

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY
SAFETY PLAN FOR November and December 2021

Learning Model

All students will learn in-person, on-campus, each day. Students who are absent for any reason (illness, quarantine, lab-confirmed case of COVID, etc.) will follow normal procedures i.e. communicate with the teacher(s) to understand how their child can best make up work while absent. NDA will not be offering a distance learning option for students.

Masks

Wearing a mask will be required for all students K-8 and adults for the month of November regardless of vaccination status. Masks will not be worn while eating or outside. Classes will be encouraged to spend time outdoors while the weather is still beautiful.

Our plan moving forward:

Six (6) weeks after the vaccine for 5-11 year olds is available within Hennepin County (we hope to host a vaccination clinic at NDA shortly after the vaccine becomes available), we will move to a school mask optional policy. For students, 'mask optional' means that parents will indicate whether their children need to wear a mask or not.

If we have a positive COVID case in a classroom, the entire class will mask for ten (10) days to contain possible spread. This includes vaccinated staff and students. At the end of the ten days, that class will return to masks optional.

If NDA has 5 or more unique COVID cases within our building, we may return to masks required (with the exception of the mask exemptions) until the case counts in the building decrease.

Masks will still be required on school buses per the federal mandate.

Masking is still currently required regardless of vaccination (with the exception of mask exemptions) until the school moves to the mask optional policy.

Additionally, when we move to our masks optional policy, we also hope to return to having school Mass on Wednesday mornings with the IHM parishioners as well as once again welcome volunteers into our building.

Masks on Buses

All individuals are required by an Order from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to wear face coverings while in public transportation hubs and on all public transportation conveyances (airplanes, public buses, etc.), including school buses, both public and private. This means that any student riding on any bus will be required to wear a mask while on the bus.

The following applies while we still have the mask requirement:

Isolation

Any student who tests positive for COVID will isolate according to MDH guidelines, and we will report cases to MDH per state law. If your student has a lab-confirmed case of COVID, they may not return to school or school-sponsored activities until the following are met:

- **It has been at least 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive for COVID-19**
- **They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using fever-reducing medication**

Families will be notified when an NDA student has a lab-confirmed case of COVID.

Quarantine

Close contacts of COVID-19 cases: To identify close contacts, NDA will gather and review the participant's or staff member's activity during the time they were infectious at the facility. This review will look back two days prior to the date symptoms started, or two days prior to the date of the positive test if there are no symptoms. Close contacts include anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

- **Exception for K-12 indoor classroom settings only: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where:**
 - **both students were correctly wearing well-fitting masks; and**
 - **other K–12 school prevention strategies (e.g., ventilation, cleaning and disinfection, respiratory etiquette and hygiene) were in place in the K–12 school setting.**
 - **This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting. Unvaccinated participants and staff who recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 will stay home (quarantine) from the program and all other activities until they meet criteria to return.**

Fully vaccinated people and those who have had COVID-19 within the past 90-days will not quarantine, in most situations. NDA will allow a quarantine period of seven days with a negative test (3-5 days after exposure) or 10 days.

Close contacts of a family member: If exposure to the person who has COVID continues, the close contact must be quarantined for 10 days plus another 7 days (with a negative test) or 10 days. If exposure to the person with COVID discontinues, then the close contact must quarantine for either 7 days with a negative test or 10 days.

Stay Home When Sick

Please see the current MDH Recommended Decision Tree for information on when to stay home. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

Ventilation

This year we will continue increased airflow that circulates fresh air into the classrooms. The HVAC was upgraded last year with an ionization system and the classrooms not connected to the HVAC system have portable air ionization systems.

Cleaning and Hygiene

We will continue cleaning and sanitizing spaces each day. Students will continue to be instructed on the importance of regularly washing hands and teachers will provide opportunities for students to wash hands throughout the day. Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building.

Lunches

We will have additional lunch sessions to social distance our students during lunch. This year preschool students will again eat in their classrooms to allow for these extra lunch sessions.

Visitors

Only essential visitors and vendors will be allowed inside the academic spaces at this time. Recess and lunch volunteers will be the exception.

Extracurriculars

All extracurricular activities and athletics have resumed.

School Mass

All students attend Mass together. We will continue the school year with Masses on Wednesdays at 2:30pm without guests.

Social Distancing

We will social distance 3-6 feet as much as possible while still maintaining optimal opportunities for learning.

COVID Testing

We have Binax rapid COVID tests available for students. Families who want their child to take a BINAX Rapid COVID test should request one from the office, and it will be sent home.

We will share more information in a timely manner as updates occur. Thank you for your support in helping our students learn and grow in a safe and healthy environment.