

Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School

HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN YEAR 2



2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

INTRODUCTION:

Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School responded heroically to the challenge of COVID-19, keeping students on campus while taking significant steps to mitigate the disease's spread. This updated document aims to create an expectation of what the coming year holds. While we embrace a less restrictive environment, the safety and well being of our students and staff remain our top priority.

Our priorities remain:

- **Safety:** Our overall risk has been reduced because adults and students 12 and older have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. We will continue to manage our risk.
- **Hygiene:** We will continue to emphasize robust hygienic practice.
- **Presence:** We understand the importance of our students being in school five days a week.
- **Growth:** Despite limitations, we want our children to continue their academic progress at grade level in their faith and all core academic standards. We have written this document specifically for our school environment, and we expect it to evolve as the public health situation changes. Our team will continue to share any updated documents on the school website and through MSP.

Pandemic Crisis Response (PCR) Team

Laura Clark	Carrie Bluementhal
Richard Bergen	Kathleen Young
Alicia Figueroa	Kate Duffy
Katrina Culhane	Susan Heston
Christina Wall	Karen Dorneman
Rosalie Curran	Diana Abrams

Pandemic Crisis Response Team Consultants

- David C. Damsker, MD, MPH, Bucks County Department of Health
- Gerard Margiotti III DO, Pediatrician and School Parent
- Dr. Andrew McLaughlin, Secretary for Catholic Education for Archdiocese of Philadelphia

COVID-19 PREVENTION PROGRAM (SKD YR 2)

Infection Mitigation Strategies

For the past year, we have offered a variety of mitigation strategies working in unison to reduce our risk of exposure and transmission of COVID-19 on campus. By following the guidance of our local health department, we have effectively applied all recommended strategies, as well as our own, at our school this past year. As COVID-19 rates of spread increased, we layered on the strategies, and because of the cooperation of our students and parents last school year, along with the tremendous efforts of our faculty and staff, SKD was able to operate as normally as possible during the COVID pandemic. We anticipate that the same cooperation will allow us to continue to operate safely and normally this year in spite of the continuing health crisis in our world.

Vaccination

Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School strongly recommends that all persons eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines receive them at the first opportunity. In addition to vaccines required for school entry, SKD strongly recommends that all students and staff be immunized each autumn against influenza unless contraindicated by personal medical conditions, to help:

- Protect the school community
- Reduce demands on health care facilities
- Decrease illnesses that cannot be readily distinguished from COVID- 19 and would therefore trigger extensive measures from the school and public health authorities.

Daily Screenings

It is extremely vital and the responsibility for every family/parent and guardian to daily monitor the health of every child before he/she leaves the house for school. Every day, parents/guardians will be required to screen their child/children for symptoms before they come to school. This should be done, at the least, one hour before arriving at school. It is most important that a child not be given Tylenol and sent to school during this period of the pandemic. Masked symptoms will help no one. If a child is sick, do not send your child to school. Any child who exhibits these symptoms below, after arriving at school, will be required to be picked up. We recommend that all families have a plan in place should a child need to go home. Please make sure all contact information is up-to-date and accurate at the start of the school year.

Daily Health Checklist

- Temperature 100.4 or higher
- Cough
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath/fast breathing
- Shaking and chills

If your child is feeling sick, he or she should stay home. Please note that a child must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medicines before returning to school. Please remember that the first line of defense is YOUR HOME; we are totally dependent on every family to monitor the health of every child before he/she leaves their home on a daily basis. With this in place, each family is doing their best to protect everyone who is a member of our SKD Family.

Social Distancing

Classroom configurations will promote learning and maximize physical distancing where feasible. Desks will be arranged as close as possible to 3 feet from the center of each desk to the center of the next desk. In our PreK program where tables are used for seating, trifold barriers will be utilized. Outdoor learning will be utilized as much as possible.

Cleaning & Disinfection Routine

High touch surfaces will be cleaned frequently throughout the school day along with classroom equipment and desks. Our cleaning crew will continue to thoroughly clean our classrooms and will conduct specialized cleaning if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs.

Classroom Plans

Windows will be opened for proper ventilation and all fans will remain on during the school day. Air purifiers will be used in classrooms with limited windows for ventilation. Hand sanitizer stations will be in place and used as students enter and exit the classrooms. Faculty will continue to promote good hand hygiene with frequent hand-washing throughout the school day. There will be no use of water fountains except to use the touchless feature to fill water bottles.

***Masks / Face Coverings**

While masks remain recommended for all students and staff, mask wearing is optional for students and staff. Parents and guests are encouraged to wear masks when inside the building. Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School always reserves the right to ask students, staff, volunteers, etc. to put on a mask if it is deemed necessary. Students and staff should have access to a mask at all times in the event they become symptomatic or find themselves in a setting or context where a mask is required. Anyone is welcome to wear a mask at any time. It is important to note that Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School reserves the right to change our optional mask policy to a mandatory one. Such a decision will be dependent on current situations and will be applicable for an individual child, group of children, or an entire classroom. We will monitor all information provided to us from local and state health officials on a constant and consistent basis. Due to Federal Regulations, masking is still required on school buses.

***Targeted Temporary Mitigation (When Masks Are Optional)**

If a child was exposed to COVID-19 or has tested positive, the parent must let Ms. Clark know in order to determine next steps for targeted mitigation, contact tracing, and protection. Targeted mitigation will be practiced and this will include:

- If a family member is diagnosed with COVID-19, the student/staff member will be quarantined for five days followed by strict mask use for an additional five days in school. In households with multiple positives, the mask wearing period may be extended. If any symptoms develop during this timeframe, the individual should be immediately excluded.
- If a student/staff member tests positive, he/she must be isolated for five days and until symptoms improve and he/she is fever free for 24 hours. This will be followed with five days of wearing a mask when around others to minimize the risk of infecting people they encounter.
- If a student/staff member is exposed to someone outside the household, he/she may return to school but will be required to wear a mask for a minimum of one week.
- Student/staff members must remain at home if symptoms are severe or if mask-wearing is not possible.
- Over a 5 day span, if more than 8% of our school community has tested positive for covid, our entire school will be required to wear masks. Masks would be required for 5 consecutive days (when in the building).
- If there are more than 2 cases in a homeroom over a period of 5 days, that homeroom will be required to wear masks for 5 days.
- If you do not want your child to wear a mask in any of the above situations, you may choose to keep your child home. They will be considered absent and make up work as they would for any other absence. Synchronous or asynchronous instruction **will not** be provided.

The safest and wisest course of action is to wear a face mask, and one that fits snugly around the nose and mouth, when a child is not feeling well on any given day. It will never hurt to err on the side of caution. The school nurse will assist school personnel in determining the need for mandatory mask wearing. When or if warranted, it is possible that a class will be required to mask for a short period of time to cut down any contagion among students. **As situations arise, the principal will consult with the BCHD.**

***Reporting Requirements**

The Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Bucks County Health Department continue to require Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School to collect and to report positive cases of COVID-19 and to identify close contacts/exposures who need to quarantine. The following information should be reported to the office/principal in a timely manner.

- If anyone in your family has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- If your SKD school student has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- If your child is a close contact of a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Illness of child (include symptoms on the attendance line).

Ms. Clark will report to and consult with the BCHD in order to determine next steps for targeted mitigation, contact tracing, and protection. Failure to notify school administration of any positive case (including household positive cases) would result in removal from school or termination of employment.

Cafeteria Services

Students in grades 1-8 will eat lunch in the cafeteria. Lunch and recess will be staggered in order to maximize physical distance as much as possible. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals. Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals. Students in grades K-8 will be permitted to purchase pre-paid breakfast and lunches.

Travel Restrictions

Our focus will be on behaviors and not the act of travel itself. We reserve the right to ask community members to quarantine if they have traveled to regions which are documented hotspots, so please be prepared for a revisiting of this policy.

Virtual Learning

We will offer in-person instruction to our students throughout the year. When or if a student is absent, the work missed will be documented and sent home as stated in our Handbook. We will not provide virtual instruction. In the event there is a state-wide shelter in place order, we will revisit our Digital Learning Plan and implement a platform that will enable us to continue to provide meaningful and robust instruction to our students.

Right to Amend

Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic School reserves the right to amend this list of guidelines as needed throughout the year, given guidance from the Bucks County Health Department and/or the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

*2/8/2022