



St. John Catholic School Reopening Plans 2020-2021
(Updated: January 7, 2021)

Based on the directive from the Office for Catholic Schools and recommendation from the Governor, we continue to monitor the key indicators on [King County COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) to determine when we are able to open to in-person instruction. At this juncture, based on the [new metric](#) delivered by the Governor on Wednesday, December 15, 2020, at the current, moderate COVID-19 activity level, Department of Health recommends careful phasing in of in-person learning starting with any elementary students not already in-person and middle school students. Safety precautions and mitigation strategies must continue to be observed as the school invites more students into the building. The Director of Public Health – Seattle & King County, Patty Hayes, RN, MN, has advised schools to create sustainable plans that minimize the need for transition back to full remote learning.

- **Recommendations from Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC) as of September 17, 2020**
 - DOH guidance recommends our younger students be the first to gradually come back to in-person learning if schools are able to implement the recommended COVID-19 health and safety measures in the decision tree.
 - We recommend a phased approach to hybrid and in-person services for this age group during this period so that we do not quickly overwhelm schools', districts', and PHSKC's response to cases and potential outbreaks.
 - If we stay in the moderate level, schools can begin in-person or hybrid learning in October for younger students, as long as schools can meet the requirements from the state.
 - Over time, hybrid learning can be considered for older students, if there is continued reduced transmission in the school and community.
- **Updated Recommendations from Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC) as of January 7, 2021**
 - Follow all recommendations outlined above
 - Grades PreK-2 will continue as they are now in established cohorts, with in-person or remote instruction 5 days a week

- Grades 3-5 will transition to in-person learning utilizing a hybrid model: alternating days of in-person instruction combined with synchronous and asynchronous instruction for remote learners. The hybrid model allows us to follow DOH safety measures while taking into account current staffing and available educational spaces.
- Hybrid learning can be considered for middle school students, if there is continued reduced transmission in the school and community.

While we believe live instruction and interaction with peers and teachers are critical to students' social-emotional and mental health, **our top priority is the health and safety of all members of the St. John community**. The school remains committed to delivering a plan for in-person instruction. Once transmission rates are maintained at the moderate or low risk levels, we will gradually and cautiously begin welcoming students back on campus.

Re-opening Goals

St. John School is an inclusive Catholic community, committed to inspiring moral development, academic excellence, and the courage to act for the common good.

Our re-opening goals are informed by our mission and by policies that will best mitigate COVID-19 transmission.

In this unified spirit, we strive to:

- Ensure a **safe, healthy, and robust learning environment** for our students, faculty and staff.
- Offer, to the greatest extent possible, our **full educational program**. Though some aspects of our program and staffing have been adjusted to maintain a safe and healthy environment, students will continue to receive strong and responsive support from faculty and staff.
- Support students' **social-emotional development and health** by integrating community and wellness programs into the school day.
- Prioritize opportunities for **in-person learning** when state and Archdiocesan guidelines allow us to do so.

In order to navigate re-opening during a pandemic and to achieve our goals during these challenging times, we commit to being:

- Patient and generous with each other and ourselves
- Collaborative in our pursuit of students' well-being and continuing education
- Open-minded, flexible and creative as circumstances change
- Responsible for and respectful of our community by adhering to federal, state, county and school health and safety directives

Decision-Making Process

The Re-Opening Task Force is comprised of parents and faculty and staff representatives from every department (Bernadette O’Leary, Paul Kelley, Shannon Manley, Sven Tice, Lisa Longton, Kerri McCarthy, Telia Oines, Megan Costa, Josh Stutzman, Paula Pessner, RN, Lila O’Mahony, MD, and Kristine Kelley). The task force has been meeting regularly since mid-June to develop a re-opening plan. Tenets of the plan are based on results from the surveys to which you responded in June and August and driven by the health and safety of our community.

Knowing that there is a staggering amount of information, we are taking guidance from [Center for Disease Control](#), [Washington State Department of Health](#), and the [Archdiocese, Office for Catholic Schools](#). Specifically, we are following directives outlined in Public Health – Seattle & King County’s [King County Schools COVID-19 Response Toolkit, Guidance for K-12 public and private school and district staff](#).

Our decision making is based on the information we have available today and is subject to change in keeping with the latest health guidelines. Updates will be communicated to the community throughout the school year.

We are Christ-Centered People

Inspired by our mission, we are Christ-centered people who have the courage to act for the common good. We understand and accept our role as caretakers of our community. We act intentionally and compassionately as we seek to keep each other safe. It is imperative, then, that we follow [Washington State Department of Health](#) directives for reopening of school, such as:

- Daily Health Screening (QR-code*) before entering any school or parish building, followed by temperature check at [dedicated entrances](#)
- Required masks/face coverings for faculty, staff and students while on campus
- Follow social and physical distancing requirements
- Practice excellent hygiene and follow CDC guidelines for effective [handwashing](#)
- Avoid large gatherings, where there may be a higher rate of COVID-19 transmission
- Refrain from unnecessary travel, especially to an area where there is a COVID-19 surge, per updates from the [CDC](#)



*Daily QR Code Health Screen to be completed by family before arriving to campus.

<https://forms.gle/e4KwnjkXHVnkpGen6>

To further prevent the spread of contagion, additional measures will be in place:

- Only faculty, staff and students will be permitted entry to school and parish buildings
- No re-entry during the day: if a student leaves campus they will not be permitted to return that day
- No large gatherings, including: school-wide assemblies, all-school Masses and field trips

We all have a shared responsibility in ensuring that our community remains as safe and healthy as possible. To that end, please read all parent communication from the school and follow the parent guidelines from [Public Health – Seattle & King County](#):

- Stay home if sick
- Stay home if exposed

We are a Community of Active Learners

As we embark on this new reality of in-person instruction, we acknowledge that this year will test our resolve and demand our best efforts. We can, again, look to our mission for guidance. We are a community of active learners, and we are committed to academic excellence, whether online or on campus.

As per DOH recommendations, we slowly and cautiously welcomed our primary students (grades K-2) onto campus for in-person instruction. We look forward to welcoming our intermediate students (grades 3-5) onto campus in the same manner. An instructional model (cohorts, hybrid, etc.) for re-entry of middle school students will be determined once key indicators are met.

To reduce the risk of transmission, the following instructional model will be implemented for all on-campus learners:

- Staggered arrival and dismissal times
- Teaching Teams, comprised of grade-level teachers and qualified teaching assistants, will be assigned to grade-level cohorts / small groups and work with each of them in a given day.
 - Siblings will be placed in the same cohorts / small groups. There will be exceptions for student support classes.
- Emphasis for in-person instruction to be focused on essential and core academic standards
 - Support specialists from the SST will continue to work with students, both in-person and remotely
 - Spanish, music, and art will be delivered online
 - PE classes will be offered on campus, outside, socially distanced and staggered by grade-level cohorts / small groups

- Health and wellness/community building curriculum will be integrated into daily instruction
- Recess will be socially distanced and staggered by grade-level cohorts / small groups
- Hot lunch will be delivered to classrooms
- Length of school day for in-person instruction is modified to allow for:
 - Daily health screenings upon arrival to campus
 - Teacher directed time to interact with remote-only learners
- If you elect to return to in-person learning, please note this is a commitment. The in-person option is not modeled to allow fluctuations between in-person and remote learning depending on your comfort level day-to-day, week-to-week, or extended vacation plans. To minimize risk and maintain consistency, the school expects a firm commitment.
- K-2 Grade-Specific Information
 - First day of on-campus instruction: Monday, October 5, 2020
 - 9:00am arrival, 2:00pm dismissal
 - Three grade-level cohorts of 13-18 students will be created and remain together throughout the day and not change classrooms or interact with other cohorts.
- 3-5 Grade-Specific Information
 - First day of on-campus instruction: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 (Purple Cohort) and Thursday, January 21, 2021 (Gold Cohort)
 - 8:20am arrival, 8:30am tardy bell, 2:10pm dismissal
 - Hybrid model, in small groups with alternating days of in-person instruction
 - Monday and Wednesday in-person instruction: Purple Cohort
 - Tuesday and Thursday in-person instruction: Gold Cohort
 - Friday: all students in remote instruction
 - Extended Day Care will not be offered at this time for students in grades 3-5
- Remote Learners-Specific Information
 - Students in the remote classroom: primary, intermediate (albeit alternating days or for the duration), and middle school will continue to login daily to receive synchronous and asynchronous virtual instruction.
 - If families of students in primary and intermediate grades elect to remain in the remote classroom, introduction of new students to the cohorts will be based on safety measures established by the Department of Health.

We are Empowered Disciples

We are empowered disciples who commit to providing an environment where we can all safely and fully nurture our spirit, mind, and body. In order to encourage our students to grow in their education and faith, we must ensure that their physical space is one in which they feel secure. We understand, then, that the school, itself, will look and feel different as St. John School has added significant measures to maintain a safe and healthy campus, such as:

- Creative use of available space on campus to maintain proper social distance
- Portable classrooms (east campus) are utilized for additional academic spaces
- Increased signage to direct traffic flow and remind students of health protocols: masks, social distance and frequent handwashing

- Procurement and utilization of electrostatic sprayers for touchless, efficient and effective disinfection
- Increased sanitation and disinfecting procedures in and around the campus, based on [School Cleaning & Disinfecting Guidelines](#), especially in high contact areas
- Procurement and utilization of portable sinks to allow for more frequent, socially distanced hygiene
- Improved ventilation: fans have been purchased to keep air circulating, and all windows will be left open throughout the day. Air filters have been replaced.

Together We Can Act with Justice, Love with Mercy, Walk Humbly with God

The St. John community thrives because of the connection and communication that occur among our members. Before in-person instruction starts, we will communicate more detailed processes and procedures with the community so that families have a clear, comprehensive plan. We will continue to communicate our plans through NewsViews and targeted emails.

This year will be a great test in our resiliency. Grace will be required and granted as we turn each new corner and confront new obstacles in our daily lives. Patience, ingenuity, and resolve will be needed for collective problem-solving. Our mission will guide us through these uncertain times, and our theme will remind us that we have the fortitude and faith to adapt to circumstances that we cannot control. Our community will rise to the occasion, like it always does. Together we can!

FAQ's

How is St. John preparing for re-opening?

Knowing that there is a staggering amount of information, we are taking guidance from federal ([Center for Disease Control](#)), state ([Washington State Department of Health](#)), and local ([Archdiocese, Office for Catholic Schools](#)) agencies. Specifically and currently we are following directives outlined in Public Health – Seattle & King County's [King County Schools COVID-19 Response Toolkit, Guidance for K-12 public and private school and district staff.](#)

Our decision making is based on the information we have available today and is subject to change in keeping with the latest health guidelines. Updates will be communicated to the community throughout the school year.

Per guidelines, what is the ideal or maximum number of students per classroom?

Schools: there is no specific recommended group size as long as physical distancing and other health and safety measures are met.

Childcare licensing currently recommends up to 22 people per group, including children, youth, and adults.

Will my student continue to receive support from Specialists with the in-person instruction model?

There will continue to be academic support from reading and math specialists, though the amount of time may be somewhat limited based on staffing needs. Accommodations for those students with support plans will be provided by the SST and cohort / small group leaders. All students will continue to have an opportunity for small group instruction that suits their needs.

What if we are not comfortable with sending our student(s) back to in-person instruction?

We understand some families may choose to keep their student(s) home regardless of the safety measures we have taken for in-person instruction. Students remaining in the remote classroom will have opportunities to interact virtually with their class and teacher each day, though not to same degree that was offered in the full remote learning plan.

Time has been built into the academic day for teachers, and/or assistants, to work directly with their remote learners. Instruction, both live or recorded, will continue to be delivered via Google Classroom (K-5). Students in the hybrid model (grades 3-5) and those in elementary grades who elect to remain in the RLP will continue to login daily to receive synchronous and asynchronous instruction.

If I elect to keep my child home, in the remote classroom, would there be another opportunity to re-join in-person instruction on campus?

Yes. There will likely be opportunities for remote learners to join; however, we have not yet established when and how frequent these opportunities will be presented as introduction of new students is based on safety measures established by the Department of Health.

How will St. John support student's emotional well-being?

We are fortunate to have Ms. Shaw as our full-time school counselor. In addition to providing many [resources](#) in helping students navigate the emotional roller coaster of living through a pandemic, Ms. Shaw is available to work with families in supporting students' mental health and well-being. She is available by [email](#), phone, or video chat.

Additionally, health and wellness / community building curriculum have been integrated into daily instruction. Middle School students will have a stand-alone health and wellness / community building class as part of their schedule.

Will Extended Daycare be available with a return to in-person instruction?

At this time, Extended Day Care is available for students in primary grades only.

My student doesn't feel well, and we don't think it's COVID-19; can they still come to school?

No. During this time we are asking any student who does not feel well to stay home. This is extremely important for the health and safety of our entire community. Students who stay home will be able to participate in remote instruction.

According to the [CDC](#), people with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose – unrelated to a pre-existing condition (such as seasonal allergies)
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19. Public Health – Seattle & King County’s [“Self-Check Symptoms” tool](#) or CDC’s [Coronavirus Self Checker tool](#) may be helpful if families are concerned about their student’s illness and the possibility of their symptoms being related to the virus.

What happens if a student, faculty member or staff becomes ill during the day?

At this time, you should stay home if you are feeling ill for any reason.

Following Washington State Department of Health’s [K-12 Schools – 2020-2021 Guidance](#), if a person becomes symptomatic of a COVID-like illness or falls ill during the school day, the person will be separated from others. If the symptomatic person is an adult, they will be asked to leave school immediately. If the symptomatic person is a student, they will be supervised at a distance of six feet until their parents can pick them up. The school will adhere to the [COVID-19 Contact Tracing and Reporting Map](#) established by Public Health – Seattle & King County and the [Checklist for Managing Students/Staff With Symptoms of COVID-19](#). Anyone who has COVID-like symptoms should follow [DOH](#) guidelines in monitoring their health during this time.

What happens if a student, faculty member or staff comes in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

According to [Public Health – Seattle & King County guidelines](#), if you have come in close contact (such as living in the same household) with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, you must quarantine for 14 days from the date of contact *even if you feel healthy since symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus*. During this time, individuals should monitor themselves for any symptoms and seek guidance from a healthcare provider. Every effort should be made to avoid further contact with infected individuals and precautions should be taken. Please consult the

[COVID-19 Symptom Flow Chart](#) to determine if it is safe for your child to return to school. What is considered “close contact”?

- anyone who has been within 6 feet of a person infected with COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
- anyone who has had unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions
- use of cloth masks or face shields by the person with COVID-19 or the close contact does not change this definition

What is the protocol if a student, faculty or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

If a person tests positive for COVID-19, the Office for Catholic Schools, along with the local health jurisdiction will advise, and the infected person must self-isolate and adhere to Washington State Department of Health protocols, [“What to do if you have confirmed or suspected COVID-19.”](#) Appropriate communication steps will be taken based on guidance from governing bodies.

Will the school notify Public Health – Seattle & King County if my student is sent home for not feeling well, having a fever or any other symptoms related to COVID-19?

St. John School must adhere to [state](#) and [local](#) directives regarding reporting positive cases of COVID-19 in our community. All possible efforts will be made to maintain the anonymity of any individual who is affected directly or indirectly.

What happens to the cohort if a student or teacher in that cohort tests positive for COVID-19?

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, it is possible that many of the student’s classmates and teachers in the cohort will be considered close contacts and need to be quarantined for 14 days. They should monitor their health and contact a healthcare provider if COVID-19 symptoms arise. A negative COVID-19 test only indicates that the virus was not detectable in their body at the time of testing. It does not completely rule out that they have COVID-19. They should still quarantine for the full 14 days. If a person tests positive for COVID-19, the local health jurisdiction will advise, and the infected person must self-isolate and adhere to DOH guidelines. Refer to [“What to do if you were potentially exposed to someone with confirmed COVID- 19.”](#)

When can a student, faculty member, staff return to school after having suspected signs of COVID-19?

According to [DOH guidelines](#), a person who has signs, symptoms or is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 can end home isolation and return to school when:

- It has been at least 24 hours with no fever without using fever-reducing medication AND
- Your symptoms have improved, AND
- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared

If you test positive for COVID-19, but have not had any symptoms, you can end home isolation when:

- At least 10 days have passed since the date of your first positive COVID-19 test, AND
- You have had no subsequent illness

What happens to the cohort if a student or a teacher in that cohort gets exposed to COVID-19?

Following [DOH guidelines](#), if a student or teacher of a particular cohort comes into contact with someone who has COVID-19 but they are not feeling not sick, the students and teachers should stay home and away from others. Monitor yourself for fever, cough, and shortness of breath for 14 days from the last day you had close contact with the person. Do not go to school and avoid public places for 14 days (self-quarantine).

If someone from the cohort has had close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 and now is sick they should stay home and away from other people, including household members (self- isolate), even if student/teacher has very mild symptoms. Contact healthcare provider for a test. Tell them you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are now sick.

How many positive COVID-19 cases have occurred on campus since students have returned?

There have been three positive cases that have occurred on campus. All protocols were followed, and there was no transmission within and among the cohorts. Each situation was reported in NewsViews.

For more information please review the Frequently Asked Questions on the Public Health Seattle King County website.

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/schools-childcare/FAQ.aspx>