



August 13, 2021

Updated August 19, 2021

An exciting new school year is almost upon us. Roncalli Catholic Schools is already preparing for back-to-school by taking a close look at our COVID-19 health and safety protocols. The upcoming year will look a little different than last and an inch closer to a more normal school experience. As always we remain firmly committed to providing for the academic, spiritual, and social-emotional needs of our students through in-person instruction.

We want to thank everybody that completed the survey last week. We had 355 families of the possible 485 complete the survey meaning 73% of our RCS families took the survey. From the survey we were able to see the following:

- 59% have been vaccinated.
- 25% of students ages 12 and older were reported to have been vaccinated.
- 34% of families did not receive the vaccine.
- 65% of families of those surveyed were in favor of voluntary mask-wearing.

Please review the following information regarding how our schools will function this fall. It is important to note that most of our COVID-19 protocols have been recommended by the Diocese of Green Bay. The diocese has also given us the flexibility to make local decisions related to the implementation of our COVID-19 protocols.

Roncalli Catholic Schools is looking forward to welcoming your students back into our classrooms and kicking off another great school year on Thursday, August 26, 2021. See you soon!

### **Learning Models**

- Students will attend school five days a week, in person. When learning virtually, students are expected to follow the daily classroom schedule.
  - If a student will not be attending virtually because of COVID, parents are expected to call the absence into the office.
- With the proof of a positive COVID-19 test, students will be offered the option to learn online. Please communicate any COVID-related situations with the building principal as soon as possible to make arrangements.
- Students will not be placed into their classrooms virtually for typical, short-term absences.

### **Vaccinations**

- The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is available for individuals 12 years and older. Proof of vaccination will not be required of students or staff to attend school/work.
- The decision to vaccinate your child is between you and your healthcare professional.

- If you are interested in learning more about vaccinations please click on this [link](#) for more information.

### **COVID-19 Dashboard**

- Roncalli Catholic Schools will continue to have a COVID-19 dashboard on our website to keep track of COVID-19 positive cases in each one of our schools. This dashboard will be updated every Friday by 4 p.m.

### **Quarantine**

- Parents will be notified if their student has a classmate or is in contact with a staff member who tests positive for COVID-19.
- Asymptomatic close contacts will not be required to quarantine. Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within 2 days prior to illness onset, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask.
- COVID symptomatic individuals need to quarantine for 10 days, regardless of vaccination status.
- Individuals who have a COVID-19 positive household member or were a close contact outside of school will be required to do one of the following quarantines from the last contact with the positive case.
  - If an individual is symptomatic and chooses not to get tested, the individual is required to quarantine for 10 or 14 days and return to school on day 11 or 15 of quarantine.
  - Fully vaccinated **and** asymptomatic individuals have no need to quarantine.
  - Proof of a positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test or a confirmed antigen rapid test is required. We will not accept at-home COVID-19 test results.

### **Face Coverings/Masks**

- At this time, mask-wearing is optional for all RCS students and staff.
- All individuals will be treated with dignity and respect regardless of masking decisions. We will work to support the family decision to ensure students feel comfortable in the classroom environment.
- A parent wanting students to be masked while at school is asked to communicate their wish to the respective building principal.
- **Masking protocols will be monitored and evaluated regularly based on the infection rates within our school and the local community.**
- Per Diocese of Green Bay policy, any school with over 10% of the student body testing positive for COVID-19 must wear masks. Masks will be required until the school achieves an infection rate of less than 5%.
- Additionally, we will amend masking protocols based on health data within our schools and other local circumstances.
- The exception, in accordance with **federal** law, is that students must wear masks that cover both the mouth and nose when traveling on any school bus.

### **Cleaning & Disinfecting**

- High-touch surfaces will be disinfected, regularly.
- All school entrances and classrooms will have hand sanitizer for student and staff use.
- Deep cleaning will be continued on a regular basis.
- Disinfection and cleaning will continue. A hospital-grade disinfectant is used throughout our schools.

## **General Good Hygiene Practice For All Staff and Students**

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer, especially after eating, using the bathroom, and touching frequently used items or surfaces.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to practice personal health hygiene, including covering coughs and sneezes into a tissue or the inside of your elbow, washing hands, and staying home when sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Staff members will disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- Drinking fountains are limited to self-fill stations. Students are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles.

## **School Health Guidelines:**

When a child leaves school due to illness or because of an appointment, **parents must sign the child out** in the school office and **sign the child back in** upon return to school.

Parents are expected to call the school no later than 9:00 a.m. to excuse the child. If the parent does not contact the school by this time, the school secretary will contact the parent at home or work. Please notify the school as soon as possible if there will be an extended absence because of illness. If a call to the office is not made by 9:00 a.m., the day of the absence, it will be considered an unexcused absence.

Students will be sent home if they report or if we have observed the student presenting signs and symptoms of illness as listed but limited to the symptoms below. In an effort to keep our entire school community safe, we asked you to promptly pick him/her up from school. **Your student may only return when they prove to be symptom-free and fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medications) for a minimum of 24 hours.** When you pick your student up from school, you will be handed a form indicating the date and time of eligible return. If your students arrive at school before that specified time, they will not be able to enter the building.

- Persistent cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Fever (greater than 100.4)
- New or atypical headaches
- Chills
- New unexplained muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Recent, sudden loss of sense of smell or taste
- Gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea
- Congestion or runny nose

## **Athletics**

- As a member of the Eastern Wisconsin Conference (EWC), established protocols for the execution of our athletic programs have been given to keep students safe in these events. We will provide details to the individual sport's participants and parents as they become available.

## **Visitor Policy**

- Using the protocols established in each building, visitors and volunteers will once again be allowed into our schools. Please note, per the Diocese of Green Bay policy, if the COVID-19 rate in Manitowoc County is at *Moderately High* or greater, visitors and guests will not be allowed in Roncalli Catholic Schools. This includes volunteers. When our county rate is at *Moderate* or lower, visitors, volunteers and guests may return.

- In an effort to reduce traffic throughout the school, the office staff will again meet you at the door when you buzz for assistance.
- Please communicate with a phone call or email for questions or concerns you may have whenever possible.
- If you need to pick up your child early, please send a note or call the respective school office.
- When arriving at school, the office team will send your child out or bring your child to you.
- Doors will remain locked until the end of the day. Please designate a meeting place outside rather than in the school.
- If you need to meet with a staff member, please email or call that person and set up a time/date to meet.
- Families are always welcome to attend school masses. Protocols for masses and liturgical celebrations will follow the guidelines of our parish.

### **Other Logistics**

- Social distancing will not be required, nor will individual school groups refrain from interactions with other cohorts.
- At this time, we are not limiting group sizes for either small or large events.
- Thanks to funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), regular school meals (breakfast and lunch) will continue to be provided free of charge to all students, however, it is extremely important to fill out the free/reduced meal application to continue to receive discounted services, like school activities and home internet service (upon qualification).

We realize that not everyone will agree with all of the decisions, but we ask for your patience as we work to balance both the physical health of our community with the spiritual, emotional, and academic well-being of the young people we are called to serve.

We would also like to ask each of us to set a Christian example towards one another and for our children. Please continue to show respect and compassion for all regardless of their opinions and positions on important issues.

Please know that we appreciate your prayers as we continue to partner with our families and care for your children.

May God bless you and your families!



John Stelzer  
Roncalli President

Fran Peter  
RHS Principal

Steve Thiele  
RMS Principal



Adrienne Lundy  
RES Principal