



# BISHOP CHATARD HIGH SCHOOL

## Bishop Chatard COVID-19 Plan

2021-2022

### Introduction

*\*REVISED 8/20/21*

Implementation of this plan is subject to change at the discretion of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis in collaboration with the Indiana Department of Health and the Marion County Public Health Department. It is based on the best available information and conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic at the time of this publication. This plan will evolve and be adjusted when information becomes available as the status of the COVID-19 pandemic changes. Bishop Chatard will continue to engage with the Office of Catholic schools and other education partners as part of this important process.

This plan is founded with the safety of students, teachers, and staff as priority. At all times Bishop Chatard High School leadership will make decisions based on the safety of all while continuing to ensure student learning is taking place. The school leadership, while in consultation with the Office of Catholic Schools, has the flexibility to do what is best for the Bishop Chatard High School community insofar as the jurisdictional governmental authorities allow.

### Decision Making Input

Our preventative measures are shaped by input from the Office of Catholic Schools, the Bishop Chatard professional medical task force, our COVID-19 committee, the Centers for Disease Control, Marion County Public Health Department, the Indiana Department of Education, the Governor's Office, and our Director of Safety and Wellness/Dean, Mr. Vince Lorenzano. Due to the challenge of COVID-19, Bishop Chatard High School considers two key factors when making all safety related decisions:

- 1) the school's ability to maintain a safe and healthy school environment, and
- 2) the prevalence of COVID-19 in our community.

Bishop Chatard will constantly evaluate these two key factors as schools and communities will most likely fluctuate between the various phases of disease transmission over the coming months.

Bishop Chatard High School will take every precaution possible to protect students and employees. Heightened protocols related to cleaning and sanitization will be in place. Expectations of proper handwashing, physical distancing to the extent possible, and minimal sharing of resources to the extent possible will be enforced.

### Absences

If a student stays home for any reason, it is the responsibility of the students during their absence to request from their teachers any missed assignments and/or notes from each class and to check Canvas. **A synchronous Google Meet option is no longer available to students who are absent from school including those who are symptomatic, close contact quarantined, or have tested positive.**

It is recommended that assignments and homework be obtained first through Canvas and/or from a classmate and then communication with their teachers. If the absence is for a period of three days or more, students and/or parents should contact teachers and continue to check assignments on Canvas. The general rule is that a student has one day for each day missed to submit completed assignments. However, to ensure fairness to all students, teachers may require the submission of assignments on the published due date. Students absent on the due date may be instructed to make arrangements to have the assigned work delivered to the teacher.

For 2021-2022, absent students will have the opportunity to connect with teachers via Google Meet during our daily Seminar period to talk about assignments and assessments.

## Arrival, Dismissal

Students may begin arriving at 7:00 a.m. In order to remain socially distanced, students may not linger or cluster in the hallway. Dismissal will no longer be staggered.

## Calendar/Timeline

Bishop Chatard will open the school year with full, in-person instruction beginning on August 5. A full calendar can be found at <https://www.bishopchatard.org/news/calendar/>

## Classroom Environment/Protocol

Bishop Chatard student desks will face forward and be distanced from 3 feet from each other. In order to contact trace any possible positive cases of COVID-19, seating charts and assigned seats will be mandatory in all classrooms.

## Cleaning and Sanitizing

Bishop Chatard will continue to clean and sanitize high-touch surfaces frequently. Hand sanitizer is readily available throughout the whole school. Proper handwashing, cough, and sneeze protocols will still be reviewed and practiced. Water bottle filling stations will be actively available for students. Our Director of Safety and Wellness/Dean, Mr. Vince Lorenzano has coordinated regular cleaning throughout our building and campus.

## Confirmed Case

If a student, or a member of the student's household, is confirmed positive for COVID-19, we ask that the family inform the school by immediately emailing [medical@bishopchatard.org](mailto:medical@bishopchatard.org)

## Contact Tracing

Students and staff who are identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 *should* quarantine for a possible 10 days after last exposure to the case. Any close contact who meets quarantine exemption criteria shall not have to be excluded from work / school unless symptoms occur. Parents of students that meet close contact criteria will be notified that their child has been potentially exposed to COVID-19. Options for what a close contact student can do will be explained to parents to include quarantining, returning to school, or monitoring for symptoms.

Current COVID-19 guidelines define a close contact exposure to an individual that has tested positive as:

*In a classroom setting in which any individuals are unmasked, any person who is within 6 feet of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period will be considered a close contact.*

*In a classroom setting in which all individuals are masked, any individual who is within 3 feet or less from the person who tested positive for COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period will be considered a close contact.*

Without a universal masking mandate, an unvaccinated, masked student runs the risk of being contact traced and being quarantined for 10 days. Vaccinated students and staff members will not have to quarantine due to close contact exposure. Individuals who have had a positive COVID-19 test within the previous 90 days (3 months) do not need to quarantine. If a student tests positive, they will need to be isolated.

We will continue to be transparent and send out weekly updates of positive cases in our community.

## Field Trips, Retreats, Outside Speakers

Field trips, retreats, and outside speakers are permitted, but must be approved by the school principal.

## Lunch

Since masks are removed during lunch, students will be seated six feet apart and divided between the cafeteria and gymnasium. Contact tracing will still take place in exposure situations that take place during lunch.

## Masks

For the 2021-2022 school year at Bishop Chatard, masks will be optional. Masks are recommended for unvaccinated students and staff, vulnerable individuals who may be at increased risk of illness, and anyone who feels more comfortable wearing a mask. This policy could be modified based on updated guidance from the Marion County Public Health Department (MCPHD). Should anything change concerning mask mandates we will immediately update our staff, students, and stakeholders.

## Mass

Mass will be held with 3 classes of students attending each week. The non-attending class will remain in their seminar classroom.

## Nurses

Bishop Chatard will have two nurses available on a rotating basis throughout each school day. Students and staff may be asked to wear a face-covering upon entry to the health clinic. If this is the case, a mask will be provided.

## Opt-Out

There is no opt-out for full-time, virtual instruction as we believe it is important for our entire school to return to the normalcy of full, in-person instruction.

## Quarantine

If a student tests positive, they will need to be isolated. Students and staff who are identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 *should* quarantine for a possible 10 days after last exposure to the case. Any close contact who meets quarantine exemption criteria shall not have to be excluded from work/school unless symptoms occur.

Vaccinated students and staff members will not have to quarantine due to close contact exposure. Individuals who have had a positive COVID-19 test within the previous 90 days (3 months) do not need to quarantine.

## Quarantine Room

Bishop Chatard has created a dedicated quarantine room for students/staff who might have COVID-19 or other communicable diseases and are waiting for pickup. If a student exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 they will be put in our quarantine room and parents will be contacted to pick up the student. This room will be disinfected frequently and restricted to authorized staff/students.

## Retreats

Campus ministry provides a structured retreat program designed to enable students at every grade level to reflect on God's presence in their everyday lives. Our retreat program will resume in its regular capacity with freshmen attending a day of reflection during the school day, sophomores attending a one-day retreat experience off campus, juniors attending an overnight retreat, and seniors attending the Christian Awakening Retreat.

## Self-Screening Requirement

Similar to last year, a daily self-screen will still be required of students and staff. Students and staff who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without being otherwise explained are prohibited from coming to school. Students and employees will be expected and asked to stay home if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms. Please see our website for updated **COVID-19 symptoms**.

## Transportation

Masks are required for students, bus drivers, and staff utilizing any school-sponsored vehicle for transportation. Masking on public transportation is a federal mandate. It is recommended that bus drivers open windows to improve ventilation when winter allows.

## Vaccinations

The Holy See and U.S. Bishops have determined that the reception of the vaccines is morally acceptable and responsible. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as The Office of Catholic Schools (OCS) recommends that all eligible parties should be encouraged to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Bishop Chatard will not require vaccinations of students and staff. We believe that getting vaccinated is a personal family decision. As stated

earlier, vaccinated students and staff members will not have to quarantine due to close contact exposure.

## Visitors and Volunteers

All visitors and volunteers should enter through Door 1. Masks are recommended for all visitors--parents/guardians, community partners, volunteers--regardless of vaccination status while indoors. Visitors and volunteers are not permitted to eat with students during breakfast and lunch.

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