



**HOLY CROSS  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY**

**2020-2021 SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN**

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## ACTIVITIES AND INSTRUCTION

HCCA will provide face-to-face instruction beginning August 17, 2020. HCCA firmly believes that face-to-face instruction is more beneficial for the educational well-being of students. On campus instruction will be offered to every student every day. We will be offering extracurricular activities according to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) and Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA). Note- HCCA may offer Asynchronous Learning for grades 6-12 in case of prolonged partial or entire school closure.

## DISEASE TRANSMISSION

- The virus is thought to spread primarily from person to person.
- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms (known as asymptomatic spread).

## CURRENT UNDERSTANDING OF COVID-19

The virus that causes COVID-19 can infect people of all ages, and Catholic school administrators, teachers, and staff will do everything feasible to keep students safe.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

While it is not possible to eliminate all risk of furthering the spread of COVID-19, the current science suggests there are many steps we can take to significantly reduce the risks to our community.

**People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.**

**Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms or combinations of symptoms may have COVID-19:**

### COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- Cough
- Muscle Pain
- Runny Nose
- Chills
- Headache
- Vomiting
- Shortness of Breath
- Sore Throat
- Diarrhea
- Fever > 100 or Feeling Feverish
- Repeated Shaking with Chills
- New Loss of Taste or Smell

# OVERALL CAMPUS INFORMATION

## STAFFING

School teachers and staff will be trained specifically on the protocols outlined in this document and the practices adopted by the Diocese of Amarillo.

We are making every attempt to reduce in-person staff meetings or other opportunities for adults to congregate in close settings. When those meetings are necessary, masks and/or dividers, and any other necessary precautions will be used to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



As students arrive, upon the completion of screening, they will report directly to their homeroom.

Where feasible without disrupting the educational experience, students will be encouraged to practice social distancing. In classroom spaces, student work spaces will be placed as far apart as possible and/or use Plexiglas partitions. Use of Non-Classroom Spaces, when feasible and appropriate (for example, in physical education classes as weather permits), students will gather outside, rather than inside, because of likely reduced risk of virus spread outdoors. When it is time to switch classes, middle school will switch before high school.



We will have hand sanitizer at each entrance. We will provide hand sanitizer in every classroom and in various locations around Campus. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors should sanitize and/or wash hands frequently. We will educate students on proper handwashing techniques. Students, teachers, staff, and campus visitors will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, covered in their elbows. Used tissues will be thrown in the trash, hands will be washed immediately or hand sanitizer will be used.



Lunch will be eaten in their homeroom classrooms. Students who order lunches from the cafeteria, will walk over to the cafeteria by exiting the back doors and will return to the school using the front doors. Students will then walk to their homeroom to eat their lunch.

Students bringing lunches from home will need to bring items that do not require a microwave.



For the purposes of this document, masks include non-medical grade disposable face masks, cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth), or full-face shields to protect eyes, nose, and mouth. Consistent with state and local regulations, all employees and visitors must wear masks or face shields. Students and teachers who are distanced more than 6 feet from each other are not required to wear face covering during in-classroom instruction. Face coverings are required outside of classrooms and where staff congregate in relatively close settings, for example, during staff meetings or in employee break rooms, or where visitors may congregate.



HCCA has installed water bottle filling stations due to the discontinued use of traditional water fountains. Water fountains will not be utilized until further notice.



Posters will be displayed that promote protective measures and can serve as helpful reminders of best practices. HCCA will provide a video with instruction to students on appropriate hygiene practices consistent with the mitigation practices.

# PREVENTATIVE HEALTH MEASURES

## SCREENING FOR COVID-19



All personnel are required to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before coming onto campus each

day including taking their own temperature.

HCCA will be screening students daily to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by determining if:

(a) they have the COVID-19 symptoms listed in this document; or (b) they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. Upon arrival, we will perform a contact-less check of their temperature and/or ask a series of daily questions focused on identifying symptoms of COVID-19 with yes or no responses.

HCCA asks that visitations be minimized as much as possible. We will screen all visitors to determine if: (a) they have COVID-19 symptoms listed in this document; or (b) they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. When practical, screening questions could be supplemented with temperature checks of adults.

**ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO FAILS THE SCREENING CRITERIA WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO THE CAMPUS UNTIL THEY MEET ANY OF THE CRITERIA FOR RE-ENTRY TO THE CAMPUS.**

## EXTRACURRICULAR TRANSPORTATION

When HCCA offers transportation, students and staff will use hand sanitizer when boarding the bus or vans. When students sit in close proximity, masks or face shields may be required during the duration of the travel. The bus and vans will be thoroughly cleaned after each trip, focusing on high-touch surfaces such as seats, steering wheels, knobs, and door handles.



Two hand washings per day will be implemented for our students.

Students will be educated on the importance of avoiding touching your

eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands and properly cover your coughs and sneezes.



We will avoid close contact with others by staying at least 6 feet from others will not gather in groups outside of their class

during school hours. When a 6 foot distance is not possible, masks/face shields and or Plexiglas shields will be on place.



Visitors and office staff will be required to wear masks in the building. HCCA

asks that visitations be minimized as much as possible. We will screen all visitors to determine if: (a) they have COVID-19 symptoms listed in this document; or (b) they have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19. When practical, screening questions could be supplemented with temperature checks of adults.

# INDIVIDUALS CONFIRMED, SUSPECTED OR EXPOSED TO COVID-19

Any individuals—including teachers, staff, students, volunteers or other campus visitors—who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the HCCA screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

**In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:**

- 1** At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)
- 2** The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
- 3** At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical doctor –licensed in the state of Texas, note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID-19 via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location. <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.



Individuals—including students, teachers, staff, volunteers or other campus visitors—who have had close contact\* with someone who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, as narrowly defined in this document and as determined by the appropriate public health agency, should stay at home through the 14-day incubation period, and should not be allowed on campus.



HCCA will screen individuals after the incubation period has concluded, and if the individual did not experience COVID-19 symptoms during that period, the individual can be allowed back on campus. If the individual experienced symptoms, they must stay at home until the conditions outlined above have been met.

**PLEASE REFER TO THIS LINK FOR THE LATEST CDC'S DEFINITION ON CLOSE CONTACT.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-an/appendix.html#contact>

# IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE COVID-19 CASES ON CAMPUS

HCCA will immediately separate any student who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school until the student can be picked up by a parent or guardian and immediately notify the diocesan superintendent. We will clean the areas used by the individual who shows COVID-19 symptoms while at school immediately. Any student who reports feeling feverish or ill will be given an immediate COVID-19 screening to determine if they are symptomatic.

## PRACTICES TO RESPOND TO A LAB-CONFIRMED CASE IN THE SCHOOL



If an individual who has been in school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 we will notify the superintendent and local health department, in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.



We will close off areas that were heavily used by the individual with the lab-confirmed case (student, teacher, or staff) until the non-porous surfaces in those areas can be disinfected, unless more than 3 days have already passed since that person was on campus.



Consistent with diocesan and school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, we will notify all teachers, staff, and families if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff.

# CLEANING PRACTICES

HCCA will institute more frequent cleaning practices, including additional cleaning by janitorial staff, as well as provide the opportunity for students to clean their own spaces before and after they are used, in ways that are safe and developmentally appropriate.

HCCA will arrange for additional cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces that are touched in common throughout the day. This would include objects such as door handles, common tables/desks, shared supplies such as art supplies, and high touch devices such as shared laptops or tablets.



HCCA will be cleaning commonly touched surfaces in classrooms between different class groups, if the same room will be used by multiple class groups.



Whenever possible, we will open windows or otherwise work to improve air flow by allowing outside air to circulate in the building. We will provide outside activities as often as possible.



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