

July 2020

My Dearest Parents,

I want to give you an update on our Infection Prevention Plan (IPP) for the 2020-2021 school year. To address questions and concerns from teachers, parents, and principals (and keeping CDC and MDE guidelines in mind), the Diocese of Biloxi recently developed guidelines for creating the infection prevention protocols for each school. Once the guidelines were approved, elementary principals from the diocesan schools met to discuss the infection prevention protocols for our campuses. Through a discussion of scenarios in a typical school day and a review of several plans, the group decided to take a leveled approach to our IPP. We believe that a multi-tiered plan, with adequate health measures, covers most scenarios and provides the best protection for our students.

Each tier focuses on PREVENTION as an essential way to avoid an outbreak. We are pleased to add several protocols to our daily routines, as well as upgrades to our sanitation measures throughout our campus. If the risk of infections rises, we will elevate our sanitation and distancing efforts.

Our IPP takes into consideration our students' academic and social experiences. School has always been a fun, safe, and loving environment. We want to maintain what makes us unique. We do not wish to enforce overwhelming restrictions, but we will do what we must in the best interest of our students and their families. **In evaluating the current risk level of our community, we have decided to start the year on Level 2.** We have included Level 3 which would be used in the event of an escalation. This level keeps students *firmly* within their homeroom class in the event of an outbreak. Their homeroom would become their school "family." They would learn, eat, and play with their family to reduce interactions with other students and restrict the use of common areas. There is no need for distancing or face masks within our school family unless an outbreak occurs.

Levels 4 and 5 of our IPP are precautionary only. We will use every available resource and square foot of our campus to ensure that we can remain open unless mandated otherwise. We know that being on campus provides the best experience for our students, but their health and safety will always be a top priority for our diocese. Technology will be utilized as needed this year in various platforms depending upon the grade level, as it was during the spring 2019 closure. At any point in the year, we can video lessons for student delivery and have them available as needed. In the event we reach Level 4 or 5 of our IPP, our students and teachers will be ready for a seamless transition; the curriculum will continue to be taught through video lessons and other resources.

Please review the St. Alphonsus Infection Prevention Plan that is attached. I will soon have this information and more on our website. With Our Lord Jesus Christ lighting the way, I am confident that we will all have a successful year. COVID-19 may have created new challenges for us, but through the Holy Spirit's intervention, we are prepared! Please do not hesitate to email me at dallen@stal.org with any questions or concerns you may have.

Blessings and Peace,

Deacon David W. Allen

Principal
St. Alphonsus Catholic School

St. Alphonsus Catholic School 2020-2021 Infection Prevention Plan

ST. ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL	Level 1 Standard Precautions	Level 2 Elevated Precautions	Level 3 Homeroom Grouping	Level 4 Blended Learning/Hybrid	Level 5 Virtual Learning
Criteria	Normal/low risk infection	Moderate risk of Infections, flu season, small outbreaks	Heightened risk of Infections, flu season, medium outbreaks	Government mandated capacity limits (some students in school, others out)	Government-mandated campus closure
Arrival & Dismissal	Begin intake 7:40, end 7:50; Pre-K classes enter/depart through front of school; K-6 enter/depart through back ramp entrance	Level 1 + Touch-free temp check * Alternate/staggered arrival & dismissal schedule. No escorting students to class (PK3-6th; PK2 must escort).	Level 2 + may possibly require face masks in hallways to classrooms	Same as Level 3	School campus temporarily closed
Classroom Procedures	Classroom/bathroom hard surfaces sanitized multiple times a day. Hand sanitizer near classrooms, and in common areas	Increased sanitation. Desks may be distanced. Water fountains disabled– use water bottle fillers only. No shared supplies. Frequent hand sanitation.	Level 2 + Students use designated bathrooms; Grade Levels operate as a “family” to avoid transmission.	Level 3 + Maximum sanitation throughout campus and between staggered scheduled groups in common areas; heightened social distancing protocols in place.	School campus temporarily closed Teachers on Campus in classrooms teaching virtually. (Practice all Social Distancing among Staff)
Transitional Pathways for Activity Classes (Music, P.E., etc.)	Activity Classes open. Hard surfaces sanitized between classes.	Activity Classes are open with heightened sanitation protocols and appropriate social distancing.	Level 2 + Activity teachers instruct in contained classrooms, outdoors or in alternative locations. Activity teachers may be required to wear masks	Home: Activity classes available on distance learning platform (video lessons with activities for kids to follow along) On Campus: Heightened social distancing	School Campus temporarily Closed Teachers on Campus in classrooms teaching virtually. (Practice all Social Distancing among Staff)
Cafeteria	Hand sanitation at entrance and exit. Hard surfaces sanitized between classes.	Level 1 + Increased sanitation by cafeteria and custodial staff. Social distance protocols in place for seating of classes.	Same as Level 2, OR Students will eat by homeroom in classrooms, outdoors or alternative areas.	Same as Level 3	School Campus temporarily Closed
Recess	Hand sanitation required upon entry and exit.	Level 1 + Disinfect playground equipment between classes.	Level 2+ designated play areas and equipment by homeroom	Home: Short recesses and “brain breaks” will be incorporated. School: Same as Level 3.	School Campus temporarily Closed
Mass & Multi-Grade Assemblies	Hand sanitation required upon entry and exit.	Level 1 + Mass is spread-out to two days per-week to accommodate all students.	Possibly Live Stream Mass; Keep mass at two days unless situation calls for spreading to three days per -week.	Live Stream Mass	Live Stream Mass
Volunteers, Contracted Personnel, and Visitors	Allowed with normal office check-in.	Level 1+ temperature checks Only Contracted Personnel allowed (no family, friends, etc.).	Level 2 + wear mask or shields	Level 2 + wear mask or shields	School Campus temporarily Closed

School Administration will have the discretion of alternating between levels as needed for the safety of our children. ***Alternate arrival/dismissal schedule will be publicized.**