

Safety Protocols for In-Person Learning

According to current data from the CDC, re-openings in international schools have been safe in communities with low transmission rates for COVID. As of August 10th, the positivity rate in Colorado was below 3% and continues a downward trend. The LOTW faith formation staff will be keeping close contact with the **Health Task Force Advisors for the Archdiocese of Denver**, a group of medical professionals working in partnership with physicians from Centura to safely re-open Catholic schools, for updates or changes to protocols. to <https://denvercatholicschools.com/parents/health-taskforce/-advisors>

We will be implementing the following CDC recommendations for school settings to protect the health, safety and well-being of our children, teachers and staff, their families, our parish family and ultimately our community:

- Employ multiple strategies as a preventative measure including social distancing, cloth face coverings, hand hygiene and the use of cohorting.
- Adapt classroom space and reduce class size to allow for social distancing
- Prepare plans for when someone does test positive.

Why In-Person Learning?

The CDC cites studies that show “students have experienced learning loss during the period of school closure and summer months.”^[30] In-person instruction for students has advantages over virtual learning...” And while in-person learning with restrictions is not ideal, “many students will benefit from interpersonal interaction between the student and the teacher, and the student and peers.”^[31] Teachers are able to more actively participate in student learning, provide feedback as students encounter challenges, and promote active learning among students.”^[32]

In-person learning offers your child emotional and psychological support from friends, teachers and other staff members. We are dedicated to working closely with you and will be focused on helping your child know that they are loved, heard, and protected. If your child needs counseling, the parish may be able to support these needs. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html>

How are you maintaining social distancing?

Social/physical distancing is an effective way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

- As much as possible, 6-foot distance between individuals in classrooms, hallways, and bathrooms will be maintained.
- One-way traffic flow will be designated for hallways to help maintain social/physical distancing requirements.
- Signage along with markings on the floor will help with social/physical distancing will be used to help guide children.
- There should be no physical contact (e.g., handshakes, hugs or “high-fives”) between students, faculty and staff excluding members of the same family.

Do we need to wear cloth face coverings?

There is sufficient evidence that mask-wearing is effective in limiting the spread of the virus, especially when people must come into close contact with one another.

- Guidance for wearing masks can be found at: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/mask-guidance>

- Everyone entering the building should be wearing cloth face coverings, especially during specific conditions and guidance from health officials.
- Parents should provide a well-fitted, comfortable cloth face covering for students ages 3 and older. (Bandanas, disposable surgical masks, and any pre-made purchased or hand-made mask is acceptable.)

Will students be required to wear masks all the time?

- The Archdiocese has requested that we be responsive to local orders on mask wearing and use. Our state currently has an [executive/public health order](#) on masking. ***We will be attentive to these orders and notify you of any changes.***
- Based on the grade level, and when sufficient social distancing is present, while there may be moments where one may determine masking is not necessary in the school setting, *it is highly recommended that our schools promote a culture of mask wearing.*

Will teachers be required to wear masks?

- Yes, but only as much as is reasonable according to the setting and duties, and as defined by any [executive or public health order](#).
- Teachers should wear masks when in close contact with other people, or where sufficient distancing cannot be maintained.

Do we need to take temperatures?

- Teachers, staff and volunteers will have temperature and symptom checks upon arrival.
- If you or your child/ren feel ill, or are showing symptoms such as a fever, gastrointestinal issues, rashes, and/or severe cough in combination with other symptoms, **please stay home**. Not sure how sick is sick, check here: <https://littletonpublicschools.net/sites/default/files/CDPHEHowSickisTooSick121219.pdf>

What are you doing to keep the facilities clean?

Upon reopening, our facilities will be completely cleaned and disinfected. Ventilation systems will be set at a higher turnover rate to provide more fresh air in the classrooms. We will adhere to all necessary health safety precautions, guidelines, and protocols determined by federal, state, city and county orders.

What if someone tests positive for COVID?

If a teacher or student test positive, those in the same cohort will be notified and recommend testing and to stay at home until receiving a negative test result. In addition, anyone who has had close contact with someone who has tested positive or is symptomatic for COVID-19 should be tested and stay at home until receiving a negative results.

How will we be notified of updates to protocols?

We will be using Flocknote to communicate updates via email, or in the case of urgent communication, via text messaging through the same platform.

This year, we will be building several two week breaks into the schedule to manage any disruptions that may occur, and to allow children the ability to come back for in-person learning. ***Updates about any changes in the status of COVID in our faith formation programs will be communicated.***

Individuals in my household are at risk, what options do you have for my child?

Please contact Bridget Rincon at bridget@lotw.org or by phone at (303) 973-3969 to discuss remote learning options for your family.