

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about RETURN to CAMPUS in the FALL

All plans for return to campus in the fall are dependent on directives from the governor and from the offices of public health in each county. Because each campus is unique, differences between campuses are likely. The following questions and responses are generalities based on current information and are subject to adjustment.

Will extension be available?

Extension will need to follow the same protocols as the school day, such as separating students by grade level, so schools are currently working on what will be needed to make extension available on their campuses.

Will field trips still take place?

Overnight field trips in the fall will likely need to be postponed until more information is provided from public authorities. All field trips will need to meet protocols for gathering and safety, so some may take place or be postponed or cancelled on a case-by-case basis.

What if there is a second wave of infection in the fall or winter prompting stay-at-home orders?

The diocese will work in concert with public authorities as it has this school year. This could result in school closures which would necessitate a move to distance learning. The good news is that should this happen, we are even better prepared now than we were in March to make distance learning as effective as possible.

When will all-school Mass return? Will there be any possibilities for Mass earlier?

All-school Mass will need to follow protocols for group gatherings. As we will be separating classes to avoid possible spreading of the virus class-to-class, individual schools will be working on alternate possibilities for the celebration of Mass until all-school Mass can be reinstated.

If one child in a class needs to be quarantined at home, will his/her siblings also need to be quarantined?

Yes, all members of the family will need to stay home for the designated period; distance learning will take place for quarantined students.

How will individual quarantine affect attendance requirements?

Absences due to required quarantine will not be considered part of a tally of excessive absence. It is important that any student with a fever stay home—no “toughing” it out, etc.—so as to protect others from any sickness, COVID-19 or otherwise. Schools will no longer be offering awards for perfect attendance.

Will my child need to wear a mask at school?

Masks and gloves will not be required unless ordered by a public authority. The focus will be on protocols for proper hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes, and frequent handwashing. A student may wear an appropriate mask if directed by the family.

Will school staff wear masks?

Masks and gloves will not be required (except for preparers/servers of food) unless ordered by a public authority. School staff and volunteers may choose to wear an appropriate mask.

Will temperatures need to be taken?

Parents are requested to take student temperatures daily prior to bringing children to school; the expectation is that no student will come to school with a fever. Staff and volunteers may have temperatures taken daily (with no-contact thermometers).

Will hot lunch be offered?

Schools will handle hot lunch programs individually. If a school plans to offer hot lunch, lunches will be delivered to the classroom.

Will there be PE?

PE will be offered but will likely look different based on safety requirements (more outdoor, less contact, etc.).

Will there be after-school sports?

The Catholic School Department is working with the Parochial Athletic League to determine what sports may be offered when and whether players may represent different grade levels.

Will protocols be different in different counties?

Protocols may be different based on directives from county departments of public health unless these differ from directives of the governor.

Will parent hour requirements, etc., remain the same?

Parent hour and other volunteer requirements will be reasonably adjusted based on availability of opportunities and any future closures. Each school will individually handle these requirements.