



2021-22 School Year Reopening Plan

The health and safety of our students and staff is our number one priority as we begin this school year. Doing so will require everyone in our school community to do their part during school hours as well as at home.

We ask that you follow these guidelines as well as those set forth by the CDC, SCDHEC and government officials to minimize the spread of COVID-19. If anyone in your household is feeling unwell, experiencing symptoms, or has a fever, please do not send your child(ren) to school. We must all do our part to minimize a school outbreak which could result in a temporary closing.

Please be reminded that plans will remain fluid as circumstances may change in the future

School Information

St. Joseph Catholic School

3700 Devine Street
Columbia, SC 29205

Pre-Opening Guidelines & Recommendations

- 1) Reopening is consistent with applicable state and local orders (*circle one*):

Yes

No

- 2) **Protections must be in place for both children and adults.** The school is ready to protect children, staff, and teachers at higher risk for severe illness (*circle one*):

Yes

No

Pre-Opening Guidelines & Recommendations

<p>Accommodations, considerations for staff & students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strongly recommend vaccination in consultation with medical <u>professional</u>.
<p>Daily Health Checks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff and students are encouraged to stay home if they are sick. ○ Student temperatures will not be taken at drop off, but random temperature screenings may take place in the classroom. ○ Any visitor entering the building will have a temperature screening prior to leaving the main office.
<p>Watch for Symptoms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students and staff will be monitored for symptoms. Symptoms may appear 2 – 14 days after exposure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever or chills ● Cough ● Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing ● Fatigue, muscle, or body aches ● Headache ● New loss of taste or smell ● Sore throat ● Congestion or runny nose ● Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
<p>Communicate Requirement to Stay Home When Sick</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All families and staff must sign a Statement of Understanding regarding safety protocols. ○ If you are showing any symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home. Absences due to COVID-19 will be forgiven.
<p>Isolating if ill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anyone who becomes ill during the day will report to the school nurse. ○ The nurse will monitor symptoms and contact parents.
<p>Communicate Isolation, Quarantine, & Contact Tracing Measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Isolation: for those diagnosed by test of physician with COVID-19: An employee or student must isolate until they have met the isolation requirements established by CDC/DHEC (10 days after a positive test and symptom free for at least 24 hours). ● Quarantine: for those in <u>close contact</u> (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period with someone diagnosed with COVID-19: An unvaccinated employee or student must quarantine for at least 10 days after their last known exposure to anyone who tests positive for COVID-19. Vaccinated employees or students do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who has COVID-19 unless they

	<p>have <u>symptoms</u>. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarantine may be shortened. After a close contact exposure, unvaccinated students or faculty may return after 10 days if they have no symptoms or after day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later). • For household members who are not able to separate from the household member with COVID-19 because they are caring for them or do not have a separate room they can use, they should quarantine for 14 days after that person is no longer in isolation or apply the 7-day or 10-day criteria to shorten the quarantine period based on the day when the COVID-19 case is no longer in isolation. • Faculty or students who have tested positive (positive PCR or antigen test) for COVID-19 in the last 3 months (90 Days) and do not have symptoms after a close contact with someone with COVID-19 may come to school. They must wear a mask at all times while in the school (indoors or outside), monitor for symptoms daily and throughout the day, practice social distancing to the extent possible, practice good hand hygiene, and clean frequently touched surfaces often until 14 days after exposure. • Contact Tracing to determine “close contacts” will be conducted using a 6-foot radius
--	--

Health & Safety Guidelines and Recommendations

<p>Hand Washing & Sanitizing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Soap and paper towels provided in all restrooms and at all classroom sinks. Hand sanitizer provided in all classrooms and throughout campus. ○ Students and staff will wash hands frequently throughout the day with soap and water. ○ When soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) will be used. ○ Adequate hand sanitizer will be placed on campus where soap and water are not feasible. Eg: hallways, playground, outside office, entrance to building, etc. ○ Drinking fountains will be closed. All students should bring water bottles from home which they may refill in classroom sinks. ○ Teachers will teach and reinforce hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and social distancing practices.
---	--

Face Coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All students, faculty, and staff are required to wear a mask while indoors. They may take off their masks whenever they are outside (unless the student’s parent advises otherwise) except during afternoon carpool. ○ All visitors and volunteers are required to wear a mask while indoors. ○ All students and staff must have masks readily available. ○ Face masks must be provided by parents. The school will have disposable masks in the event a mask is broken, lost, or damaged.
-----------------------	---

Cleaning, Disinfecting & Ventilation

Ensure Facility is Clean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cleaning staff will clean throughout the day and nightly following Guidance for cleaning and disinfection from the CDC.
Cleaning & Disinfecting if Someone is ill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Close off areas used by the person who is sick. ○ An alternate classroom may be utilized until proper disinfection is complete. ○ Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. ○ Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick: offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment such as tables, touch screens, keyboards, remotes, etc. ○ Vacuum the space if needed. Use a vacuum equipped with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, if available. (Do not vacuum a room or space that has people in it. Wait until the room or space is empty, such as at night for common spaces, or during the day for private rooms.) ○ Once an area has been appropriately disinfected, it can be opened for use. ○ Workers not in close contact with the person who is sick can return to work after disinfection. ○ Additional cleaning and disinfection are not necessary if it has been more than 7 days since the person who is sick visited or used the facility. ○ Continue routine cleaning and disinfection. This includes everyday practices normally used to maintain a healthy environment.

Social Distancing

Classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All classrooms will be configured to allow 9 square feet of space per person (students and teachers). Students will sit at least 3 feet apart. ○ Each student will have an assigned cubby.
-------------------	---

Hallways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Markers are in all hallways indicating direction of traffic with a clear delineation between 2-way traffic.
Avoid Sharing Materials & Objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sharing of any materials will not be allowed. ○ Any toys or books that are shared between students will be disinfected frequently.
Lunchroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The use of the cafeteria will be allowed with social distancing implemented. Students will be spaced 3 feet apart during lunch if seated indoors. ○ Regular cleaning and sanitizing will take place after each lunch period. ○ Teachers may opt for students to eat outdoors or at their desk in their classroom.
Recess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recess will take place outdoors weather permitting. If recess takes place indoors, face masks will be required.
Arrivals & Departures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Front carpool will be used for grades K4 – 1st. ○ Back carpool will be used for grades 2nd – 6th. ○ Carpool location is determined by the youngest student in the family. ○ Upon drop-off, students can report to the playground from 7:30 AM until 7:45 AM. After 7:45 AM, they must report to their homeroom class. ○ Masks will be required during afternoon carpool.
Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Field trips are permitted but COVID protocols will be created for each trip. These protocols will be clearly communicated with families before a trip takes place. They will be decided based on the location of the trip and the requirements of the transportation company.
Emergency Drills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All emergency drills will take place as normal.
Liturgies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All students will attend Mass in the Church or the Gym. Face masks will be required.
Parent Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parent meetings are permitted with face masks required. ○ Virtual parent meetings will be encouraged.
Fundraisers & Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fundraisers and Events are permitted but COVID protocols will be created for each event. These protocols will be clearly communicated with families before the event.
Volunteers & Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteers and visitors are permitted for academic programs. ○ Masks are required for all volunteers and visitors.

Front Office & Desk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Face masks will be required.
Extended Care Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The first 30 – 45 minutes of extended care is a study hall period. During this time, grade levels will be mixed indoors, and social distancing will not be a possibility due to class size and staffing. At this time, face masks will be required. ○ Once students are outdoors, face masks are optional and not required.
Community Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As required by the school, students may participate in any community service that takes place outside the school following regular school hour protocols.
Religious Education & Church Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All religious education and church groups using the school facility must follow school health guidelines. All areas used must be cleaned after use, following the school's required cleaning protocols.
Outside Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outside groups are permitted to use school buildings if they follow regular school hour protocols.

Health & Safety Protocols

Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The school nurse and/or school administration may contact you via phone or email to discuss your student's health and well-being as well as update you on classroom conditions. ○ If parents need to contact the school to report a COVID-19 contact or concern, they should contact the school nurse and/or school administration if the nurse is not available.
Sharing School Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health and safety protocols will be shared with staff and school families prior to opening. ○ Parents are asked to model, practice, and reinforce proper health and safety protocols at home. ○ If protocols are modified at any time, updates will be sent via normal modes of communication (Sunday Notes, text, email, phone call, etc.)

Health Monitoring Guidelines & Recommendations

Procedure for Health Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Faculty/staff/nurse will monitor for symptoms and signs of illness. ○ The school nurse will maintain a confidential record of students who are out sick and when they may return.
--	--

Staying Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anyone who is sick should stay home.
Continual Screen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There will be temperature checks during the day and for those who become ill.
Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The school will monitor for the following symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Temperature 100.4 or greater ● 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 ● Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
Isolate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students or staff who become sick during the day will isolate at the nurse's station.
Exposure to COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the event of exposure of staff or students to COVID-19, the principal and/or nurse will communicate and monitor developments with local health authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures and any updates to policies or procedures. ○ Contact will include DHEC and Catholic Schools Office.
Leave Policies & Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Business Manager will monitor staff attendance as well as contact DOC HR for staff leave policy guidance. ○ The Office Manager will monitor student attendance.
Monitor Cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The principal and nurse will regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees and families regarding cases, exposures, and any updates of COVID-19 cases in the school.

Academics Guidelines & Recommendations

Class Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Classrooms will be measured and a minimum of 9 square feet per person will be required. All non-essential furniture will be removed to accommodate desks.
-------------------	---

Scheduling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whenever possible, it will be recommended that teachers rotate rather than students in lower grades. ○ 5th and 6th grade students will transition between the 4 classrooms using the marked staircases (one for those going upstairs and another for those going downstairs).
Teaching Methodologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ During small group instruction and when students are working in close proximity masks are required.
Cleaning Desks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Desks will be cleaned and sanitized between classes for those grade levels (4th – 6th) that transition throughout the day. ○ Desks will be cleaned daily for grades PK-3rd.
Sharing Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students will have supply packs so no sharing of materials will take place.
Distance Learning Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SJCS will update and modify the existing DLP for use during future virtual learning. ○ If a student is required to stay home due to illness or exposure to COVID-19, but is well enough to complete classwork, a homebound teacher will work with students individually to provide a personalized learning experience through a blend of resources including lesson plans, posted course content, online platforms, and student-school communication. Students will be trained upon return to school in how to use online platforms. ○ If a teacher is absent due to COVID-19, but is well enough to teach, that teacher may choose to teach the class remotely to students on campus who will be supervised by a substitute or instructional assistant.
Distance Learning Platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Platforms/applications that will be used during distance learning will be taught in the classroom beginning in August. ○ Students may bring devices to school on designated days to receive training. ○ Hard copy instructions will also be provided. ○ Classroom teachers will communicate which platforms/apps need to be downloaded for their class. ○ Apple iPads have been ordered for every student in the building. They will not arrive until after the school year begins so students will need to bring a device with them at the start of the year. Teachers will communicate this information with parents and will let them know what days they need to bring their device.
Classroom Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zoom will be utilized for guest speakers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Individuals providing a service authorized by school administration (speech teachers, etc.) are allowed but will be screened by front office staff.
Enrichment classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Enrichment classes will take place in their designated locations. Masks are required.