

# Progressive Return to School Plan



2021-22



Diocese of Beaumont  
Catholic Schools

Greetings in Christ to all of our school communities,

In consultation with Bishop Toups, our principals, and area school district staff, the Office of Catholic Schools has reviewed and considered guidance from local health officials, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Texas Education Agency (TEA), and Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department (TCCB ED) in order to develop a progressive return to school plan for all Catholic schools in the Diocese of Beaumont beginning with the 2021-22 school year. While not every aspect of our schools will be operating as they were pre-COVID-19, we are excited about these progressive measures that will allow us to open schools safely.

The health and safety of our students, staff and families is our greatest concern. We are committed to providing the quality Catholic school education in a Christ-centered environment that our families expect while remaining vigilant in our efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses in our schools. Our commitment to our overriding purpose of ensuring that the children of the Diocese develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, and emotionally to their fullest potential continues to drive our daily activities, even in the face of the challenges of today.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the prevention and mitigation practices discussed in this document are designed to significantly reduce the likelihood that a coronavirus outbreak occurs on campus. We will continue to take our local public health recommendations into account throughout the year. These protocols are subject to change as circumstances change in the future. Scientific health reports will continue to be monitored and if needed, greater restrictions may be applied. For further questions regarding the implementation of this policy on specific campuses, please contact the campus directly. We will welcome all of our students back to our schools on August 10<sup>th</sup> and we look forward to working with our parents to provide a safe and productive school year.

Peace and Blessings,

Dr. Felicia K. Nichols  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Diocese of Beaumont

## **Safety Training of Staff & Students**

- All staff members will be trained on health and hygiene procedures, identification of symptoms, prevention of spread and sanitation of work areas.
  - Plans will continue for both routine and deep cleaning.
- All school staff will be trained in the updated reopening plan protocol.
- Protected health information compliance, as noted in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA), will be reviewed with staff members.
- All students will be trained on health and hygiene procedures, identification of symptoms, and prevention of spread in a way that is developmentally appropriate for each student/grade level.
- Students will be asked to notify a teacher immediately if they begin to experience symptoms while at school.
- Staff will be asked to notify the campus administrator if they begin to experience symptoms while at work.

## **Health Screening:**

- As adult members of a Catholic learning community, we will continue to take personal responsibility for our health. Teachers and staff will be required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms of illness prior to reporting to work each day.
- We ask that parents continue to take personal responsibility for the health of their child. Parents will be responsible for screening their child for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending them to school.
- The school staff reserves the right to conduct temperature checks throughout the school day.
- Consistent with school policy, any student who has a fever will not be allowed to remain on campus and will need to be picked up by a parent immediately.
  - If a student or staff member should develop symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19, our campuses will follow the most up

to date guidelines from TEA, the CDC and the local health department.

- Steps regarding the determination of “close contact” and/or quarantine and re-entry measures will be addressed on a case by case basis in consultation with the health department.
  - In the event that a student or class must be quarantined, every effort will be made to provide continuity of instruction, which may include virtual instruction.

### **School Buildings:**

#### **Masks:**

- Masks are not required for students, but are strongly encouraged for those who are unvaccinated or those who have underlying health conditions.
- Masks are required for unvaccinated staff members.

#### **Volunteers & Visitors:**

- We value our parents and community supporters; however, visitors will not be permitted in our schools.
- At the request of authorized school staff, specific volunteers will be permitted on campus for specific reasons and will be required to remain in a specified area of the building.
- Volunteers will be screened and their temperature will be taken.
- Parents are welcome to provide store bought, individual cupcakes in recognition of a student’s birthday.
- At this time visits to the campus during lunch time are not permitted.
  - School lunches will be available for students to purchase in the cafeteria daily.

**Mass Attendance:**

- Parents are permitted to attend Mass during the school day. A separate section will be made available for parents who choose to attend Mass during the school day.

**Hallways:**

- Students will continue to be encouraged to distance themselves from others in the hallways.

**Drop-off/Pick-up:**

- Procedures for morning drop-off and afternoon pick up will be communicated by each individual campus.

**Field Trips:**

Field trips have been discontinued until further notice from the campus administrator.

**Instruction:**

- The Diocese of Beaumont Catholic schools will provide face-to-face instruction for all students for the 2021-22 school year. Virtual instruction is not offered as an instructional option in lieu of face-to-face instruction.
- In the face-to-face setting, all students will receive a quality education in which teachers use a variety of learning resources, including those that are technology based.
- Should a student be required to quarantine, every effort will be made to provide the student with continuity of instruction, which may include virtual instruction.
- The Office of Catholic Schools is currently working with TCCBED, TEA and Region V Education Service Center regarding increased measures to address academic gaps.

## **Classroom Procedures:**

- Masks are not required for students in the classroom, but are strongly encouraged for those who are unvaccinated or those who have underlying health conditions.
- Masks are required for unvaccinated staff members.
- Advanced cleaning and sanitation measures will remain in place on each campus.
- Procedures will be taught and followed to allow for a touchless experience as much as possible.
- Sharing of instructional materials will be avoided.
- Students will continue to practice proper handwashing.
- In classroom spaces that allow it, students will be distanced at least three feet apart as per CDC recommendations.
- Students and staff are encouraged to continue to bring their own reusable water bottle.

## **School Events & Extra-Curricular Activities:**

- For the 2021-22 school year, Meet the Teacher events will be held virtually.
- Athletic programs will resume normal activities. Spectators are encouraged to wear masks during indoor sporting events, especially if they fall into a vulnerable category.
- During athletic events, parents/spectators are to remain in their designated area. At no time during an athletic event are parents to approach the student athletes and/or coaches. Thank you for helping to keep our students safe.
- Depending upon the type of the event, certain functions may be held outside or may be held virtually. Contact the campus directly for questions about specific events.

*\*For campus-specific questions, please contact the school directly. This policy is subject to change as circumstances change in the future.*

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