



Updated September 9, 2021

## RESPONSE TO COVID 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

**Masking:** The State Health Commissioner issued an order requiring all individuals aged two and older to wear masks when indoors at public and private K-12 schools in Virginia, effective Thursday, August 12. Under the direction of OLOH school administration, the Office of Catholic Schools and the Chancery of the Arlington Diocese, all students, faculty, and staff must wear a mask while indoors regardless of vaccination status, and until further notice. This includes indoor events outside of school hours. Students should be ready for their day and prepared to enter the school building with their masks on as they arrive at school. Parents remaining in their cars and not entering the building do not need to wear a mask. Students may remove masks after they exit the building at dismissal. Masks are not required outside during recess, PE or other outdoor recreational/extra-curricular activities. For indoor team practices and games, participants will wear masks while on the sidelines, but may remove them during play. For choir, participants may sing with masks on while standing or sitting at six feet of distance. If they sing without a mask, they should maintain ten feet of distance. For band, students will maintain six feet of distance while practicing with their masks on. If their masks are off, they must maintain ten feet of distance. It is not required that the choir or band practice outside unless the restrictions are impossible to meet indoors.

**Social Distancing/Bathroom/Cafeteria/Hallway:** Students will remain at a 3 feet distance while in the school building unless the time they are closer than three feet is less than fifteen minutes. For example, there is no limit to the number of students in the bathroom at one time beyond what is reasonable because the period of time in the bathroom is not long. Similarly, students walking in lines should maintain distance as much as possible, but the three feet requirement is not fully in effect since they will be walking a short amount of time. The cafeteria line is another similar example. However, students will be spaced while eating because they are mask less and sit longer than fifteen minutes. The distance teachers and staff stand away from students is left to their discretion.

**Wellness Check/Visitors & Volunteers:** All members of the community will monitor their own health at home *before* attending school or visiting/volunteering at school by taking their own temperatures and analyzing possible COVID like symptoms (e.g., is this symptom related to something I commonly experience like allergies, or is it different and new?). Please consult the [Health Screening/Daily Symptom Checker](#) for more information. Visitors and volunteers must abide by the COVID restrictions presented in this document.

*The school is committed to a weekly review of restrictions. They are subject to change.*



# Our Lady of Hope Catholic School

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**Sick Child:** If you have a child who is sick, please keep your child home and call your primary care for advice. If you have an immediate family member or a child who has tested COVID positive or who has been exposed to a positive case, please keep your child home and please email the clinic immediately. If you are waiting for COVID results for yourself or your child, please do not send your child to school in the meantime.

**Sanitize and Frequent Hand Washing:** The school will redouble its efforts to keep surfaces sanitized throughout the school day. Our students and staff will be required to wash or sanitize their hands before eating and at other critical times throughout the day (e.g., after going to the bathroom, blowing nose, etc.)

**Contact Tracing/Cohort/Recess/Drop Off/Pick-Up:** The school will carefully contact trace if there is a known case of COVID or potential exposure. We will contact families as needed and communicate with all involved parties while respecting confidentiality. To make contact tracing easier and to limit exposure, we will keep heterogeneous groups of students from interacting. At recess, cones will delineate spaces in which the various grades may play. At lunch, the grades will not intermingle. At drop off and pick up students will be encouraged not to gather in groups of intermingled cohorts.

**After School Programs, Before/After Care, Field Trips:** All before and after school programs will follow the same restrictions as students follow during the school day. Our students will participate in two field trips a year either in person or virtually. Classes may participate in off campus field trips as long as they meet all the COVID safety precautions of the location of the trip and follow the restrictions or protocols which are commonly practiced at school.

**Vaccination Status:** Per diocesan policy, the school will not require eligible students or staff to be vaccinated nor will we inquire about vaccination status unless necessary for contact tracing and decisions about quarantining. When asked, it is your prerogative whether or not to answer.

**Positive COVID Test/Exposure to COVID:** Please inform the school immediately if you or a family member receive a positive COVID test or have been exposed to a person who tested positive to COVID. At that time, we will work with you and your family regarding reentry to the school. Positive COVID cases will be communicated to the school community in a timely manner.

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# Our Lady of Hope Catholic School

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**Quarantine:** The Loudoun County Health Department, like the CDC and the VDH, continues to recommend a 14-day quarantine period after the last close contact to a person with COVID-19 as the preferred option for the length of quarantine. Additionally, all close contacts should monitor for symptoms, wear a mask, keep distance, avoid crowds, and wash hands often for 14 days after exposure. The alternative quarantine time periods that the CDC announced should only be used in rare circumstances and are not recommended in school settings. Students quarantining may return to school once they are symptom free without medication after the prescribed quarantine period is completed. If the school calls to alert you to the fact that your child is a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and your child has had COVID-19 within the last three months, and you are able to produce a positive test result from a doctor's office (not a home test), then your child will not need to quarantine.

**On Line Program:** The school will not be offering an on-line program unless an entire classroom or the school is closed, so students quarantining at home well enough to study may pick up work in a bin placed outside the school as soon as the teacher is able to provide it. On occasion there may be interruptions to in person learning due to spread in a particular classroom or the school. Please find information about our [Virtual Learning program here](#).

**Close Contact in School Setting:** A student who has been within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period is considered a close contact. If the infected person and the exposed student correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time, the exposed student will not need to quarantine. Please keep in mind that the principal and nurse will rely on the teacher for information about how well the masks were worn, if they were worn the entire time, and length of exposure while maskless. Remember that during the school day students take masks off for snack time, lunch and outdoor recess and the school will factor these activities into the 15 minutes.

**Data Used to Determine Whether Restrictions Might Be Lessened or Increased:** OLOH will use data on the number of new cases in Loudoun County, the number of deaths and hospitalizations, and the rate of vaccination to make future determinations regarding whether or not we can loosen restrictions or increase them. We will communicate with you weekly as necessary via email or in the Friday Messenger.

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