



Trinity Catholic Academy
Teaching During a Pandemic Plan
2021 -- 2022



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Dear Trinity Families,

The “Teaching During a Pandemic” handbook has been updated to reflect Phase II, mask mandate removal. It also includes changes to the quarantine protocols. Trinity will now be participating in the TCA Test and Stay procedure. You will find the consent form attached, please return it with your child by Monday, April 11, 2022. Participating in the TCA Test and Stay protocol is optional. We strongly encourage unvaccinated students to participate as they are not exempt from quarantining protocols. This means unvaccinated students will need to quarantine for 5 days if they are a close contact.

We have seen an increase in positive cases since the removal of masks. Our goal continues to be to keep our students and staff as safe as possible. It is important to note that this plan is a **living document** that may need to be altered depending on circumstances that develop.

There is nothing more precious to us than our Trinity community, and we remain committed to making Trinity Catholic Academy a safe, healthy, and thriving environment for our students and faculty.

Mrs. Angela Symock

Principal, Trinity Catholic Academy

“Education is the foundation upon which we build our future.” -C. Gregoire

The “Teaching During a Pandemic” plan has been developed as a result of the 2020-2021 Re-Opening plan with changes that take into consideration the newest guidance issued by DESE, CDC, and the local Health Department.

The “Teaching During a Pandemic” plan is an addendum to TCA’s Parent/Student Handbook for the school year 2021—2022. In signing the handbook agreement, parents and students accept the contents of the handbook and this Teaching During a Pandemic document.

Protocol updates effective 4/11/22. Items that are no longer impacted by COVID-19 protocols have been removed. Please refer to the Parent/Student handbook.

Following is a listing of topics and our approach to each:

Entering the Building

- Face masks are **no longer** required to be worn.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided and must be used upon arrival.
- Physical distancing of 3 ft is encouraged.

Tardy Students/Early Dismissals

Please follow the protocol if you are picking up or dropping off your child:

- Upon ringing the doorbell, please state that you are dropping off or picking up your child.
- School personnel will sign your child in or out.
- If your child is young, school personnel will walk them down to the door or meet them at the door.
- Please refrain from entering the building.

Physical Distancing

Last year our classrooms were reconfigured so that there was ample room for students to be distanced by 6 feet. DESE and CDC guidance continues to indicate physical distancing is important but can now range from 3-6 ft. It is our intention to follow the 3 ft. rule in the interest of safety for our students, faculty, and staff.

DESE and the CDC have also recommended keeping students in **cohorts** as much as possible. For example, each grade is its own **cohort**. If the mixing of cohorts is needed, as for morning prayer, a combined class or indoor recess, students within the cohort will be distanced at the 3 ft.

Masks

In reviewing the guidance from DESE, in conjunction with the CDC and the recommendations of public health officials, **masks are optional. We do recommend unvaccinated students continue to wear a mask when less than 3 feet apart.**

- Masks are to be provided by a student's family. TCA will have disposable adult size and child size masks on hand in case a student forgets theirs or their mask becomes soiled during the day, as with a productive sneeze or cough.
- Masks may be of varying colors and designs. They may be cloth masks or disposable—masks with valves are not allowed.
- Cloth masks must be changed and laundered every day. The same mask is not to be worn more than one day.

Classrooms

- Upon entering the classroom, students will use hand sanitizer. It is available for use at any time it is needed or wanted.
- All desks will be arranged to allow for 3 ft of distance between students and students. Many classrooms have been set up this way in the past, not making it entirely unfamiliar.
- Windows and doors will be open to allow for air flow—weather permitting.
- Students in grades 5-8 will once again rotate to classes. They'll travel to class 3 ft apart and hand sanitize before entering the classroom. Desks will be cleaned in between classes.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Hand sanitizer will be available in all spaces throughout the building.
- Hand sanitizing protocols will be discussed and reinforced with students.
- Desks/tables/chairs in the cafeteria, media center, and classrooms will be disinfected between classes.
- Shared equipment will be cleaned both before and after use. This includes copy machines, physical education equipment, computer keyboards and mouses, preschool toys, etc.
- Disinfectant wipes will be used before snack and lunch to clean the desk surface, as well as hand sanitizer. Hand washing will be encouraged when hands are too soiled for the sanitizer alone and certainly after use of the restroom.
- A log of cleaning and disinfecting actions will be kept.
- This is a living document. Cleaning/disinfecting protocols may be added/changed as the need arises.

Remote Learning

TCA will not be offering the option of remote learning while school is in session in person. Remote learning would take place only during a school closure. *School closure means prolonged school closure as a directive of local or state order. School closure also means snow day or emergency closing.*

Teachers/students will be using Google Classroom as the platform for remote learning. It will be used for certain tasks during in person learning as well.

The remote handbook is located on our website.

Travel Policy -(CDC updated 02/21/2022)

Domestic Travel:

Due to the continued concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the state and the country, we have made the decision to establish a Trinity Catholic Academy travel policy in accordance with guidance from the local Board of Health, DESE and the CDC. There will be no exceptions made to this updated policy—which may be revisited at any point in time depending upon outside conditions.

If you intend on traveling out of state, please contact the school prior to your trip so that we may verify the travel risk of that state. Any unvaccinated student, teacher or staff who travels to a **high-risk** state as determined by Massachusetts will be required to be tested no sooner than 3 days after returning to Massachusetts and self-quarantine for 7 days. The 3 days will start from the **day and time** of arrival in Massachusetts. Written results must be reported to our Nurse, Nadine Casey. If the result is negative and after the 7 days, the person will be allowed to return to school the following day. If positive, the person must quarantine for 10 days beyond the date of the test, returning on day 11.

International Travel:

We will continue to follow the CDC recommendations for international travel. Any student, teacher or staff who travels internationally will be required to be tested no sooner than 3 days after returning to Massachusetts and self-quarantine for 7 days. The 3 days will start from the **day and time** of arrival in Massachusetts. Written results must be reported to our Nurse, Nadine Casey. If the result is negative and after the 7 days, the person will be allowed to return to school the following day. If positive, the person must quarantine for 10 days beyond the date of the test, returning on day 11.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Domestic Travel RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS	Not Vaccinated		Fully Vaccinated	
Get tested 1-3 days before travel	✓			
Get tested 3-5 days after travel and self-quarantine for 7 days. Self-quarantine for 10 days if you don't get tested.	✓			
Self-monitor for symptoms	✓		✓	
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	✓		✓	

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

International Travel RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS	Not Vaccinated		Fully Vaccinated	
Get tested 1-3 days before traveling out of the US	✓			
Mandatory test required before flying to US	✓		✓	
Get tested 3-5 days after travel	✓		✓	
Self-quarantine after travel for 7 days with a negative test or 10 days without test	✓			
Self-monitor for symptoms	✓		✓	
Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel	✓		✓	

Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios

The following protocols are taken directly from the DESE guidance updated document issued on March 3, 2022. These sources can be checked on the DESE website at [COVID-19 Information and Resources - Student and Family Support \(SFS\) \(mass.edu\)](#). At this time Trinity will adopt a Test and Stay method of COVID testing.

Section 1: Key definitions

This section outlines the list of COVID-19 symptoms, provides the definition of a close contact, and outlines situations where close contacts are exempt from COVID-19 testing and quarantine response protocols including isolation, quarantine, and Test and Stay.

COVID-19 symptoms

Below is the full list of symptoms for which caregivers should monitor their children, and staff should monitor themselves. ¹

At this time, based on the advice of public health officials and medical experts, DESE and DPH are revising the symptoms list to align with DPH [statewide guidance](#). While previous guidance provided a differentiated symptoms list for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, the new symptoms list below applies to all individuals, regardless of vaccination status. Individuals who experience any symptoms on the list below should follow the testing and quarantine response protocol for symptomatic individuals (Protocol C) as outlined in Section 2 of this document. Please note that, consistent with the DPH [Public Health Advisory Regarding COVID-19 Testing](#), these protocols have been adjusted to recommend, but not require, a COVID-19 test to return to school.

COVID-19 symptoms list:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Sore throat, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Fatigue, *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

If your child is exhibiting any of these COVID symptoms, please contact the office/nurse so we can monitor and ensure the safety of the community.

Definition of a close contact

Close contacts are defined as individuals who have been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual while indoors, for at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period.

Please note that the at-risk exposure time begins 48 hours prior to symptom onset (or time of positive test if asymptomatic) and continues until the time the COVID-19 positive individual is isolated. In general, close contacts should follow the testing and quarantine response protocols in Section 2 of this document.

However, certain close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols as noted below.

Close contacts who are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols

The following close contacts are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols:

- **Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated⁴ close contacts:** Individuals who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Masked close contacts in classrooms and on buses:** An individual who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, or on the bus, while both individuals were masked, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days:** An individual who has been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:
 - The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness AND
 - The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.

Section 2: Recommended testing and quarantine response protocols

This section outlines testing and quarantine response protocols for individuals – students and staff – who test positive for COVID-19, close contacts who are not exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols, and symptomatic individuals. Each scenario outlines the duration of any recommended quarantine or isolation, the conditions to be met in order for the individual to return to school, and any additional considerations.

Overview of Protocol Categories:

- Protocol A: For individuals who test positive for COVID-19
- Protocol B: Protocol for asymptomatic close contacts
- Protocol C: Protocol for symptomatic individuals

Protocol A: For individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Protocol A for individuals who test positive

- **Duration:** Self-isolation for COVID-19 positive cases is a minimum of 5 days after symptom onset or after positive PCR or antigen test, if asymptomatic.
- **Return to school:** After 5 days⁵ and once they have:
 - Been without fever for 24 hours (and without taking fever-reducing medications)
 - Experienced improvement in other symptoms.
 - Following the 5-day isolation period, individuals must mask for 5 additional days when around others, other than when eating, drinking, or outside.
- **Note:** Return to school should be based on time and symptom resolution. Testing during isolation to return to school is not required.

Per CDC:

If You Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.

If you have a bad cough, continue to stay home until your cough resolves.

Protocol B: Protocol for asymptomatic close contacts

Individuals may still be identified as close contacts outside of school settings (e.g., as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 in their household). Individuals who test positive are encouraged to notify their close contacts. In these cases:

- While in school settings (including for sports and extracurriculars), asymptomatic vaccinated individuals remain exempt from testing and quarantine protocols. If an asymptomatic, vaccinated individual is identified as a close contact outside of school, they may return to school. Individuals should closely monitor for symptoms and follow Protocol C if they experience symptoms listed in Section 1.
- **Unvaccinated individuals** who are identified as close contacts outside of school settings should stay home and follow Protocol B* below prior to returning to school:

Protocol B* (New Version): Protocol for asymptomatic, unvaccinated individuals identified as close contacts outside of school settings

- **Duration:** Quarantine is at least 5 days from the date of exposure.
- **Return to School:** After 5 days, returning on day 6, provided that they:
 - Remain asymptomatic,
 - Wear a mask, other than when eating, drinking, or outside, and conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 10; and,
 - Self-isolate if symptoms develop.
- **Note:** If an individual has symptoms at the time they are designated as a close contact or within the 5 days following initial exposure, they should follow the protocol for symptomatic individuals (Protocol C). If an individual tests positive at any time, they follow the protocol for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 (Protocol A).
- For all those exposed, best practice would also include a viral test (antigen or PCR) for COVID-19 at day 5 after exposure. An antigen test may be self-administered and does not need to be proctored or performed by a healthcare professional.

Trinity is requiring students to test on day 5 after exposure and provide the nurse/office with the negative result. Antigen or PCR tests are acceptable.

Protocol B-1: Test and Stay

- **Duration of Test and Stay:** 5 days from the date of exposure
- **Return to School:** Close contacts can remain in school and do not have to quarantine, as long as they:
 - Are asymptomatic
 - Wear masks in school at all times, other than when eating, drinking, or outside. When these individuals cannot be masked (i.e., when eating or drinking) they should maintain 3 feet of distance from other individuals to the extent feasible.
 - Take a rapid antigen test (e.g., BinaxNOW) on each school day and receive a negative result. When the 5 days from date of exposure includes weekends or holidays, individuals should quarantine on weekends, and if they remain asymptomatic, upon return to school be tested immediately. If the individual remains negative, they can stay in school.
 - Conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 10, and self-isolate at home if symptoms develop.
- **Note:** If an individual has symptoms at the time they are designated as a close contact or develops symptoms during the Test and Stay period or the 10 days following initial exposure, they should follow the protocol for symptomatic individuals (Protocol C). If an individual tests positive at any time, they should follow the protocol for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 (Protocol A).

Protocol B-2: Traditional protocol (if school does not have access to rapid daily testing or family or adult individual chooses not to participate in Test and Stay)

- **Duration:** Quarantine is at least 5 days from the date of exposure
- **Return to School:** After 5 days, returning on day 6, provided that they:
 - Remain asymptomatic;
 - Wear a mask, other than when eating, drinking, or outside, and conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 10; and,
 - Self-isolate if symptoms develop.

Please see the attached consent form for your child to participate in TCA's test and stay program. Please note that students who do not participate and are considered a close contact while in school will need to follow Protocol B-2 and quarantine for at least 5 days.

Protocol C: Protocol for symptomatic individuals

Protocol C applies to vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals who experience the COVID-19 symptoms listed in Section 1 and who have not tested positive for COVID-19.

Protocol C for symptomatic individuals: Return to school post-symptoms with optional test⁸

- **Duration:** Dependent on improvement in symptoms
- **Return to School:** Individuals may return to school after they:
 - Have improvement in symptoms.
 - Have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
 - It is also recommended that individuals receive a negative PCR or antigen test result for COVID-19. An antigen test may be self-administered and does not need to be proctored or performed by a healthcare professional. For districts participating in the at-home testing option, individuals may use their district provided test for this purpose. Note: So long as the individual is not a close contact, if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis for the COVID-19-like symptoms, the individual may use this recommendation (e.g., for influenza or strep pharyngitis) in lieu of a PCR test or antigen test.
 - Best practice would also include wearing a mask until symptoms are fully resolved.
- **Please note:** If an individual has mild symptoms, the individual may be considered for testing using BinaxNOW, if available.
 - If the result is positive, they should be sent home and follow Protocol A.
 - If the result is negative, they should remain in school.

- If symptom(s) persist after a negative test, the individual may re-test within the subsequent 1-2 days. If symptoms worsen, the individual should seek medical care and be evaluated for the need for PCR testing.

See consent form below.

STUDENT CONSENT FORM FOR OPTIONAL COVID-19 TESTING

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT / GUARDIAN

Parent/Guardian Information

- *If your student has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days, they should not participate in COVID-19 testing to avoid false positives.*
- *Unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to participate in the COVID TCA Test and Stay screening.*
- *Vaccinated individuals may participate if requested.*

Parent/Guardian
Print Name:

Parent/Guardian Cell/Mobile #:

Note: results will be texted to this cell #

Parent/Guardian
Email Address:

Child/Student Information

Child/Student Print Name:

Grade Level:

Date of Birth:
(MM/DD/YYYY)

Address:

City:

Zip Code:

Consent Opt Out:

- Yes, I provide consent for my student to participate in COVID-19 testing (*please read and sign form below*)
- No, I do not provide consent for my student to participate in COVID-19 testing. (*No further action needed*)

CONSENT

By completing and submitting this form, I confirm that I am the appropriate parent, guardian, or legally authorized individual to provide consent and:

- A. I authorize collection and testing of a sample from my student for COVID-19 at school.
 - i. Student screening if considered a close contact only
- B. I understand that all sample types will be non-invasive short nasal swabs.
- C. I understand that I will be notified about the results of any individual test for COVID-19 performed on my student if positive.
- D. I understand that there is the potential for a false positive or false negative COVID-19 test result, no matter the kind of testing being performed. Given the potential for a false negative, I understand that my student should continue to follow all COVID-19 safety guidance, and follow school protocols for isolating and testing in the event the student develops symptoms of COVID-19.
- E. I understand that staff administering all COVID-19 testing have received training on safe and proper test administration. I agree that neither the test administrator nor Trinity Catholic Academy, nor any of its trustees, officers, employees, or organization sponsors are liable for any accident or injuries that may occur from participation in the COVID-19 testing program.
- F. I understand that my student **must** stay home if feeling unwell. I acknowledge that a positive **individual** test result is an indication that my student must stay home from school, self-isolate, and continue wearing a mask or face covering as directed in an effort to avoid infecting others.

- G. I understand the school system is not acting as my student's medical provider, this testing does not replace treatment by my student's medical provider, and I assume complete and full responsibility to take appropriate action with regards to my student's test results. I agree I will seek medical advice, care and treatment from my student's medical provider if I have questions or concerns, or if their condition worsens. I understand I am financially responsible for any care my student receives from their healthcare provider.
- H. I understand that COVID-19 testing may create protected health information (PHI) and other personally identifiable information of the student, and such information will only be accessed, used, and disclosed in accordance with HIPAA and applicable law. Pursuant to 45 CFR 164.524(c)(3), I authorize and direct the testing provider to transmit such PHI to my student's school.
- I. I understand that authorizing these COVID-19 tests for my student is optional and that I can refuse to give this authorization, in which case, my student will not be tested.
- J. I understand that I can change my mind and cancel this permission at any time, but that such cancellation is forward-looking only, and will not affect information previously released. To cancel this permission for COVID-19 testing, I need to contact Mrs. Angela Symock.

I, the undersigned, have been informed about the COVID-19 test purpose, procedures, possible benefits and risks, and I have received a copy of this Informed Consent. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions before I sign, and I have been told that I can ask additional questions at any time. I voluntarily agree to this testing for COVID-19 for my student.

Signature of Parent/ Guardian:		Date:
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