



Frequently Asked Questions July 29, 2020

Re-Opening Plan

1. What is the reopening plan for the 2020-2021 school year?

St. Joseph School plans to begin school on August 31st with an option of “In-person Learning” and an option for “Distance Learning”. This is called Phase 3 of our COVID-19 Preparedness Plan (see below). For those who choose Distance Learning, there will be a staff member dedicated to supporting your student throughout the distance learning phase. All students choosing the Distance Learning platform, will have access to online tools and technology (e.g. Chrome Books, charging chords, etc.) during this phase of re-opening.

There are 5 phases to operating our school during COVID-19, dating back to last spring:

- Phase 1: Distance Learning (March 2020-May 2020)
- Phase 2: Summer Saints Learning (partially opened for summer cohorts)
- Phase 3: In-person, In-school Learning & Distance Learning with significant restrictions (Autumn 2020)
- Phase 4: In-person, In-school Learning (with fewer restrictions)
- Phase 5: Normal In-person, In-school Learning (with no restrictions)

For more information, visit <https://school.stjosephwaconia.org/covid-19-preparedness/> to find our “COVID-19 Preparedness Plan”. *Please note: More information on choosing your child’s learning platform to come.*

2. What will Distance Learning look like this year?

To begin the school year, families who choose Distance Learning will be learning with increased support from a Distance Learning teacher and support staff. We plan to use the Distance Learning option until the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer active.

3. What will happen if the governor of Minnesota declares all public schools to be closed?

If the governor declares all public schools to be closed, we will continue to follow our Bishop's determination on how we should respond. This information will be communicated to you promptly after the decision has been made. If public schools close, St. Joseph School plans to stay open, unless directed by our Bishop otherwise. *Please note: Transportation and nursing support could become issues if the public schools are not in session.*

4. What is the process if we open and later have to return to Distance Learning (Phase 1)?

Our 5 Phase Plan to re-open the school building is fluid and will be ready to pivot between phases should circumstances change. Teachers will be ready to adjust instruction based on the needs of the students and circumstances.

Health and Safety

5. What will happen if my child gets sick or displays symptoms of COVID-19?

Students and employees are required to stay home when they are sick or display any symptoms of COVID-19. If your student displays these symptoms, they should get tested as soon as possible. For more information on which symptoms to look for, visit <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/sick.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

6. What will happen if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school?

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, they will be sent to the Nurse's office (or main Office if the nurse is not available). Students who have a fever of 100.4 or higher at the time they enter the building or who develop symptoms during the school day will be sent to the Nurse's office for additional screening. The Nurse/Aid will determine whether or not the student will need to be sent home.

Students who need to leave the school due to COVID-19 symptoms will be sent to a separate office to isolate individuals who display COVID-19 symptoms. This space will allow for a 6-foot distance between sick individuals and will be cleaned between uses. A COVID-19 Point of Contact staff member will communicate with you directly to pick up your student (see below for contact information).

7. What happens if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

St. Joseph School will inform families and employees of the need for them to stay home if:

- They have tested positive for or are showing symptoms of COVID-19
- They have recently had close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19

8. If my child goes home sick or gets quarantined, what is the process to get them back in the classroom?

St. Joseph School will seek written confirmation from a certified medical professional when allowing students and employees to return to school. If no such confirmation is available, we will follow the guidelines of the Minnesota Department of Health and/or Center for Disease Control.

9. Will my child have to wear a mask all day?

During Phase 3 of our plan, masks and face shields are required for everyone as they enter the building. During in-person, in-school learning, if elementary (grades K-3) students can maintain a 3-foot distance from one another masks may not be required. Intermediate (grades 4-5) and middle school (grades 6-8) students may be required to wear their masks for the duration of the day except during PE, lunch, band class and outdoor classes. *Please note: This is subject to change based on the most current information and directives.*

10. What are the daily health and safety checks that will be used during in-person, in-class learning?

Teachers and staff will remind and encourage students to use proper hygiene techniques, including:

- Daily temperature screenings for all students and staff upon arrival
- Washing hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, frequently
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, disposing of tissue, and washing hands promptly after
- Maintain a minimum of 3-foot distance between each other (and when possible, maintain a 6-foot distance)
- Avoid touching your face

11. What are the daily cleaning protocols that will be implemented during in-person, in-class learning?

St. Joseph School staff have established a schedule for routine cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces and shared equipment throughout the day. For example:

- Students will clean their own desks 2-3 times a day with appropriate wipes
- Certain bathrooms will be closed while the open bathrooms will be cleaned multiple times daily

Communications

12. How will the school communicate COVID-19 related news and updates?

St. Joseph School will communicate via email with families every two weeks once school begins to provide ongoing information on reducing the spread of COVID-19.



13. Who do I talk to if I have questions or concerns about COVID-19?

St. Joseph School's Designated Point of Contact for responding to COVID-19 concerns is the school nurse. If the nurse is unavailable, Principal Bruce Richards and the Administrative Assistant will serve in this capacity. Contact information is below.

To Be Determined
School Nurse
952-442-4500
schoolnurse@stjosephwaconia.org

Bruce Richards
Principal
952-442-4500
brichards@stjosephwaconia.org

To Be Determined
Administrative Assistant
952-442-4500
schooloffice@stjosephwaconia.org

IMPORTANT

St. Joseph School will require its employees and families to inform the school as soon as possible if they or their child(ren) have symptoms of COVID-19, if they have had a positive test for COVID-19, or had a close exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days. We will follow all reasonable CDC and MDH guidelines regarding how long to stay home and when they may return to school/work.

As the situation develops and changes, we ask that you be patient and respectful to all members of our community. *Please note: This plan is fluid and subject to change.*

For updated information related to COVID-19, please visit
<https://school.stjosephwaconia.org/covid-19-preparedness/>.