



Diocese of Palm Beach Office of Catholic Schools SCHOOL RE-ENTRY PLAN For Fall 2020 in Response to COVID-19

“Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life.” -Pope Francis

The Office of Catholic Schools in collaboration with the Florida Department of Education, Florida Catholic Conference of Bishops, local health officials, administrators, and other diocesan staff has worked diligently to develop a school re-opening plan that allows students to return to campus in a manner that reduces health-related risks while maintaining an environment in which we focus on the education of the whole child.

Our schools will provide on-campus learning with the necessary campus and classroom modifications needed to support students safe return to school on August 10, 2020 (Some start dates vary in our diocese.). This plan may be updated regularly based on the guidance of local and state health officials. School principals will share updated information on the school’s website and distribute all updates to parents via the school information system.

This plan, and any other related policies and procedures, may be revised at any time with or without prior notice and the specific provisions may be subject to the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools and school principals. This plan may differ from other entities within the Diocese of Palm Beach due to varying local laws and the unique nature of the services and population that each entity serves.



Academics & At-Home Learning

Students will begin the 2020-2021 academic year in August on campus with the expectation that specific health and safety procedures will be required. If a student or their household member is in a higher-risk group, they may request at-home learning in a modified format (options may vary from school to school). The request must be approved by the principal. The need for this at-home learning accommodation will be evaluated quarterly.



Temperature Screening

Students, teachers and staff will be required to have temperature checks daily upon arrival. Anyone with a temperature higher than 100.3 degrees will be sent home. A doctor’s note will be required prior to returning to school. Random temperature checks may be done throughout the school day. Anyone with a temperature, feeling ill, or exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and seek medical attention to maintain a healthy school campus.



Cleaning & Disinfecting

Enhanced cleaning protocols have been established to disinfect the campuses daily. High-touch surfaces will be regularly disinfected throughout the school day. Teachers and staff will be provided the necessary cleaning and disinfecting materials.



Strategic Social Distancing

Students, teachers, and staff are required to wear facial coverings. Local ordinances will be used to determine appropriate ages/grades. Classroom seating will be arranged to maximize strategic social distancing and to limit face-to-face contact. Whenever possible, all should practice social distancing by staying away from others and eliminating contact with others.



Visitor Protocol

Schools and centers will not allow normal visitation to the campus until future notice. Any approved visitor on campus will check in at the main office and will be escorted with a face mask around the campus upon completion of a self-screening form. This requirement is now in place based on the need to limit the exposure of our students, faculty and staff.



In Mass, Large Gatherings & Sporting Events

School Masses will follow the protocols in place by the diocese. All athletic or sporting events must adhere to state and local guidelines. Assemblies and large gatherings are not recommended during the first quarter.