

**Immaculate Heart of Mary School COVID-19 STUDENT POLICIES
2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR**

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

In order to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and to help prevent its spread, the following policy will be in place during the 2021-2022 school year or until further notice. 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 attending school. This policy is subject to change as circumstances change.

1. **Consider Vaccination for Eligible Children.** Parents are strongly encouraged to consider having their eligible children vaccinated when recommended by the child's health care provider.
2. **Daily Health Check at Home.** Prior to coming to school each and every day, parents shall conduct a health check of their child, including, but not limited to, temperature taking, to assess whether the child is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms include:
 - i. Fever of over 100 °F
 - ii. Chills
 - iii. Cough
 - iv. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - v. Fatigue
 - vi. Muscle or body aches
 - vii. Headache
 - viii. New loss of taste or smell
 - ix. Sore throat
 - x. Congestion or runny nose
 - xi. Nausea or vomiting
 - xii. Diarrhea
 - xiii. Repeated shaking with chills

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>.

3. **Students Experiencing Illness.** If a student has 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), they may not come to school and the school must be notified. If a student becomes ill while at school, they may not remain at school and must be picked up and taken home at the earliest opportunity. Any student who has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 may not return to school until such student meets the local county health authority's criteria for returning to school.
4. **Students Exposed to COVID-19.** If a student is exposed to COVID-19, the parent must notify the school and the student will be expected to follow all guidance of the local county health authorities.
5. **Hygiene.** Students are expected to cover all coughs and sneezes with either a tissue or their elbow. 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 hygiene and 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>.
6. **Social Distancing.** To the extent reasonably possible and when instructed, students must practice social distancing by maintaining at least 3 feet of space between students while inside.

7. **Face Masks and Coverings.** While students are not required to wear face masks or coverings, face masks or coverings are strongly encouraged by the Ohio Department of Health for children older than 2 years old while indoor at school or at crowded outdoor settings, except for individuals who cannot safely wear a mask. To be effective, face masks should cover the nose, mouth, and chin of the student and should be made of cloth. **Please note that the decision to mask or not is a decision of the student's parent or guardian. You understand and agree that the school cannot guarantee and shall not be responsible for ensuring that a student complies with any masking or face covering instructions of his or her parent or guardian.**

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 Immaculate Heart of Mary School ("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 student 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 outlined in this policy may reduce possible exposure to and risk of contracting a communicable disease, the possibility of contracting a disease, including those that could cause 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.

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: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

Student(s) Signature: _____

Date: _____