



MCS Pandemic School Plan 2021-22

Updated 11/12/2021

Students: Getting ready and going to school safely...

Symptoms Assessment: Before coming to school, parents or guardians will assess student health symptoms. If they have a fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, nasal congestion or runny nose, or have been in direct contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with someone diagnosed with COVID-19, they will need to stay home, and parents or guardians will need to contact the child(ren)'s medical provider and the school for further guidance.

MDH Decision Tree Recommendations: Marquette Catholic School will be following the Minnesota Department of Health's Recommended COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs. As provided in the 10/18/2021 updated version, Marquette is opting to provide a shortened quarantine period of 7 or 10 days for students who are in close contact of a positive COVID case.

- Students who **are not** fully vaccinated for COVID-19:
 - In the event the close contact is a household family member, students in grades PreK-8 may return to school in 10 days if they have not had any symptoms, test negative for COVID-19 at days 7 and 10 after the most recent close contact's onset of symptoms or positive test.
 - In the event the close contact is with someone outside of the household and had a beginning and end (school, sports event, or social gathering), K-8 students may return to school if they have no symptoms, while PreK students may return to school after testing negative for COVID-19 at day 7. If this close contact was within 3-6 feet for 15 or more minutes and students were appropriately masked, no quarantine is necessary.
- Students in close contact who **are** fully vaccinated or have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days **do not** need to quarantine, but it is recommended they monitor for symptoms and wear a mask.
- Families will be notified via Parent Alert email of any close contact identified in their child's PreK-8 classroom.

Busing: While riding the bus, students will need to wear a mask as mandated by MN State law.

Parent Drop-offs: If students ride in a car to school, parents or guardians may drop them off in the church/school parking lot, at the front doors, or walk them to the school entrance. Parents/guardians may enter the church or gathering space for drop off or pick up.

Students: Safety at School...

Arrival at school: When students arrive at school, they will report to their classrooms.

Breakfast on Campus: If students are enrolled in the breakfast program, they will be served breakfast in their classrooms and will eat there, as well.

Drinking Fountains: Water bottles may be refilled using the school drinking fountains. Drinking fountains will also be able to be used for quick drinks of water.

Face Coverings and Social Distancing: The current protocol for Marquette students and staff for the start of the school year is that masks are recommended but not required. This protocol may change based on the health situation in our school or community and Diocesan and MN Department of Health recommendations or requirements. If masks become a requirement, families are asked to provide them for their children. Marquette has procured basic disposable masks that can be temporarily provided.

Cohorts: Cohorts will be used during the instructional school day including lunch, recess, and for those attending After Care. Cohorts will primarily be classmates in the same grade but may include additional grades of students during certain activities or subject areas.

Handwashing: Students are encouraged to wash their hands frequently or use hand sanitizer throughout the day. Students may bring their own personal hand sanitizer to use during the day. Marquette will also provide hand sanitizer stations in the hallways and classrooms and will designate scheduled hand washing/sanitizing times.

Lunch: Students may bring their own cold lunch or have the option to purchase hot lunch from the school. The cohort model will be followed in eating lunch in the social hall, spacing at different tables, and for the distribution of meals and clean-up as groups leave the social hall.

Parents and Students: Safety Procedures for Everyone...

Face Coverings: All adults entering the school will need to check in at the front office and are recommended but not required to use masks. All students are recommended but not required to wear masks. These protocols may change as community and school health situation and needs change.

Field Trips: Field trips are planned but may be challenged based on the pandemic situation and transportation. Masks are required for students utilizing public bus transportation for field trips. Field trip destination protocols will also need to be followed for students to participate in them.

Mass and Other School Events: Mass is an important part of our week. Students will have mass twice a week including mass on Mondays and Wednesdays for grades K-3 and mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays for grades 4-8. Morning prayers and announcements will be completed over the PA system and/or within classrooms/cohorts while this plan is in place. Other school-wide events will be held with protocols in place for the current time or be held virtually or rescheduled if the health situation in the community or school warrants a change in protocol or provision.

Cohorts: Students in grades PreK-8 will be predominantly kept in cohorts throughout the day. These cohorts will be established to limit exposure and transmission of any illness.

Picking Up a Child: Parents who will be picking up a child for early dismissal due to illness or a medical appointment shall call the front office when they arrive at the school and give permission to the office staff to sign their child out. The office staff member will escort the student to the door to visually identify the parent/guardian for transfer of care. There is no dismissal within 15 minutes of the regular end of the school day, and only parents, guardians, or other individuals identified on the student's contact list with appropriate identification will be allowed to leave with the student.

School Nurse: The school nurse will utilize a designated isolation area if a student comes to school and presents COVID-19 symptoms. Parents will be contacted to pick up sick students immediately so both the family and school can follow proper protocol developed by the local health department to evaluate symptoms, assist the school in necessary communication with school families, and determine if temporary cohort or school closures are necessary. The family and school will follow the MDH Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs to guide decisions on quarantine time and returning to school.

Closures: If closures are necessary for a class/cohort or the school, students and teachers will transition temporarily to remote learning during the self-quarantine period. The family and school will follow the MDH COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs to guide decisions on quarantine time and returning to school.

Cleaning: All buildings and workspaces will be cleaned regularly throughout the day. Marquette's maintenance staff will enhance their daily cleaning efforts to disinfect areas of the building in mid-morning and after lunch used by students such as handrails, bathrooms, floors, doorknobs, light switches, walls near bathrooms, and corners. Classrooms are also cleaned and sanitized daily in the afterhours when students are not around.

Parents and Students: Other Important Information...

Transportation: Marquette students may access morning bus transportation via the Rock Ridge Public Schools route. If RRPS would decide to close school or move to a distance learning model, Marquette families will have to self-transport their kids before school. If possible, we encourage families to utilize their own transportation to further limit exposure to illness during the pandemic. As a reminder, Marquette families need to provide after-school transportation.

Uniforms: Student in grades K-8 are still required to wear uniforms while in school except for Wednesdays when they will be allowed to wear Marquette spirit wear and jeans. Our policy has been updated for the 2021-22 school year.

Morning and After Care: Students may be dropped off anytime between 7:30 and 7:50 (the start of the school day) and are to go directly to their classrooms. After Care is available Monday through Thursday. On After Care days, students who are not getting picked up immediately after school will remain in their classrooms until all other students are dismissed. Teachers will walk them to the social hall where students will gather in smaller cohort groups for After Care.

Students may be picked up from After Care anytime between 3:35 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. After Care rates are \$5/hour/child and charged at 15-minute increments starting at 3:30. If this poses financial hardship for any families, please contact the school.

Food Service: MCS will continue to participate in the same INAC Food Service program. INAC is an independent business (separate from the public schools) and will continue to serve meals at Marquette even if other local school districts were to move to distance learning. As part of the USDA Food Service Program, breakfasts and lunches will be served free of charge to all students regardless of income status. Students are to let their teachers know each morning if they want to order hot lunch for that day and/or breakfast for the following school day.

State Mandates: Marquette Catholic School will work collaboratively with our Diocese and school communities, keep informed of the health situation in and around us, and follow suggestions and/or recommendations when we believe they best support our students, staff, and families.

Plans and Procedures Updates: Marquette Catholic School will notify families via email and/or Parent Alert when plans and procedures are updated. The most current version of the plan will be updated and accessible on our school website at marquettecatholicschool.com.

