

2020-21 COVID Guidance for St. Gabriel's

Release Time/Faith Formation Program

Information in this plan aligns directly with the State of Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year.

- *Coordinators: Monsignor Paul Heiting & Peg Olsem*
- **General Health/Distancing While At Release Time:**

Physical distancing, wearing a face covering, and practicing good hygiene are all critical tools in decreasing the spread of Covid-19 and making sure our Release Time program can continue to operate with all students in the building. Parents/Guardians will be asked to screen their children each Monday/Thursday for COVID symptoms before they send them to Release Time. Please use this checklist to do so: [Symptom Screening Checklist](#). Please make sure to keep your student home and notify the school if they are feeling unwell. Please also notify the school immediately if you or your child have a confirmed positive Covid case. Masks and/or face shields must be worn at all times when there is not sufficient space for physical distancing. This is in accordance with the [Governor's Executive Order 20-81](#) regarding the wearing of face coverings. Students who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a medical condition or disability related condition may be permitted to utilize alternative options such as a face shield or other reasonable accommodation.

IF YOU ARE SICK STAY HOME! Physical Distancing: Create as much space between students as possible in each classroom, with a minimum of 6 feet between seating areas.
- **Hygiene Practices** According to the CDC, it is important for people to employ the following hygiene practices in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19: Understand how COVID-19 spreads (person to person) Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.
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- **Action to be taken to prevent spread ...**

- Wash your hands thoroughly and often.
- Avoid close contact with other people (maintain a 6 ft distance between others if at all possible)
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- Cover coughs and sneezes by coughing or sneezing into the inside of elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Monitor your health daily.
- Teach and re-teach good hygiene practices with students, underscoring the importance now more than ever of hand washing, sanitizing, coughing into your shoulder, and other appropriate hygiene practices.
- Ensure availability of appropriate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors and strategically place supplies in areas where they may be frequently used.
- Ensure each classroom has hand sanitizer available to use.

- **Cleaning and Materials Handling**

- Staff and students will work together to safely clean and disinfect seating areas and high touch surfaces as needed during the school day using an [EPA-approved disinfectant](#) and the EPA's "[6 Steps for Safe & Effective Disinfectant Use](#)".
- The school will ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high-touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., by dedicating supplies or equipment to individual students) or limit the use of supplies and equipment to one small classroom cohort group at a time, allowing for time to clean and disinfect between use.
- Teachers will not use items that are difficult to clean when at all possible.

- **Monitoring and Excluding for Illness**

- The Church requests that parents conduct [symptom screening](#) for each of their students before they come to school.
- Regular screening for symptoms and ongoing self-monitoring throughout the school day can help to quickly identify signs of illness and help reduce exposure.
- Require that staff and students stay home if:
 - They have tested positive for or are showing COVID-19 symptoms, until they meet criteria (see MDH Decision Tree, below) for return.
 - They have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19, until they meet criteria for return.

Families with questions about whether or not they need to self-quarantine should consult the CDC's guidance on "[When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had](#)

[COVID-19](#)".