



WELLSPRING
CATHOLIC ACADEMY
OF ST. BERNADETTE

2020 Reopening Plan

Health & Safety Protocols for Reopening During COVID-19

This is the Most Current Reopening Plan, as of 8.12.2020. This plan is subject to continual change, revision, & updating, pursuant to and in accordance with local, state, federal, or Archdiocesan directives and public health orders. All changes and modifications to this plan will be communicated to and shared with the school community in a timely way.

To Our Beloved Wellspring Community.

At Wellspring Catholic Academy of St. Bernadette, our mission and purpose is always the educational and spiritual formation of our students – our beloved kids – but in equal part, and especially during this pandemic, our priority must also be the health, safety, and wellness of our students, staff, and entire community. In this unique time, we must acknowledge that safety comes before learning, because if we are unable to keep our community healthy and safe through an over-abundance of caution, then we will be unable to offer the transformative, in-person learning experiences that we all so deeply desire our kids to have.

Following our Health & Safety Protocols (presented in this document) and adapting to our “New Normal for Now” will at times be difficult – there is no way around this – but we also know that everyone in this community, most especially our children, are resilient and adaptable, capable of learning and implementing new ways of being to keep one another safe. This communal commitment is also a tremendous display of courage and solidarity. All of the actions we are boldly undertaking this year are acts of love for our neighbors and selfless sacrifices in service of the Common Good. What is more truly Catholic than that? There will be bumps along the way, and we will make mistakes – I will make mistakes, that I can assure you – because we’re all human. So we ask you now to commit to getting in the boat with us to see this journey through. Help us along, stay with the crew, assume best intent from us all, and give one another a large measure of grace – your charity, your patience, your understanding, and your continued prayers.

Yours In Christ,



Robert “Robbie” Bernardin Jr. | Principal & Head of School

Our Approach To This Plan

The threat presented by COVID-19 is something that none of us have ever experienced in our lifetimes, and together, we are learning more all the time about how best to respond – grounded in the latest and best evidence-based and science-informed practices. On the following pages, you will find our most current Health & Safety Protocols for Reopening amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Following the most current guidance from the Archdiocese of Denver Office of Catholic Schools, we are planning for **Operational Level “Green: Unrestricted In-School Learning”** and implementing **“Level 2 Amber” Health & Safety Protocols** (more information on these designations can be found on page 3). In creating these plans, we were guided by and rooted in some foundational beliefs that inform the way we think about kids, community, school, and learning during this pandemic:

1. We believe that we are communities of charity, solidarity, and justice, called to seek and protect the good, safety, health, and well-being of all: our children, families, teachers, staff, volunteers, neighbors, and especially the most vulnerable in our community.
2. We believe that only in true community do children flourish and become who they are called to be. (*Wellspring Root Belief #4: We are Interconnected: with each other, we become who God destines us to be.*)
3. We believe we are partners with families in this work, because adults set the tone for students to be adaptable and resilient. (*Wellspring Root Belief #7: Educators walk alongside parents, who are the Primary Educators of their children.*)
4. We believe students succeed when they are loved, heard, protected, and challenged.
5. We believe that true freedom and healing comes from knowing, serving, loving, and being loved by God.

We are in this together, and we will strive to always maintain an open line of communication, keeping you informed with regular communication and updates, via email and FLYER messages, regarding the health and safety of our school community. In this pandemic, situations can evolve rapidly, so in the event that we must communicate an urgent update, please have FLYER App downloaded on your phone to receive immediate notifications.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, it is our firm belief that in-person learning can be offered safely, and with the guidance and direction of the Archdiocese Office of Catholic Schools, we've been hard at work to make that belief a reality. While we cannot guarantee that no one in our school will ever get infected with COVID-19, we can commit to working tirelessly to limit that possibility. We know that kids need to be in school with peers, not just for their intellectual growth, but for their social and emotional wellbeing, and we also know that working parents need a safe and engaging place for their children to be during the day – for many, distance learning from home is simply not an option. Given all this, we are committed to making safe, in-person schooling possible for all our students.

Some Important Things We've Learned So Far about COVID-19

- ◆ This disease is not going away anytime soon. Until there is a vaccine or proven treatment, we must adapt to a "new normal" to ensure the safety of all our community members.
> Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of National Institute for Allergy & Infectious Diseases // New Normal: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/lisettevoytko/2020/06/14/fauci-says-real-normality-unlikely-for-a-year-as-us-continues-pandemic-slog/#6322772d1855>
- ◆ Many people who get COVID-19 (and can spread it) show no symptoms, making screening difficult.
> Journal of American Medicine, Dr. Anthony Fauci // COVID-19: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2767208>
- ◆ Even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, being in school is important for the growth and wellbeing of kids.
> American Academy of Pediatrics // Guidance for School Re-Entry: <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
- ◆ The primary risk in reopening schools is not to kids (who show low infection rates and lesser symptoms), but to their close contacts (parents & family members, of other immune-compromised family members).
> Infectious Diseases Society of America // Viral Transmission: <https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/doi/10.1093/cid/ciaa450/5821281>
> Guangzhou Center for Disease Control & Prevention // COVID-19: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.11.20056010v1>
- ◆ This virus is spread overwhelmingly through the air (respiratory droplets from an infected person), less so through contact with surfaces; thus face masks, physical distancing, & air flow are very important.
> Dr. Michael Osterholm, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy, University of Minnesota // COVID-19 Transmission & New Normal: <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/17/879255417/amid-confusion-about-reopening-an-expert-explains-how-to-assess-covid-risk>
- ◆ Young children likely play a limited role in transmission, so there is likely minimal benefit, relative to the great difficulty of physical distancing young children within a class to prevent COVID-19 spread. Moreover, physical distancing has the potential to negatively impact appropriate child development in this age group. Therefore, focus should be placed on other risk mitigation strategies that better complement the learning and socialization goals of children up through 5th grade. In secondary schools, there is likely a greater impact of physical distancing on risk reduction of COVID-19.
> Colorado Department of Public & Environmental Health (CDPHE) // Reopening Schools - HEALTH GUIDANCE BY COVID-19 PHASE: <https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/20200720reopeningguidance>
> American Academy of Pediatrics // Guidance for School Re-Entry: <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Other Resources We've Consulted

- US Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), Considerations for Schools: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>
- US Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), Planning & Responding to COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools-faq.html>
- Colorado Dept. of Education, COVID-19 Resources for Schools: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools>
- Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), "Reopening Schools: Health Guidance by COVID-19 Phase:" <https://www.cde.state.co.us/planning20-21/healthguidancebycovidphase>
- Archdiocese of Denver partnership with Centura Health Infectious Disease Experts

As we plan for the upcoming school year and beyond with COVID-19 in mind, we are developing operational contingency plans and a range of health protocols for various scenarios, depending on state directives and the spread of the virus in our area. Our primary objectives are to keep our community safe and healthy, while also ensuring continuity of learning and quality instruction for all students throughout the school year. Below are the Operational and Health frameworks being utilized by all Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools to inform our decision making throughout this pandemic, though it is important to know that these models address two distinct domains and do not directly inform the other (example: we may be operating at “Unrestricted In-School Learning” because there are no legal directives limiting our capacity, but still be implementing heightened health and safety protocols because our healthy school level is at “LEVEL 2: Amber Status”)

Guiding Framework for Reopening

Operational Model | The operational model below informs how learning and school operations will unfold (e.g. how to structure classes) when building capacity limitations are set based on state, local, or archdiocesan orders, given the status of a viral outbreak in our area.

Unrestricted In-School Learning	There are no limitations set on how many students can be in the building or in a given classroom space at one time, so In-School Learning to full capacity can proceed, minding appropriate health and safety protocols depending on “Healthy School Level.”
Modified In-School Learning A	There are some restrictions on the volume of people allowed in the building and in the classroom, per state and/or local health officials' orders. At this level, schools begin to creatively use spaces to lower room occupancy and maximize in-school learning time to the greatest extent possible, with additional child-care hours provided for children of working parents and full distance learning available for families who don't wish to send children to school.
Modified In-School Learning B	There are significant restrictions on the volume of people allowed in the building and in the classroom, per state and/or local health officials' orders. At this level, schools will create blended learning/distance learning schedules to provide part-time in school learning and part-time at home study (In-school learning prioritized for students with special learning needs and for intervention), with additional child-care hours provided for children of working parents and full distance learning available for families who don't wish to send children to school.
Distance Learning	Stay at home orders are in place per state and/or local officials. At this level, all students are engaged in distance learning, with in-school learning available only for students with special-learning needs or learning intervention.

Health Protocol Levels | The Office of Catholic Schools have defined four (4) “healthy school” levels for Archdiocese of Denver Catholic Schools. These healthy school levels provide school leadership with guidelines and recommendations in the areas of a) health and hygiene, b) cleaning and disinfecting, c) illness tracking, and d) communication with state and county health departments.

LEVEL 4: Green Status	Preparedness level due to no or a low risk of community spread
LEVEL 3: Blue Status	Guarded level due to potential spike in community spread, or an increase in faculty, staff and/or student absenteeism
LEVEL 2: Amber Status	Elevated level due to moderate community outbreak
LEVEL 1: Red Status	High level due to substantial community outbreak and spread of COVID-19

Protocol Overview

COVID-19 is impacting all facets of the school experience and is compelling us to think boldly & creatively. In creating and revising this local-level plan, we've consulted with healthcare and infectious disease experts, reviewed current scientific literature, and integrated evidence-based best practices as identified by the Archdiocese of Denver (AoD) Office of Catholic Schools (and the AoD Centura Health Consultants), the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE), and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). We also considered and worked through many challenges to implementing this plan effectively, like the need for occasional mask breaks (especially for little children); some of the challenges of keeping young children socially/physically distant all day; the best way to leverage our large school facility size; the impacts to our learning model which relies heavily on collaborative learning; the importance of making school feel warm and welcoming despite COVID19 (ensuring kids don't begin to negatively associate school with a place that feels scary and isolating); and more. With all this in mind and subject to all CDPHE and Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) directives (and being subject to modification should these policies change), we've created and updated this plan that breaks down our COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocols into 3 categories:

- ▶ **Prevention** | These are actions that happen before a person sets foot in the school, helping us keep the school building COVID-19/coronavirus free. These are most important because they constitute the most effective way of preventing the spread of COVID-19 in our school community.
- ▶ **Precaution** | These are actions taken by school staff, students, and others in the school building to protect against the spread of germs and disease within classrooms and throughout the school building.
- ▶ **Mitigation** | These are actions taken in response to a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case in the community, intended to lessen the impact and limit the transmission of the virus to other members of the school community.

Terminology

In this section, we offer a clarification of terminology used throughout this document, as defined by CDPHE (Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment).

- **Confirmed Case** | A case in a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 virus using certain laboratory tests (usually PCR).
- **Probably Case** | A case in a person who has COVID-like symptoms without another diagnosis. Public health will help assign the case a definition using the Colorado COVID-19 "Case & Outbreak Definitions."
- **COVID-Like Symptoms** | Cough, Shortness of Breath, Fever, Loss of Taste/Smell, Fatigue, Headache, Sore Throat, Muscle or Body Aches, Congestion/ Runny Nose, Nausea/Vomiting, Diarrhea. A person can be contagious 2 days before they start having symptoms (or 2 days before they test positive if they don't have symptoms).
- **Close Contact** | 15+ Minutes within 6ft of a person with COVID-19 (even if they did not have symptoms); Direct Physical Contact with someone who is sick with COVID-19; OR Someone in the same cohort as someone with COVID-19.
- **Isolation** | Staying home from work, school, and/or activities when a person is sick or diagnosed with COVID-19. Isolation lasts for at least 10 days after Symptom Onset, 24+ Hours Fever-Free (without fever-reducing meds), and improving symptoms (72 Hours without "Significant Symptoms").
- **Quarantine** | Staying home from work, school, and/or activities when a person is A CLOSE CONTACT of someone with COVID-19 (Diagnosed or Probable Case). Quarantine lasts 14 Days, unless a person develops symptoms, in which case they will enter Isolation.

I. Prevention

- **Sick Persons (This Section Articulates the Explicit Guidance from CDPHE) |** If anyone (students, staff, or parents) is sick in any way, we ask they they do not come to school until they are healthy and disease free. The following guidelines should be followed to keep the school safe, depending upon a person's sickness.
 - **Unlikely Case (Presumed Not COVID-19):** Someone experiencing Single OR Mild COVID-Like Symptoms.
 - Symptoms: Single Mild Symptoms, Especially Those Typical in Children or Adults That May Have Alternate / More Likely Explanations, like : Low Fever, Minor Cough, One-Off Headache or Bout of Diarrhea.
 - Exposure to COVID? No Known COVID-19 Exposure.
 - Response Action(s): Monitor symptoms and stay home while not feeling well. May return to school when healthy: Symptoms subside and 24+ hours fever-free (without fever-reducing medication). A Doctor's Release is not required but recommended, especially if the illness was more than anything very mild.
 - **Probable Case (Presumed COVID-19):** A person is experiencing Multiple COVID-Like Symptoms.
 - Symptoms: Symptoms Cannot Be Explained by An Alternative More Likely Diagnosis (ex: Asthma)
 - 2 or More: Fever, Chills, Shakes, Muscle Aches, Headache, Sore Throat, Loss of Taste or Smell...
 - OR 1 or More: Cough, Shortness of Breadth, Difficulty Breathing.
 - Centura Pediatric Guidance (for Children): Severe Cough with 1 of the Following: Fever of 101 or Higher, Gastrointestinal Issues, Rash.
 - Exposure to COVID? No Known COVID-19 Exposure.
 - Response Action(s): Isolation until healthy & released.
 - Isolation Duration: At Least 10 Days after Symptom Onset, 24+ Hours Fever-Free (without fever-reducing meds) AND 72 Hours without "Significant Symptoms." Do NOT Need a Negative COVID Test to Return to School.
 - Doctor's Release: Not Required but STRONGLY RECOMMENDED before returning for K-5th, Doctor's Release IS REQUIRED for Preschool students.
 - Cohort (Class) & All Close Contacts Quarantine: All close contacts and family members (students, teachers, siblings, and staff) quarantine for 14 days. Entire classroom / cohort quarantine for 14 days.
 - Test Close Contacts if Possible: Public health recommends testing close contacts (about 7 days after exposure or earlier if contact develops symptoms).
 - Activate Distance/Remote Learning for duration of 14-Day Quarantine for exposed cohort.
 - **Confirmed Case of COVID-19:**A person, with or without symptoms, who has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - Response Action(s): Isolation until healthy & released. Quarantine of Cohort & Close Contacts (SAME AS PROBABLE CASE ABOVE)
- **Contact with Probable or Confirmed COVID-19-Infected Person |** Anyone who has known exposure (Meaning "Close Contact:" see definition on prior page) to a person with a Probable OR Confirmed COVID-19 case must quarantine. This includes family members (residing in the same house), class/cohort members, and any other persons in "Close Contact" with an infected person.
 - Response Action(s): Quarantine for 14 days and monitor symptoms.
 - Quarantine Duration, No Symptoms: 14 Days after Close Contact with Confirmed or Probable Case, without Onset of Symptoms. Do NOT Need a Negative COVID Test to Return to School, and a Negative COVID Test does NOT release someone from Quarantine (per CDPHE Guidance)
 - Doctor's Release: Not Required but recommended before returning.
 - Distance Learning: If teacher or class must quarantine, that class/cohort will shift to distance learning.
- **Temperature Checks & Symptom Screens |** All people entering the school building will be subject to a temperature check and symptom screen. If a person is running a fever (at or above 100.4° Fahrenheit) or is experiencing any COVID-like symptoms, they will not be allowed to enter the school facility.
- **Visitor & Parent Entry Restrictions |** K-5 parents will be allowed in the school building to walk their children to their classrooms for the 1st week of school; after the 1st week, all students will be dropped at the front door. Preschool parents will not be allowed in classrooms, per licensing and governmental regulations. School visitors will be limited.
- **Staff Training |** School staff will be trained by a Registered Nurse (RN) to look for possible signs and symptoms of COVID-19, to screen people effectively, and to help handle situations when a potential COVID-19 case presents itself at school.

II. Precaution

- **Creating A Culture of Mask Wearing** | Given the substantial body of evidence pointing to the effectiveness of mask-wearing at limiting the spread of infectious “respiratory droplets,” particularly in indoor spaces, we will be requesting that masks be worn by both adults and students at nearly all times indoors (following the guidance of the CDC and our AoD Centura Health Consultants) – we’ve seen that even young children are capable of this, and in fact, are often better than adults at adapting to mask wearing. Mask wearing will be the default in the school building and when on the school campus, except in certain circumstances following the guidelines below (Note: the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children should wear face coverings when harms do not outweigh benefits). We also believe that as educators, part of our job is to help children learn how to wear face coverings comfortably and correctly, as we’ve seen done in other countries that have reopened schools safely.
 - Students (Preschool – 5th Grade): In general, all students, even preschoolers, will be asked to wear masks within the school or classroom, especially when in “Close Contact” (within 3-6 ft or closer) of others. There will be scheduled “Mask Breaks” and other select times during the school day as directed by the teacher (like when eating snack or lunch, when spaced-out for silent reading, etc.) when students can safely remove their masks, especially when appropriate distance is maintained (at least 3-6ft and ideally more than 6 ft).
 - Faculty & Staff: As with students, all faculty and staff are asked to wear masks within the school or classroom, especially when in “Close Contact” with others. However, faculty & staff may safely remove masks when teaching or facilitating from a distance of least 6 ft from all students (example: while teaching a lesson at the board, assuming there is reasonable spacing around the teacher). Masks may also be safely removed when working alone in a room or at substantial distance from other adults when students are not present (eg. teacher alone in a classroom during a planning period).
 - Adults (Non-Staff) & Children (Non-Student) in Building: Masks are Required for all non-staff adults and children (except infants) in the school building at all times.
 - Outside & Recess: In general, masks are still recommended when outdoors, as per CDC & Centura Health guidance. However, masks may be safely removed for students, faculty & staff, and other persons when outside, assuming that proper physical distancing (at least 6ft of separation) can be maintained. For students, this will include recess when students are able to avoid close contact (Examples: students playing on the playground equipment ought to wear masks if in close contact with peers, but students running around on the baseball field or blacktop when physically distanced may remove masks).
- **Physical Distancing** | Ensuring that people are not too crowded together is a proven way of limiting the spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19. The most updated guidelines recommend 6 ft of physical distancing as the ideal but recognize that 3-6 ft of distancing is appropriate for children ages 10 and under (who are less efficient spreaders of the virus). Within our classrooms, it is not possible to enforce or ensure a full 6 ft of “social/physical distance” between people at all times, given the size of our spaces and the social nature of elementary students and especially early learners, who naturally communicate, explore, collaborate, and play together. As such, we’re attempting to implement the modified social distancing practices below.
 - Classrooms: Given the ample size of our classrooms and the number of students per classroom, students will naturally have more space than many small and crowded classrooms at other schools, and some additional physical distancing in classrooms is manageable; however, we will not be able to fully or consistently space students out to the recommended 6 ft. To provide extra physical distance...
 - Teachers will be careful to appropriately limit the number of students sitting or grouping together at work-stations, centers, tables, etc. to ensure these spaces do not become too crowded.
 - Teachers will have students leave ample space between one another when gathering for crew or circle time.
 - Because most of our classrooms are equipped with tables, not desks, our teachers will try when possible to keep table groups small (with some space between them) and keep these small table groups “cohorted” together for their work in the class, to limit the number of social recombinations (eg. A pod of 4 students who sit together at a table will remain together and move together, if they are moving to a new work station).

II. Precaution (Continued)

- **Physical Distancing | Continued...**
 - Physical Contact: In so far as is possible, we will limit physical contact between adults and students, and among students. This means working together to find creative ways to greet one another and express affection, while we try to avoid or limit handshakes, hugs, high fives, etc.
 - Limiting Group Gatherings & Use of Shared Spaces: Until it becomes safe to do so, we will not be having large gatherings of students beyond classroom-sized groups inside the building.
 - For the time being, lunch will not take place together in the cafeteria, but in classrooms instead.
 - For the time being, there will be no "All-School Gatherings" outside of weekly mass (which will be socially distanced throughout the large church); this includes no in-person opening or closing all-school crews, assemblies, award ceremonies, or lunchtimes.
 - The only shared learning space will be the art/music room, which will be wiped down and ventilated between each class use, minimizing the sharing of supplies between students/classes.
 - Restrooms: To avoid large groups of students using it at the same time, bathroom capacity will be limited and enforced, with groups of students having assigned times to use the restroom. One single-occupancy restroom downstairs will be available for parent/family use.
 - Outside: For outside recess, we believe it is safe for multiple classes of students to be present at the same time on the blacktop, but remaining and playground given the size of the space, not to exceed 40 students in one area of the blacktop or in the playground area.
 - One-Way Flow for Entry & Exit Doors: All building access will be monitored through the main entry, with the left doors serving as an entrance only, and the right doors an exit only.
 - Staggered & Controlled Flow Through Shared Spaces (like the Lobby): This year, we will have some students coming for before school care between 7:15am – 8:30am, with a flexible start time between 8:30am – 8:55am to stagger the times for students and their parents to enter the building.
 - To help your children navigate the temperature & symptom screening process at the main entry, supervise them to maintain physical/social distance in the lobby and hallways (while school admin are doing symptom screens), and ensure that your children go directly to their classrooms each morning, we are allowing parents to enter the building with your children (with proper face coverings) and walk them to their classroom(s) ONLY during the first week of school but not after that. Preschool parents, per state guidelines, are not allowed in classrooms at all.
 - We are also adding benches outside the main entrance to provide seating for those waiting to enter, as we limit the flow into the lobby.
 - We want to name a few things that we will not offer, as a result of funding, space, and/or philosophy:
 - Desks spaced out 6 ft apart in rows or grids
 - Physical barriers between students/work-stations
- **Increased Outside Air Flow & Circulation |** At this point, the research is abundantly clear that the primary (not only) way COVID-19 spreads is through respiratory droplets in the air (as opposed to spreading on surfaces). For this reason, being outside is very safe, and if we are to spend time inside, it is crucial that we ensure adequate flow of air inside (and not recirculation of air).
 - Unidirectional Air Flow: Utilizing 3 large fans (that altogether are capable of moving 15,000 cubic feet of air per minute), we have created a single-direction air-flow on the first floor that pulls fresh air into the school building through the windows in the empty north classrooms, draws it across the hallway into the south classrooms (which students will be using), then pushes the air out of the open windows of the south classrooms. This ensures a steady, 1-way flow of fresh, clean air into classrooms at all times, with "used" classroom air constantly being vented out through open classroom windows.
 - Classroom Ceiling Fans: All classrooms have ceiling fans that will be left on, to the greatest extent possible, to ensure additional air flow and circulation in the classrooms.

II. Precaution (Continued)

- **Cleaning & Sanitizing** | Although COVID-19 is spread primarily through droplets suspended in the air, we still aim to ensure that all surfaces, especially in high-traffic spaces like the lobby and restrooms, are cleaned and sanitized frequently to minimize the spread of germs.
 - Classrooms: All teachers (and/or their classes) will wipe down their classrooms (tables/desks, chairs, work stations, materials, door knobs, and other surfaces) at the end of each school day with sanitizing wipes.
 - Classroom Supplies: To the extent possible, students and staff will limit the sharing of all supplies, utensils, devices, toys, books, and learning aids.
 - Water Fountains: To minimize the spread of germs, the water fountains have been turned off, and we have installed a touchless, state-of-the-art water bottle refilling station in the main hallway.
 - Hand Sanitizer Stations and Hand Washing: All classrooms have been outfitted with a wall-mounted Hand Sanitizer station; students will be required to wash their hands at several points throughout the school day.
 - Restrooms: Restrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized each evening after the school day by our janitorial vendor, and in all restrooms, students/teachers/families will be provided with sanitizing wipes to use when they enter and exit, to wipe down any surfaces they need to touch (toilet seat, flusher, sink etc.)
 - Lobby & Office: All surfaces in the lobby and office will be regularly wiped and sanitized between uses.
 - Front Door: Access to the front door will be controlled from inside (by school personnel), so we discourage people using their hands on the door handles. However, sanitizing wipes will be available to wipe down all surfaces after contact.
- **Signage** | Additional signage on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures including face coverings will be on display through buildings (and taught to children).

III. Mitigation

- **Cohorting** | “Cohorting” is the practice of keeping groups of students or “cohorts” (i.e. the K/1 class) from mixing with other groups of students while at school. In the event of a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school community, cohorting is an effective way of containing an outbreak – limiting the possible exposure for individuals who are outside the cohort of the infected person. (Please note that “family units” who reside together or spend lots of time together in “close contact” ought to be considered a “cohort.”)
 - Classroom Cohorts: Throughout the school day, students within one classroom or “cohort” will not interact with students from other classrooms / cohorts. As an example, the 4th/5th cohort will stay in their classroom throughout the day, except for Art and Recess. They will use the hallways, restrooms, and shared spaces (like the Art room) only when they are empty and when classrooms like the art room have been sanitized after previous use. This will ensure that if a student or teacher in one cohort becomes infected with a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19, he or she will be unlikely to spread the virus beyond his or her cohort, protecting the rest of the school community.
 - Lunch: Students will eat lunch in their classrooms each day to avoid the mixing of cohorts.
 - Recess: Cohorts will have recess in different spaces (Playground, Blacktop, Gymnasium, Baseball Field) or at different times from other cohorts. The blacktop space (given its large size) will be broken into smaller spaces that can be used by one cohort, while another blacktop space is utilized by another cohort.
 - Before & After Care: K-5 students enrolled in Before or After Care will, to the best of our ability, remain “cohorted” by classroom in the Before/After Care classroom. Because we only have 1 staff person and cannot spread kids from different cohorts across multiple classrooms, the Before/After Care Room will be arranged with unique spaces (6+ ft apart) for each of the 3 classroom cohorts (K/1, 2/3, & 4/5).
 - An Exception For Preschool Due To Extended Day: Because there are preschool students from both classrooms/cohorts enrolled in “Extended Day” (and these students will spend time each morning and afternoon mixing in the same room) the two preschool rooms will likely be considered a single cohort.

III. Mitigation (Continued)

- **Signs of Illness & Symptomatic Persons at School** | Anyone (students, staff, parents, or others) showing signs of illness while at school will have their temperature taken, be isolated in a designated location, and their class/cohort will be monitored closely.
 - As per Colorado health guidelines, a temperature no greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit will be the guideline for being in the school building.
 - If a student becomes ill while at school, he or she will go to an established isolated room until they can safely leave the building. Parents will be notified to pick up the sick child (and all siblings) from school, and the sick person (and any members of their family) are to remain away from school until they are healthy, following the guidelines and criteria laid out on Page 6 (PREVENTION, Sick Persons).
 - For anyone who becomes sick and leaves school, they are expected to closely monitor their symptom to determine, in consultation with their physician and/or local health department, if their illness meets the criteria for a “Probable” or “Confirmed” cases of COVID-19, as outlined on Page 6 (PREVENTION, Sick Persons), communicating regularly with school administration during their absence to alert them if they develop a Probable or Confirmed case of COVID-19.
 - In the case of a “Probable” or “Confirmed” case of COVID-19 (see page 6 for details), the
- **Returning to School After Illness** | For sick persons to return to school, they must meet the following criteria (previously outlined on Page 6), depending on the classification of their illness
 - Unlikely Case (Presumed Not COVID-19): Someone who experienced only Single OR Mild COVID-Like Symptoms may return to school when healthy: Symptoms subside and 24+ hours fever-free (without fever-reducing medication). A Doctor’s Release is not required but recommended, especially if the illness was more than anything very mild.
 - Probable or Confirmed Case of COVID-19: Someone with a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 (as defined on page 6) may return to school once healthy and released from isolation. This means isolating for at Least 10 days after symptom onset, being 24+ hours fever-free (without fever-reducing meds) AND 72 hours with improving symptoms (without “Significant Symptoms”). A person does NOT need a negative COVID test to return to school. A Doctor’s Release, while not required, is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED before returning for K-5th, and a Doctor’s Release IS REQUIRED for Preschool students.
 - Cohort (Class) & All Close Contacts Quarantine: All close contacts and family members (students, teachers, siblings, and staff) quarantine for 14 days. Entire classroom / cohort quarantine for 14 days.
 - Test Close Contacts if Possible: Public health recommends testing close contacts (about 7 days after exposure or earlier if contact develops symptoms).
 - Activate Distance/Remote Learning for duration of 14-Day Quarantine for exposed cohort.
 - Quarantining: If anyone in a family becomes sick with COVID-19, all members of that family (students included) must quarantine (stay away from school for 14 days) and return only if they are healthy and disease free (as per the quarantine guidelines on page 6).
 - Collaboration with Local Health Officials: If a COVID-19 case is probable or confirmed, and the infected person was on campus while contagious, the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools will assist school leadership, in coordination with the Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) insofar as is necessary, to determine the appropriate course of action and communicate important and timely information with all school community members related to the possible COVID-19 exposure.
- **Assigned Seating** | To the extent possible, all students will sit in assigned seats to help track virus spread if a student or staff member were to develop a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- **Sanitizing of Building & Classrooms** | If anyone (students, staff, parents, or other visitors) with COVID-19 is known to have been on campus while infected, we will take appropriate actions to thoroughly clean, sanitize, and ventilate the school building before students and staff are allowed to return.