



RETURN STRONG

BACK TO FAITH FORMATION COVID PLAN

COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

Our Lady Queen of Peace Faith Formation 2021-22



RETURN STRONG

MAINTAINING HEALTH & SAFETY

OPERATIONS & LOGISTICS AT A GLANCE



The COVID-19 Vaccine is one of the most effective ways to decrease COVID-19 rates throughout the community. Currently, those 12 years of age and older are eligible.



Students, staff, volunteers, and visitors are required to wear masks indoors. Masks are optional outdoors.



Queen of Peace will follow the current PHMDC and CDC guidance that recommends 3 feet social distance wherever possible.



No snack will be provided prior to the start of faith formation sessions for our elementary and middle school students.

PREVENTION STRATEGIES TO REDUCE TRANSMISSION

Establishing a culture of shared responsibility is a priority. Staff will teach students the importance of caring for one another in our community by following parish mitigation guidelines and good hygiene practices. All staff and families are strongly encouraged to practice mitigations that limit COVID-19 exposure in and outside of faith formation.

Getting vaccinated when eligible, wearing a mask, frequent handwashing, getting tested, and staying home when not feeling well (regardless of vaccination status) are vital mitigation strategies for keeping illness to a minimum in our faith formation programs and in our community.

VACCINATION

Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

- All staff, volunteers, and visitors will be strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated
- All students age 12 and older will be strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated

MASKING

Masks are one of the most effective and simplest safety mitigation layers to prevent in-person transmission. In accordance with the new [CDC K-12 School Guidance](#), and due to the circulating of the highly contagious Delta Variant, the CDC recommends “universal indoor masking for all students (2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools regardless of vaccination status.”

- Students, staff, volunteers, and visitors are required to mask indoors.
- Students are asked to use a fresh face mask for each session.
- No neck gaiters or masks with valves.
- Masks should only be used by one person and should not be shared.
- Masks are optional outdoors.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely with minimal

physical distancing requirements when other safety mitigation strategies (i.e., masks) are implemented.

- Our Lady Queen of Peace will comply with the current PHMDC and CDC guidance that recommends 3 feet distance wherever possible.
- Desks will all face in the same direction or may be separated with Plexiglas barriers.
- Appropriate spacing and traffic flow expectations will be taught and positively reinforced.
- When possible and conducive to learning, faith formation sessions may be taken outside.
- Staggered bathroom breaks.

VENTILATION

Improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air.

- The Education Center and Parish Center ventilation systems have been evaluated and updated.
- Air purifiers have been added to classrooms/meeting spaces, as well as equipment filters.
- Outdoor spaces may be utilized for faith formation sessions when possible.
- Windows will be opened when it does not pose a health or safety risk for students and staff.

HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

- Frequent hand washing will be practiced.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizing stations will be at building entrances, in classrooms/meeting areas, as well as in common areas.
- Students will be expected to wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to entering classrooms/meeting areas.
- Students will receive age-appropriate education on proper handwashing technique, including washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Signs on proper hand washing will be posted.

- When hand washing is not possible, students will be given hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to sanitize hands.
- Younger students will be supervised with hand sanitizer.
- Families who have students who are unable to use hand sanitizer should contact the appropriate faith formation director.
- Staff will remind students to cover coughs with their inner elbow or a tissue.
- Soiled tissues will be disposed of immediately followed by hand hygiene.

STAYING HOME WHEN SICK AND GETTING TESTED

When should a student, staff member, or volunteer stay home?

- All staff and volunteers will conduct a self-health screening prior to coming to faith formation.
- Parents/guardians will be expected to do symptom checks prior to sending their student(s) to faith formation.
- All students, staff, or volunteers who are sick or experiencing any of the following symptoms are asked to remain home and to get COVID-19 tested prior to returning to faith formation.
 - Fever or chills (Temperature is 100.4 degrees or above)
 - Cough (New or change in chronic cough)
 - Shortness of Breath/Difficulty Breathing
 - Muscle or Body Aches (Flu-like)
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore Throat
 - Congestion or Runny Nose
 - Nausea or Vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Parents should notify faith formation if a child is ill and will be absent from a session by emailing ff.attendance@qopc.org. Please leave information regarding respective symptoms for appropriate surveillance. Information will remain confidential.

- Individuals who have not completed public health requirements for ending isolation or quarantine, or symptomatic individuals who are awaiting COVID-19 test results, should remain at home.
- In order to assess for increased cases in the faith formation program, families, staff, and volunteers are asked to report any COVID-19 positive tests. Confidentiality will be maintained.

Procedures for students, staff, or volunteers who appear ill or develop illness while attending faith formation

- Students, staff, or volunteers who appear ill or develop illness symptoms while at faith formation will be placed in a designated isolation area.
- Parents/guardians will immediately be contacted to pick up the student.
- Families, staff, and volunteers should notify the appropriate faith formation director of any COVID-19 positive results for appropriate surveillance.

When can students, staff, or volunteers return to faith formation after COVID-19 isolation or quarantine?

- Please refer to [COVID-19: When a Student, or Faculty/Staff Member Can Return to School](#) for guidance.

CONTACT TRACING IN COMBINATION WITH ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

- The Faith Formation staff will work closely with PHMDC and will follow all quarantine measures for students who have tested positive for COVID, or who have been confirmed as “close contacts” of one or more individuals with COVID.
- Information regarding individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, close contact, or positive test results is sensitive and will remain confidential.
- Please refer to [Quarantine FAQs for Unvaccinated Children \(Ages 12 and Under\)](#)

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting, using [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s List N](#) disinfectants, removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.

- The Education Center and Parish Center will be cleaned daily. Special attention will be given to high touch surfaces such as door knobs, handrails, and sinks.
- Student desks/tables will be cleaned and disinfected after students leave.
- Areas inhabited by someone who has tested COVID-19 positive will be cleaned and disinfected.
- EPA registered cleaning products will be used.
- Manipulatives and other items that must be shared amongst students will be cleaned.
- Hands are to be washed after cleaning.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES

- Students and staff will attend periodic in-person Communal Penance Services with masks and distancing enforced.

DRINKING FOUNTAINS

- Drinking fountains are only to be used to fill water bottles.

.SNACKS

- No snack will be provided prior to the start of faith formation sessions for our elementary and middle school students.

VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS

- The parish will limit volunteers/visitors to those essential to the faith formation program operations.

RESOURCES

[AAP COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools](#)

[CDC: Guidance for COVID-19 Protection in K-12 Schools](#)

[COVID-19 Infection Control and Mitigation Measures for Wisconsin Schools 2021/2022](#)

[Guidelines for the Prevention, Investigation, and Control of COVID-19 Outbreaks in K-12 Schools in Wisconsin](#)

[Public Health Madison and Dane County](#)