



# ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

## SECRETARIAT FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

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### OFFICE FOR CATECHETICAL FORMATION

TO: Pastors & Parochial Administrators  
Directors/Coordinators of Religious Education

FROM: Rev. Stephen P. DeLacy, Vicar and Colleen L. Lindsey, Director

CC: Most Reverend Michael J. Fitzgerald and Dr. Andrew McLaughlin

DATE: August 29, 2022

RE: Covid-19 Best Practices for Parish Religious Education Programs: In-person Instruction

As in the past, the OCF is represented on the Catholic Schools Coronavirus Task Force which makes policy or gives guidance in accordance with the CDC guidelines and strategies which best protect the students both in Catholic Elementary Schools and PREP in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Although the Coronavirus is still present and contagious, the availability of new treatments, vaccines and testing have changed the protocols from even a year ago. Lessons were learned during the pandemic, and the following best practices should be followed:

- Children or adults exhibiting symptoms of COVID should not attend PREP. He/she:
  - may not return to PREP before the 6<sup>th</sup> day from the day of the positive test.
  - is required to wear a mask if within the 6-10-day period from the day of the positive test.
  - children or adults who come into close contact with a positive case may attend PREP with a mask.
  - please communicate to parents/guardians via email or letter.
- Ventilation reduces the risk of spreading germs and contaminates through the air. To the greatest extent possible, open windows and doors.
- Hand Washing: washing hands can prevent the spread of infectious diseases—reinforce hand hygiene to the greatest extent possible.
- Emphasize covering coughs and sneezes to help keep individuals from getting and spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

- Enhanced cleaning of desk and chair surfaces of desk greatly reduce the spread of germs and should be cleaned before and after PREP.
- If you share a building with a Catholic Elementary School, please discuss the above best practices and others that may be specific to your situation with the school principal.

At the time of this writing, social distancing and masking are no longer required and optional with the exception of the aforementioned masking protocol.

Finally, you are strongly urged to monitor your local county/city recommendations and protocols throughout the academic year. If we are informed of any changes or added guidance to the above, the Directors/Coordinators of Religious Education will be notified of these changes immediately via email.