students can remain in person so the first precious days of introductions, relationships, and routines can take root. Because we will maintain distance and require masks, we will have no close contacts in school that would require us to disrupt this rhythm by sending entire classrooms home to quarantine if a single student contracts the virus.

By the end of the first full week of classes (Thursday, September 2), we will determine the positivity rate in our building and use that statistic to guide our masking policy. If the positivity rate in our building is less than 2% (a metric based on our school case rate data from last year), the following week will begin (on Tuesday, September 6) with masks optional. If the rate is greater than 2%, we will continue with required masks for all individuals indoors.

This weekly analysis of data from our building will be published in each Friday's CK Connection and will continue to guide our decisions about how strictly we must avoid all close contacts.

Please remember that fighting COVID-19 requires layers of protection to which we remain committed.

Layers of protection in place this year at CK Parish School:

Vaccinations: all students, CK teachers and staff ages 12+ are [eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine](#). Many eligible family members of CK students and staff have also been fully vaccinated. As more CK community members become vaccinated it will enhance *this new layer of protection for our school*.

Air Decontamination: We have been blessed to be able to purchase and install state-of-the-art air purification (needlepoint bipolar ionization, or NPBI) systems in the school. NPBI pulls large and small particulates (which can contain viruses and other pathogens) out of the air in the school without the need for filter replacements. This technology *adds a new layer of protection* for our school this year.

Hand Hygiene: The school will continue to reinforce appropriate practices for [hand hygiene](#) as recommended by the CDC. Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout the school.

Comfort Care Room: Identifying illness in the school setting is another layer of protection in our school. The school will continue to staff the Comfort Care Room this year for students exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Students who meet the illness criteria will be sent home. We expect that those responsible for picking up ill students respond within 30 minutes. Parents who would like to volunteer in the Comfort Care Room can sign up [here](#).

Daily Health Screening: Keeping children home when sick is another layer of protection in our school. We will not require student temperatures and symptoms to be recorded daily in PowerSchool this year. However, we require that each student be screened for any illness at

home prior to school, and any children that exhibit signs of illness remain home. Children should remain home if they have one of the symptoms marked with an asterisk (*) or two of the other symptoms above baseline for them:

- Fever (temperature $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$)*
- New or worsening cough*
- New or worsening shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
- New loss of taste or smell*

- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Chills
- Nausea or vomiting

- Diarrhea
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches

Surface Disinfection: Surface disinfection adds another layer of protection against viral spread. We will continue to provide surface cleaning and sanitization in school classrooms.

Quarantine/Self-Isolation: We will continue to follow the [quarantine and self-isolation protocols](#) as recommended by the CDC this year. Close Contacts are defined by the CDC and include [special exceptions for the K-12 school environment](#). Families and Healthcare providers will be responsible for reporting positive test results to the school.

Masks: The CTF at CK Parish School recognizes that masks offer another layer of protection against viral spread. As mentioned above, we will begin the year with universal masking and proceed with weekly analysis of in-school positivity rates to allow us to be flexible as needed:

- **Less than 2% positivity (masks optional):** Masks will be optional for all students and staff. Teachers will track seating assignments in order to identify Close Contacts of known positive cases.
- **2% or greater positivity rate (masks required):** Masks will be required for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status.

Physical Distancing: Physical distancing among all staff and learners is another layer for protection in the school setting. A distance of at least 3 feet or more is [recommended in the K-12 school setting by the CDC](#). Students will maintain 3 or more feet of distance whenever possible, including at Mass and when moving through hallways and classrooms.

Visitors/Gatherings: Non-personnel visitors and volunteers will be limited, permitted on a case-by-case basis. Large group gatherings are tentative and subject to change pending current trends at the time of the event.

This School Plan has the unanimous approval of our COVID-19 Task Force, any of whom may be contacted with questions:

Chairperson:

Matt Hodges

Members:

Rebecca Bark

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Iva DiCastrì

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