

# Notre Dame Schools

## COVID-19 STUDENT POLICIES

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The welfare and health of the students, faculty, and staff of Notre Dame Schools is our highest priority. As a result, and in accordance with the State of Ohio COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools, all students will be expected to comply with the following policies and instructions, the purpose of which is to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and to help prevent its spread. Please read this policy carefully and sign at the end to acknowledge that you have read and understand what is being expected of you and that you understand and assume the risks related to COVID-19 and returning to school.

1. **Daily Health Check at Home.** Prior to coming to school each and every day, parents shall conduct a health check of their child to assess whether the child is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. The daily health check shall consist of the following:
  - a. Taking the child's temperature.
  - b. Through discussion with the child and personal observation of the parent, assess if the child is experiencing one or more of the following symptoms:
    - Fever of over 100 °F
    - Chills
    - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - Fatigue
    - Muscle or body aches
    - Headache
    - Loss of taste or smell
    - Sore throat
    - Congestion or runny nose
    - Nausea or vomiting
    - Diarrhea

For up to date information about COVID-19 symptoms and for an interactive symptom checker/self-assessment tool, parents and guardians should visit the website of the Center for Disease Control ("CDC") at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

If the child has a fever of greater than 100°F or is experiencing any other symptom listed above (or as updated from time to time by the School), the child must stay home from school and the parent must notify the school of the absence(s).

Personnel and students with known close-contact exposure may be required to quarantine according to the directives of health authorities.

For a list of COVID-19 testing facilities, please consult your health care professional or go to <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/testing-ch-centers/>.

2. **Hand Washing & Sanitizing.** Students are expected to wash their hands frequently for at least 20 seconds, including if their hands are dirty, before and after eating, after using the restroom, at other appropriate times (e.g., after blowing their nose/coughing/sneezing, and after touching garbage), and as otherwise instructed. Hand sanitizer, provided by the school at various places around the school, should be used by students to supplement hand washing, including when entering the school or entering or exiting a classroom. Parents and guardians should discuss handwashing with their child. For instructions and information about hand washing and sanitizing, parents and guardians should visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/bam/child-development/how-to-wash-hands.htm>.
3. **Social Distancing.** Students must practice social distancing whenever possible. Social distancing means:
  - a. Maintaining three feet of space (or as much space as possible) between oneself and others at all times possible, including in classrooms, hallways, restrooms, cafeteria, and pick-up and drop-off areas.
  - b. Following any directions and instructions given or posted regarding social distancing.
  - c. Follow any floor or other markings indicating the designated flow of traffic in hallways, rooms, and elsewhere.
  - d. Avoid when possible sharing items, materials, and spaces with others.
  - e. Maintain social distancing if possible on the bus to and from school.
4. **Face Masks and Coverings.** Families will decide whether their children will wear a mask or other face covering after considering the recommendations of health authorities and their specific circumstances. Masks are mandatory for all passengers on school buses. For details on mask recommendations, visit the Ohio Department of Health's website: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>
5. **Students who become Sick at School.** A student who, while at school, develops a fever of greater than 100°F or exhibits any one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 (not including anything that the school administration reasonably believes to be unrelated to illness, such as seasonal allergies, or isolated incidents of coughing or sneezing) may not remain at school and must be picked up and taken home at the earliest opportunity. Such students will be immediately directed to a designated spot to be isolated from others except for the staff designated to monitor and care for such students until they go home. In the case of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case, the school will call the local health department to report the matter and obtain guidance. Any student who has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 may not return to school until such student meets the CDC's criteria for returning to school. Others who may have been potentially exposed will be notified in accordance with the directives or advice of the local health department. If the student travels to a location from which the State of Ohio requires individuals returning to quarantine, the student must adhere to the State of Ohio guidelines upon returning from such travel.
6. **Response Plan for Students with a Positive COVID-19 Diagnosis.** It is important to understand that the Geauga County Health Commissioner has an established protocol that will be activated upon notification of a positive diagnosis. That protocol includes identification, contact tracing, quarantining the individual and others as identified by the Health Department. Our purpose in this document is not to reiterate that protocol but to assist that department in implementing their procedure.
  - Isolate a symptomatic individual and anyone who was in close proximity to that individual.

- The areas of the school that may have been contaminated by an individual testing positive will be cleaned with approved disinfectants.
- The school will communicate generally with parents when a positive diagnosis arises in the school similar to previous practices involving cases of MRSA, communicable diseases, head lice, etc. The school district will not release personally identifiable information as this may constitute a violation of FERPA and/or HIPAA regulations.

**COVID-19 POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK**

We, the undersigned parent(s) and student(s), acknowledge and agree that, as a student/students at Notre Dame Schools (“School”) and as parent(s) of that student, entering the school or being on the School’s premises, having personal contact with teachers, classmates, and other School staff, involves a certain degree of risk, namely of parent(s) and/or student acquiring a communicable disease, including COVID-19, and then potentially passing it on to others, including family members. Due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, the characteristics of the virus, and the close proximity of students, teachers, and staff, there is an elevated risk of students contracting the disease simply by being in the building, on the premises, or at any School function. The same is true for parent(s) of a student at the School.

By signing below, we acknowledge and agree that after carefully considering the risks involved, and having the opportunity to discuss these risks with any healthcare professional(s) of our choosing, we voluntarily and willingly accept those risks and acknowledge that returning to in-person classes and other in-person School functions at the School is the choice of each family, including ours. If student or parent(s) who visit the School have underlying health concerns which may place them at greater risk of contracting any communicable disease, including COVID-19, we acknowledge and agree that we will consult with a health care professional before student or parent(s) return to the School, attend any School function, or visit the School. Moreover, we acknowledge that while adherence to safety and precautionary measures (which may include social distancing guidelines, facemasks, handwashing, etc.) may reduce possible exposure to the risk of contracting a communicable disease, the possibility of serious illness and death remains despite all efforts to reduce that risk. We do hereby accept and assume sole responsibility for any illness acquired by student or parent(s) while at the School or any School function, including possible infection with COVID-19. As a part of accepting this responsibility, we do herewith release, waive and forever discharge any and all claims we, our family or our student(s) may have against the School related to an infection resulting in any manner from COVID-19.

We further acknowledge, understand, and agree that we have obligations to the School, its faculty, students, and others to take certain precautions and make certain disclosures to prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as COVID-19. Specifically, we agree to comply with this policy and all other School rules and requirements relating to communicable diseases such as COVID-19, including rules relating to whether or under what circumstances students, parents, and family members may come to the School or attend School events.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_