

Dear Parents:

The governor has asked that each school or district to clarify three parts of their re-opening plan. These are: **testing protocols, tracing protocols, and remote learning/equity issues**. Below are the explanations of each of these components.

Also on this website, you can find the re-opening plan for Holy Cross School, which I know many of you have read already.

In addition to the parent-friendly version of our opening plan, our full NYS re-opening plan is also here, if you click on the “For Parents” tab.

As always, feel free to call me (315) 446-4890 or email me ([rmccrone@syrdiocese.org](mailto:rmccrone@syrdiocese.org)) with any questions at all.

## **School Reopening COVID-19**

### **Testing Protocol (from County Health Department)**

- **Prior to the opening of school:**
  - To mitigate risk of infection and to ensure that schools reopen safely, schools will offer voluntary testing opportunities in partnership with Onondaga County. This proactive testing will be available for all school staff at mobile testing sites throughout the County. These sites will be appointment based. In addition to staff, high school students will also be given the opportunity to be tested.
  
- **On-Going Testing:**
  - Once schools are open, there will be specific protocol in place for instances where positive cases have been identified.

- When a positive case has been identified, those who should be tested will be identified by the contact tracers of the Health Department and will be directed to schedule a test through the school's website portal.
- **Surveillance Testing:**
  - To further promote safety and prevent COVID-19 spread, it will be appropriate to perform random saliva-based surveillance testing during the school year. This method of surveillance testing is approved by the New York State Department of Health.
  - Pools of approximately 12 staff and students will be tested using the saliva protocol. Should the pool show the presence of COVID-19 everyone in the pool will need to have a diagnostic test performed.

## **School Reopening COVID-19**

### **Tracing Protocol (from County Health Department)**

- Once a lab-confirmed case has been reported to the Onondaga County Health Department (OCHD)
- A staff person (case investigator) from OCHD will contact the person who has a confirmed case and, in the case of a student, their parent/guardian.
- The OCHD will interview the person with the confirmed case and identify contacts.

- School personnel will assist the health department in identifying any specifics pertaining to the exposure.
- The person with the confirmed case will be put in isolation for 10 days.
- Release from isolation can only be granted by the OCHD.
- A contact tracer will interview all contacts
- All contacts of a person with a confirmed case will be interviewed to determine exposure risk.
- A 14-day quarantine will be issued by contact tracer for all close contacts of the person with the confirmed case.
- Quarantine process
- Those directed to quarantine will be monitored by contact tracers for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Contacts who develop symptoms will become a Person Under Investigation (PUI) and are referred for testing and further investigation.
- Positive tests for PUI are reported to the OCHD, and the process begins again.
- Release from quarantine can only be granted by the OCHD.
- Guidance from the OCHD on a school closure related to a positive case
- School closure depends on the rate of infection in the community.

- Closure will occur with the consultation and guidance of the OCHD and can vary depending on the situation:
- One such example is if there are two separate, and seemingly unrelated, cases in two different classrooms of the same building.

## **School Reopening COVID-19 Technology and Equity Protocol**

- Parents at Holy Cross may choose remote learning as an option.
- Parents who choose remote learning may re-evaluate and their children may re-enter Holy Cross after each marking period.
- Teachers will “go live” for parts of their day. To start, they will be live for math whole group instruction, ELA (English Language Arts) whole group instruction, and religion/morning meeting/community building whole group instruction.
- Teachers will also check in, interact with, and get to know their “on line” students. They will assign, collect, and evaluate work from these students as well.
- We will look to add other subjects (some special areas, social studies, and science) once the year is started.
- Students will be connected with their Chromebooks from school or their own devices from home.
- Teachers will use “Google Classroom” as the platform for on-line instruction.

- Families without Internet access will be asked to call the school so we can work together on a solution.