



ARCHBISHOP DAMIANO SCHOOL

Making a difference in the lives of our students

Health & Safety Plan to Minimizing the Risk of Infection in School

August 25, 2022

Introduction

Archbishop Damiano School Nurses and the Executive Director developed a Health & Safety Plan aligned to state and local guidance from the Departments of Health and the Center for Disease Control. This plan is a *fluid document* that will be updated as new public health emergency information emerges.

Many of the layered prevention strategies described in this document not only protect against COVID-19 spread, but can also help prevent the spread of other infectious diseases, such as influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and norovirus, thus supporting a healthy learning environment for all.

The goal of Archbishop Damiano School's Health & Safety Plan is to minimize risk of infection and illness occurring in school while restoring the normal functioning of our educational program. While the procedures detailed in this plan are designed to minimize illness as much as possible, the school acknowledges it is impossible to eliminate all risk.

Based on the guidance: [PH Recommendations K-12 Childcare Camp.pdf \(nj.gov\)](#) (July 6, 2022)

Learning Model

In-school Learning:

As of July 2022, all students will be required to return to school. Classroom instruction and related services will take place according to the student's schedule. The instructional day will run from 8:45AM - 2:45PM and will follow all guidelines defined by the New Jersey Administrative Code regarding the length and duration of the school day and year.

Remote Learning (Discontinued)

As of July 2022, remote learning options will be discontinued. A learning packet will be sent home at the parents/guardians' request when a student is required to quarantine following exposure to COVID-19 or from a positive result. Students will be recorded as absent for the duration of the quarantine period for attendance purposes. A note will be attached in the daily electronic attendance system indicating the student is absent as a result of being quarantined.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements

Staff:

- All staff are required to use facemasks when working with students at all times.
- Staff may wear a school supplied mask (surgical), or a triple ply cloth mask.

Students:

- Students are required to wear face coverings, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health.
- The use of face coverings may not be possible for all students attending Archbishop Damiano School since physical and health impairments vary among students and wearing a mask may impede their health and safety.
- If a parent/guardian requests that their child wear a mask, every reasonable attempt will be made to ensure that child wears a mask in school. Students *will not be forced* to wear a mask if he/she presents opposition. The parent/guardian will be informed by the teacher if they are not successful in having the student wear a mask.

Visitors/vendors/volunteers

- Vendors/contractors must wear a mask when visiting Archbishop Damiano School.

Visitation

Archbishop Damiano School will make decisions to accept visitation from the community to include by not limited to; parents/guardians, school district personnel, consultants, vendors, volunteers, nursing supervisors and student interns based on the state and local county COVID-19 infection rates. When there is an increase in positive COVID-19 cases and the tracking reaches the "high" level, ADS *may* not allow visitation as a means of reducing the risk of a COVID-19 exposure in our school community.

Testing

Staff:

All staff members that are not vaccinated as of September 1, 2022 are not required to undergo weekly testing for COVID-19. This executive order was lifted by Governor Murphy on August 17, 2022. Archbishop Damiano School is still required to submit testing and vaccination data to the Department of Health as per Executive Order No. 21-011.

It is recommended that staff members be up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccinations, including the first booster dose, as per prior executive orders.

Quarantining

The school nurses will follow the current guidelines provided by the CDC and NJDOH and will adjust plans according to any updates the CDC and NJDOH provide.

Students:

If a student presents COVID-19 like symptoms: fever, chills, shivers, muscle aches, congestion or runny nose, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue or headache, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, or is a close contact, parents/guardians are asked to keep their child home and contact the school nurses for further discussion and guidance.

In the event of an in-school exposure to COVID-19, parents will be asked to come pick up their child from school.

For students with a 1:1 nurse at school, if the 1:1 nurse should share he/she tested positive for COVID-19, it is kindly requested that parents instruct the nurse to contact the ADS school nurse or the supervisor of their nursing agency. It is imperative that the school be informed of this information.

For all COVID-19 tests only rapid and PCR tests will be accepted. NO HOME TEST WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Archbishop Damiano School will exercise the following quarantine guidelines:

- **Students who test positive-** Must quarantine for 10 days.
- **Students who are close contacts** who are ***UP TO DATE*** with immunizations and ***ASYMPTOMATIC***:
 - Do not have to quarantine
 - Test after day 5 of the exposure.
 - If the test result is positive, a 10-day quarantine is necessary.
 - Should monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, will be required to quarantine.
- **Students who are close contact but *NOT UP TO DATE* with immunizations but can wear a mask 100% of time:**
 - Must quarantine for 5 days.
 - Should monitor for symptoms and report to the school nurse.
 - Can test after day 5 of exposure.
 - If the test result is positive, a 10-day quarantine is necessary.
 - If test result is negative and there are no symptoms- they can return on day 6 (when negative and a copy of the negative test result has been received by the nurse.) **AND the student can wear a mask 100% of the time from days 6-10.**
 - When removing masks to eat: students will be 6 ft away from others.
 - If a student cannot mask 100% of the time:
 - Must quarantine for 10 days

All parents/guardians in the affected classroom or the whole school (depending on the situation & severity) will be notified when an in-school exposure occurs.

All test results can be emailed to the School Nurse or sent via fax. No student will be permitted to return in the above circumstances, unless the test results have been received by the school nurse.

Staff:

If a staff member presents COVID-19 like symptoms: fever, chills, shivers, muscle aches, congestion or runny nose, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue or headache, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, or is a close contact, are asked to stay home, *complete the ADS COVID-19 form “I have symptoms and/or I have tested positive for COVID” found on TEAMS and contact the Executive Director via phone or text at the provided contact phone number.* The school nurses will be in contact with you for further discussion and guidance.

In the event of an in-school exposure to COVID-19, staff will be sent home following the awareness of the exposure.

For all COVID-19 tests only rapid and PCR tests will be accepted. NO HOME TEST WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Archbishop Damiano School will exercise the following quarantine guidelines:

- **Staff who test positive-** Must quarantine for 10 days.
- **Staff who are close contacts who are *UP TO DATE* with immunizations and ASYMPTOMATIC:**
 - Do not have to quarantine
 - Test after day 5 of the exposure.
 - If the test result is positive, a 10-day quarantine is necessary.
 - Should monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, will be required to quarantine.
- **Staff who are close contact but *NOT UP TO DATE* with immunizations and will wear a mask 100% of time:**
 - Must quarantine for 5 days.
 - Should monitor for symptoms and report to the school nurse.
 - Can test after day 5 of exposure.
 - If the test result is positive, a 10-day quarantine is necessary.
 - If test negative and there are no symptoms- can return on day 6 (only when a negative and a copy of the negative test result has been received by the nurse.)

ALL staff must wear a mask 100% of the time from days 6-10 and eat lunch 6 ft away from other staff.

All test results can be emailed to the School Nurse or sent via fax. No staff member will be permitted to return in the above circumstances, unless the test results have been received by the school nurse.

Up to Date:

You are **up to date** with your COVID-19 vaccines when you have received all doses in the primary series and all boosters recommended for you, when eligible.

- Vaccine recommendations are different depending on your age, the vaccine you first received, and time since last dose.
 - Individuals 50 years and older should have a 2nd booster at least 4 months after receiving their 1st booster
 - Individuals ages 12 and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised should receive a 2nd booster at least 4 months after receiving their 1st booster.
 - Individuals under the age of 50 should have their 1st booster 5 months after their initial vaccine series.

Please consult your doctor for recommendations of vaccine based on health conditions.

For more information about up to date, visit: www.cdc.gov

Reference: [Stay Up to Date with Your COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)