

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

September 27, 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)](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/PH_Recommendations_K-12_Childcare_Camp.pdf) (August 29, 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 as a consistent platform for learning. Due to the nature of the shortened quarantine timeframe, remote/virtual learning will only be provided when a student is required to be excluded from school for longer than 5 days. Following the request for remote learning, a grace period of about 48 hours may be required to get the student fully connected. Students will be recorded as absent in instances where remote/virtual learning does not occur. A note will be attached in the daily electronic attendance system indicating the student is absent as a result of being excluded from school.

# *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Requirements*

## Staff:

* All staff are required to use wear a facemask during working hours.
* Staff may wear a surgical or a triple ply cloth mask.

**Students:**

* Students are encouraged to wear facemasks, unless doing so would inhibit the student’s health.
* The use of facemasks 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.
* **After returning from a 5-day exclusion from school, students will be encouraged to wear a well-fitting mask during days 6-10.**
* Parents will complete a form to indicate their wishes for their child to wear a facemask or refrain from wearing a mask in school.

## 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.

## *Exposure/Exclusion*

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 with 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. A school nurse will return your call during working hours. Archbishop Damiano School has a limited supply of COVID-19 home test kits. You may request a test kit if necessary.

**You may contact the nurses at 856-812-6030 Ext 1180 or email** [**adsnurses@adsschool.org**](mailto:adsnurses@adsschool.org)

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 to share this information. It is imperative that the school be informed of this information for the safety of the ADS community.

Archbishop Damiano School will exercise the following exposure/exclusion guidelines:

* **Students who are positive with COVID-19** -
  + Must be excluded for 5 full days after the onset of symptoms or if asymptomatic after the positive test (day of symptoms is day 0; if asymptomatic, day the test was performed is day 0) **if student can wear a mask in school.**
  + If the student is **unable to wear a mask**, the exclusion timeframe is 10 days.
  + If student does not have symptoms or symptoms are resolving after 5 days and are fever-free (without use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours, he/she can return to school AND wear a mask while in school (if possible) for days 6-10.

**All COVID-19 tests will be accepted. (Rapid, PCR, and Home Test) We cannot accept results from an antibody test. Text all positive test results to 856-244-4160. In the text message indicate:  
 -Your child’s name  
 -Date symptoms started  
 -Date of positive test result**

**Students who are exposed to someone with COVID-19**

* + Exclusion from school is no longer recommended for students who are exposed to   
    COVID-19
  + Exposed students, regardless of vaccination status, are strongly recommended to get tested 5 full days after exposure, on day 6. If test is positive, they must follow isolation procedures.
* Should monitor for symptoms for 10 days.
* Students will be encouraged to wear a mask for 10 days (when possible.)

While supplies last, parents can request a COVID-19 Home Testing Kit from the school nurses.

**Staff:**

If a staff member presents with 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 and contact the school nurses for further discussion and guidance. A nurse will reach out to you during working hours. Archbishop Damiano School has a limited supply of COVID-19 home test kits. You may request a test kit if necessary.

**You may contact the nurses at 856-812-6030 Ext 1180 or email** [**adsnurses@adsschool.org**](mailto:adsnurses@adsschool.org)

Archbishop Damiano School will exercise the following quarantine guidelines:

* **Staff who are positive with COVID-19-** 
  + Must be excluded for 5 full days after the onset of symptoms or if asymptomatic after the positive test (day of symptoms is day 0; if asymptomatic, day the test was performed is day 0)
  + If staff does not have symptoms or symptoms are resolving after 5 days and are fever-free (without use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours, can return to school AND continue to where a mask during working hours for days 6-10.

**All COVID-19 tests will be accepted. (Rapid, PCR, and Home Test) We cannot accept results from an antibody test. Text all positive test results to 856-244-4160. In the text message indicate:  
 -Your name  
 -Date symptoms started  
 -Date of positive test result**

**For home tests, place a copy of your Archbishop Damiano identification badge next to your home test result.**

* **Staff who are exposed to someone with COVID-19** 
  + Exclusion is no longer recommended for staff who are exposed to   
    COVID-19
  + Exposed staff, regardless of vaccination status, are strongly recommended to get tested 5 full days after exposure, on day 6. If test is positive, they must follow isolation procedures.
* Should monitor for symptoms for 10 days.

While supplies last, staff can request a COVID-19 Home Testing Kit from the school nurses.

All staff will receive a notification email when an in-school exposure or positive COVID-19 case occurs. Due to privacy laws, details and specific information of the positive case or exposure cannot be shared.

***Notification:***

All parents/guardians/staff members in the affected classroom and the whole school (depending on the situation & severity) will be notified when an in-school exposure occurs. Confidentiality and privacy will be maintained.

***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](http://www.cdc.gov)   
Reference: [Stay Up to Date with Your COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html#:%7E:text=CDC%20recommends%20COVID%2D19%20vaccines,%2D19%20vaccines%2C%20including%20boosters.)