



## Trinity Lutheran School Health & Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 COVID-19 School Year

Our primary goal is to ensure a safe and responsible approach to full in-person learning.

The guidance provided in this document may be updated at any time if revisions are made to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) guidance for schools.

### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

At this time and given current health conditions, Trinity will not require the use of masks at school/school events, but individuals (students and staff) may wear masks if that is their family's personal preference. This could change in response to local health data over the course of the school year.

### Screening Students and Staff

Parents/guardians must monitor their children for symptoms of infectious illness every day through home-based symptom screening. This approach relies on students and their caregivers to identify when the student might have symptoms of infectious illness.

If you can answer YES to any of the following symptom screening questions, your child should NOT come to school. Please contact your doctor for medical advice regarding testing or patient care, and then contact the school office.

- Screening questions include:
  - Does my child have a fever of 100 degrees or higher?
  - Does my child have any symptoms of a communicable disease like the cold or flu such as chills, muscle pain, diarrhea, nausea?
  - Does my child have a sore throat, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell?
  - New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
  - New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
  - Does anyone my child lives with or has been directly in contact with been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 10 days? (If a staff or child has been vaccinated, they do not need to stay home)

### Screening of Children During the Day

Students who do not feel well will be sent to the sick room in the school office. The office staff will screen the child to determine whether they may return to class or need to be quarantined in the sick room until a parent or emergency contact can pick them up. Families should have an emergency contact who is available to **quickly** come get students who get ill at school.

- The sick room will be thoroughly disinfected after each student use.
- Staff caring for sick children will do so with surgical mask and gloves

### **Arrival and leaving school early**

- Students in grades K-8 will enter the building through **Door F**.
- If your child needs to leave during the day for an appointment, please come to the office through Door F. Office personnel will help your child join you.

### **Spacing and Movement**

- Outdoor learning experiences is encouraged whenever possible.
- The use of physical barriers, such as plexiglass shields, is no longer recommended, per the CDC.
- Teachers will maintain seating charts with assigned student seats as much as possible to assist with contact tracing when necessary.
- Students and staff may travel between classrooms.

### **School Supplies / Sharing**

- There will be no sharing of school supplies (pencils, pens, erasers, rulers, etc.) Students must bring their own supplies or get them from the teacher.
- Every student must bring a backpack to transport supplies and books to and from school.
- Lockers will be used for lunches, coats, boots, and any extra or athletic clothing. No school supplies or storage of extra items will be allowed in lockers.
- Lockers will not be decorated on the outside or inside.

### **School Building Access- Limits on Visitors**

- **No one** should enter the building if they are displaying signs of illness or feeling sick.
- Access to the school areas of the building will be limited to essential personnel.
- All building visitors will be limited to specific parts of the building based on the reason for their visit.
- Parents of grades K-8 students will not be allowed to accompany their child to their classroom in the morning.
- A log of all visitors entering the school portion of the building will be kept. The logs will document the date, contact information, and arrival/departure times.

### **Responding to Positive COVID-19 Cases and Close Contacts**

Parents/guardians and staff must notify school administration, Rhonda, or Cindy, immediately of any possible case of COVID-19 in the household.

Trinity families will be notified of the presence of any laboratory positive or clinically diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in the classroom and/or school to encourage closer observation for any symptoms at home. No specific details can be given, just a general notification that a case of COVID-19 has confirmed in the school setting.

### **Vaccination**

Vaccination against COVID-19 is not required but strongly encouraged for employees and eligible students, as “an act of love for our neighbor.”

The expectations of length of quarantine differ for vaccinated vs. unvaccinated individuals. Therefore, an employee or student may be required to provide proof of their vaccination status to determine appropriate quarantine if they are in close contact with a positive case of COVID-19.

The CDC and MDHHS state that one way to protect the health of children is to ensure that all eligible populations in a household are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

## Food Service

All classes will eat lunch with their classmates in their designated area. We will have three lunch periods to provide better physical distancing of students while eating. Trinity will provide a hot lunch program. but additional steps will be taken to ensure the safe preparation and distribution of the food.

- Salad bar items will be served directly by lunchroom personnel in the kitchen serve line instead of students serving themselves.
- Extended barriers will be added to serving areas and all non-essential touch points have been removed.
- No shared condiment items like ketchup, salad dressing, etc. All these items will be single serve packets.
- Sharing of food between students is strictly prohibited. This also means there will still be a ban on birthday treats.
- Students need to bring a water bottle to school. Teachers will give guidance on what they prefer. The water bottle must contain only **plain water**. Water fountains are retrofitted for touchless bottle filling only.

## Gatherings and Extracurricular Activities

Field trips are anticipated to resume in January.

## Building Cleaning and Sanitizing

- Each room will be sanitized daily as part of our off hours cleaning. We will use EPA approved disinfecting products.
- Doorknobs, counters, and light switches will be sanitized throughout the day.

## Athletics

Currently, there are no COVID-19 related restrictions or requirements for athletics. However, any updated guidance during the school year from MHSAA and CYO will be followed.

## Busing and Student Transportation

While Trinity is not requiring masks at school/school events, the use of masks is required by federal order on school buses and other forms of public transportation in the United States. Students riding Monroe Public School buses must adhere to the protocols set forth by Monroe Public Schools which will include wearing a mask while on the bus.

## Mental & Social-Emotional Health

Trinity will foster an environment of Christian charity and respect for others' decisions regarding vaccination status and use of masks.

School personnel will continue to monitor the mental, social, academic, emotional, and spiritual well-being of all students and staff, providing intervention, assistance, and support when needed.

**Please note that Trinity's Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten and Childcare programs** are licensed by the state of Michigan and are **required** to adhere to LARA guidelines and requirements. We have no specific LARA guidelines for the beginning of school yet.