



Health and Safety Plan Summary: Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy

Effective Date: August 16, 2021

1. How will the LEA, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy staff will monitor the latest recommendations from PDE, PADOH, and CDC, review the school Health and Safety Plan at least every six months, and update the school Health and Safety Plan as needed. The Health and Safety Plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval when changes are necessary. Facilities and practices will be adapted to the extent possible to ensure that appropriate prevention and mitigation processes are followed. In addition to practicing standard preventative measures such as handwashing, cleaning practices, and the use of PPE when required, the school will continue to support the vaccination of students and staff. The school will continue to practice standard mitigation efforts to reduce close contacts to the extent practicable.

2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?

Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy will continue to implement academic and support programming as outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. Modifications, as outlined in the Health and Safety Plan, will be made to ensure that programming and support efforts address the needs of students, staff, and families. Educational models will be adapted to the needs of students as appropriate, including remote learning if needed for quarantine, extended illness, or medical surgery. Social, emotional, mental health and other needs will be monitored and provide referrals as needed to health providers, social workers, and other specialists. Food service will be provided using school health and safety practices.

3. Use the table below to explain how the school will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety requirements and recommendations established by the CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Universal and correct wearing of masks;</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings will be optional unless mandated by Order of the PA Secretary of Health, Governor, or other governing authority. • Correct and consistent <u>mask use</u> will be encouraged to reduce the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Staff and students will be trained on and reminded of proper mask use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum capacities will be determined for all educational spaces. • Unused desks and furniture in classrooms will be removed to maximize physical distancing (to the extent practicable). • Students and staff will be encouraged to maximize physical distancing to the extent practicable. • Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums and outside spaces – as weather permits) for social distancing. • Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff. • Modifications to facilities to allow for physical distancing will be made as appropriate in response to levels of community transmission. • Use of dividers and barriers as appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings when required. • Provide hand soap, hand sanitizer with at least 70% alcohol, cleaning wipes/disinfectant spray, tissues, and paper towels in all classrooms and frequently trafficked areas.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19. • Teach and encourage good respiratory etiquette.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Cleaning</u> and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving <u>ventilation</u>; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily cleaning of schools/facilities with soap/water/EPA approved disinfectants https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19 • Throughout the day cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and objects. • Follow standard protocols to clean surfaces that are not high touch or routinely used. • Ensure ventilation systems operate properly with increased rates of air exchange. Increase circulation of outdoor as appropriate. • Administrators will conduct regular inspections to ensure appropriate COVID-19 protocols are being followed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Contact tracing</u> in combination with <u>isolation</u> and <u>quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School staff will follow Department of Health Guidance related to the isolation/quarantining of students/staff in the event a student or staff member becomes sick in the school setting. • Isolation room has been identified and equipped in all schools. • School personnel will use Standard Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick individuals. • The school police officer or designee will contact DOH staff before acting in response to known or suspected communicable disease. • Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick home or to a healthcare facility. • Contact the local health authority for further guidance if a parent/guardian/caregiver notifies the school of potential exposure by a student, staff member, or school visitor. • The school police officer or designee will complete and submit the Self Report

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
	<p>and Line List forms provided by PDE and PADOH Joint Task Force for contact tracing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send out notifications to building staff and students with the appropriate information as needed. • Work closely with the DOH/community health center nurses to follow-up and complete contact tracing. • Follow DOH guidance related to isolation/quarantine to ensure that staff and students meet all requirements before returning to the school setting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Diagnostic</u> and screening testing; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate families and staff regarding Covid-19 symptoms and the importance of symptom screening prior to arriving at school each day. • Encourage staff to stay home if they are sick and encourage parents to keep sick children home. • Thermographic temperature screening will be used as appropriate in response to higher levels of community transmission.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information as to when and where staff and students can receive vaccinations at community sites.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; an 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate accommodations in compliance with federal and state laws will be made for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures. Accommodations will be made in partnership with the student's health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with state and local health officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SJCA will continue to work collaboratively with the Diocese, PADOH, community health agencies and County Emergency Management Agencies to coordinate resources in support of the SJCA Health and Safety Plan.

Health and Safety Plan Governing Body Affirmation Statement

The Board of Trustees for the Saint Joseph's Catholic Academy has reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on August 15, 2021.

The plan was approved by a vote of:

11 Yes

0 No

Affirmed on: 8-18-21

By:

Robert R. Thomas, BOARD PRESIDENT
(Signature* of Board President)

Robert R. THOMAS
(Print Name of Board President)

Health and Safety Plan Summary: Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Initial Effective Date: August 13, 2021

Date of Last Review: 2020-2021 School Year

Date of Last Revision: August 13, 2021

1. How will the LEA, to the greatest extent practicable, support prevention and mitigation policies in line with the most up-to-date guidance from the CDC for the reopening and operation of school facilities in order to continuously and safely open and operate schools for in-person learning?

2. How will the LEA ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff members' social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services?

3. Use the table below to explain how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policy on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

ARP ESSER Requirement	Strategies, Policies, and Procedures
<p>a. Universal and correct wearing of <u>masks</u>;</p>	<p>Mask wearing will be optional for the students in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown schools.</p> <p>Recognizing that the situation with COVID-19 remains fluid, the diocese may require students to wear masks if circumstances change or if state or federal mandates are issued. Factors that may influence changes to the mask policy would include an increase in the COVID-19 transmission levels in a geographic area, illness of a family member, or travel to a high positivity area.</p> <p>The impact of the pandemic has</p>

	<p>affected every Catholic school in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown over the past 18 months. As students, families, administrators, faculty, staff, and pastors look forward to the new academic year, the diocese remains committed to the health and safety of everyone. While the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, all school communities are encouraged to maintain a spirit of flexibility, patience, understanding, and profound respect for the wishes of others and each individual situation.</p> <p>The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown will continue to communicate with families, administrators, faculty, and staff as developments occur.</p>
<p>b. <u>Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing</u> (e.g., use of cohorts/podding);</p>	<p>Schools will be required to have a minimum of three feet distance between the spacing of student desks in the classroom and students physically in the cafeteria and other areas of the school utilized by the students.</p> <p>The maximum number of students in any given classroom will depend on the size of the classroom and will vary from school to school throughout the diocese.</p> <p>Schools are encouraged to utilize outdoor spaces surrounding their school as weather and conditions permit.</p>
<p>c. <u>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette;</u></p>	<p>Students will be reminded by teachers, staff, and through daily announcements about proper hygiene including covering coughs and sneezes, handwashing, the need for social distancing etc.</p>
<p>d. <u>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation;</u></p>	<p>Classrooms are to be cleaned and disinfected daily. Teachers and staff are to have access to wipes and sanitizing sprays which can be used throughout the</p>

	<p>day as necessary. Hand sanitizing stations are to be located throughout the school. HVAC system filters are to be maintained on a predetermined scheduled basis to help with air quality throughout each building. If available, UV lamps may be used in the school as needed.</p>
<p>e. <u>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine</u>, in collaboration with the State and local health departments;</p>	<p>All schools will comply with the quarantine and isolations as directed by the PA Department of Health (DOH). These orders of quarantine/isolation will be communicated through the Diocesan Education Office (DEO) to the school and will occur ASAP after the DEO receives the paperwork about the exposure or COVID+ diagnosis from the COVID response person at the school. All paperwork must be filled out immediately upon notification of an exposure or COVID+ situation and turned into the DEO as soon as it is completed.</p>
<p>f. <u>Diagnostic and screening testing</u>;</p>	<p>In addition to DOH's testing program, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) have expanded COVID-19 testing capacity at a national level. Through the federal Operation Expanded Testing (ET) program, free COVID-19 testing is being offered to all K-12 schools through a regional contractor. Additional information about this program for our schools will be forthcoming. At the publishing of this Health and Safety plan this has not yet been established for our schools but is being looked into.</p> <p>Families and staff will be reminded on a regular basis about monitoring for COVID 19 symptoms and the need to stay home when necessary.</p> <p>Daily temperature checks at the schools will not be required, at this time but a school may opt to continue with daily temperature checks. If so, these will be conducted with non-contact thermometers for a health screening purpose prior to entering the school for the day.</p>

<p>g. Efforts to provide <u>vaccinations to school communities</u>;</p>	<p>When schools receive vaccination information they will share with the information with their families.</p>
<p>h. Appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies; and</p>	<p>All schools will provide reasonable accommodations, when feasible, to students with disabilities with respect to health and safety strategies.</p>
<p>i. Coordination with state and local health officials.</p>	<p>The Diocesan Education Office will coordinate with state and local officials for all Catholic schools in the diocese.</p>