

Jan 17, 2023

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Baton Rouge have been very successful in maintaining safety and providing in-person learning during the pandemic since August 2020, largely because school staff, students, and parents worked together in a cooperative spirit to implement COVID protocols that helped reduce the spread of the virus. Since that time, vaccines have become available to reduce the incidence and effects of infection. Currently, though the rate of student infection has increased since August, most experience only cold-like symptoms from the Omicron Variant.

With the current understanding and trust in continued cooperation, the following updated protocols for students can be implemented by schools beginning on February 7, 2022. Please understand that future updates to policy may be warranted as situations change during this pandemic.

**Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic
Schools COVID-19 Protocols for
Students
Last Update February 7, 2022**

**Symptomatic
DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL**

Stay home when not feeling well with any of the following symptoms: fever, cold-like symptoms, chills, cough, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestions, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing.

<p>Positive Test for COVID-19 Or Have COVID-19 Symptoms:</p> <p>Isolate regardless of vaccination status</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay home in isolation for 5 days. (Note: to calculate isolation, Day 0 is first day of symptoms or a positive viral test. Day 1 is the first full day after symptoms develop or your test specimen was collected.)• Return to school after 5 full days, if no symptoms develop. Wear a well-fitted face mask covering nose to chin for 5 days after returning to school.• If symptoms develop, return to school when symptoms are gone for 24 hours without the benefit of fever-reducing medications. Wear a well-fitting face mask covering nose to chin for 5 days after returning to school.
<p>Exposed (Close Contact) to Someone with COVID-19, but Have No Symptoms:</p> <p>No Quarantine Required</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to attend class unless symptoms develop.• Wear a well-fitted face mask covering nose to chin for 5 days.• Note: At any time, if symptomatic, immediately isolate and follow protocol above.

- **Extra-Curricular Activities:** Because there is an increased risk of transmission associated with activities, individuals who were infected or had symptoms may not participate in any activities with a higher risk of spreading the virus (i.e., extra-curricular or co-curricular activities, including sports teams, PE class, music instruction, field trips, etc.) or take part in any activity that cannot maintain a 6-foot physical distancing until after Day 5 of their return to school.