

## FAQ – Reopening Plan 2020-2021

### **Q: Why is Sacred Heart School implementing a hybrid program?**

**A:** The most recent guidance from the CDC strongly recommends 6 foot distancing at all times. Moving to a hybrid model, with fully virtual learning being offered ensures smaller class sizes while Berks County is in the “moderate” zone. We believe this is the safest choice at this time for our students, their families and our staff members.

### **Q: Can my family switch between the hybrid model (or in-person when we return to that model) and virtual learning?**

**A:** Families may switch to virtual learning at any time. Students may re-enter the hybrid or in-person model at the beginning of each trimester. Prior to two weeks to returning, families may request a switch.

### **Q: But what if my child needs to stay home due to sickness, exposure, quarantine, etc?**

**A:** If a student who has selected hybrid or in-person instruction needs to stay home because they or someone in their family have been exposed to COVID, they can immediately join virtual learning. You would need to contact your child’s teacher and Mrs. Napolitano to inform them. You child can return to hybrid or in-person learning after following the return to school protocol after exposure.

### **Q: When do I have to make a decision?**

**A:** We recognize that the decision for hybrid (or in-person) or virtual learning may be unique for each child in your family. You are able to select the learning option that best fits each child’s learning preference. We ask that you let us know your preference by Monday, August 17 if you are choosing the fully virtual option.

### **Q: What will hybrid and virtual learning look like?**

**A:** The school day will mirror a typical day in a classroom. All students (whether virtual or in-person) will be learning together at the same time and then be provided time to work independently. Unless there is a transition to distance learning (meaning everyone learning 100% virtually) lessons will be live. In addition, we are exploring opportunities for safe collaboration among virtual and in-person students.

### **Q: What if my child needs to be absent from virtual learning due to sickness, a doctor’s appointment, etc?**

**A:** The procedure for reporting your child’s absence will be the same whether they are virtual or in-person. Parents/guardians should call the school office (610-373-3316) between 7:30 and 8:00 AM to report an absence or to notify us of an appointment. Teachers should also be sent an email.

### **Q: Does my child have to wear a face covering all day?**

**A:** Students will be require to war a face covering. They will be permitted to remove it outdoors (if a class moves to outside for instruction or recess) when they can safely socially distance.

**Q: Can students wear masks that have phrases, images or patterns on them?**

**A:** Our preference is that students wear masks that are solid colors, or have small or discreet patterns or prints. Face coverings may not display any words, characters or symbols contrary to our Catholic faith. Families should make sure they have an adequate supply of face coverings for children so that a clean face covering can be worn each day.

All face coverings must be labeled with each student's name. Students should come to school daily wearing a mask or face shield, and should have a spare available at all times in case the mask gets wet, tears or breaks. Shields can be sanitized at home daily, but masks should be laundered or disposed of.

**Q: Will the students be eating in the cafeteria?**

**A:** Maschio's will continue to provide lunch for Sacred Heart and Cabrini PreK, or students may pack lunch from home. Lunch will be eaten in the classroom or outdoors at the discretion of the teacher. As social distancing restrictions ease, we will transition back to the cafeteria.

**Q: Will I be able to visit the school?**

**A:** To the greatest extent possible, we will be limiting visitors and volunteers into our buildings. All parent meetings will be held remotely. We will not be accepting items that students forgot at home unless they are medically necessary. All other needs will be accommodated by the school. This includes lunch. All visitors will be subject to temperature checks and health screenings.

**Q: How will students and staff be screened?**

**A:** We are following the screening guidelines in accordance with the Diocese of Allentown which include a screening survey and temperature check for staff and visitors. Students will be temperature checked upon arrival at school. Car-riders will be checked before exiting their cars, and bus riders upon exiting the bus. Please refer to the COVID Decision Tree on our website to help with the identification of symptoms. This is an important step for maintaining our school community's health and safety and the mitigation of COVID-19.

**Q: What should my child bring to school on a daily basis?**

**A:** Each child attending school should bring a face covering (and a spare), a small bottle of hand sanitizer, and a water bottle. Water fountains will not be available for use. If packing, students should bring a lunch, and all students will be bringing their own snacks for recess time and/or After School Care. Additionally, students should bring their backpacks with all necessary school supplies. Sharing of materials, such as pencils, art supplies and learning manipulatives will not be permitted.

**Q: Will students have access to daily recess?**

**A:** Weather permitting, students will go outdoors for recess. If students cannot go outside, face-covering breaks and independent activity time will be implemented.

**Q: Can students leave for doctor/dentist appointments during the day?**

**A:** We do not and have not ever encouraged this practice, but we understand that there are times when there is no alternative. Temperature screening will be done upon return. A parent must accompany the child to the front door of the school for temperature check and then may leave.

**Q: What about uniforms?**

**A:** On the days students are physically present in school they must wear their school or gym uniforms (on gym days). On the days they are at home for virtual learning, they may dress comfortably and appropriately. SHS spirit wear is encouraged! Students may not wear pajamas or any clothing that would be inappropriate for an in-school dress-down day. No controversial, vulgar or political statements are permitted on clothing during school time. No hats or sunglasses permitted during virtual learning.

**Q: Will the students attend Mass?**

**A:** We are in the process of scheduling a combination of school Masses and live-streamed Mass.

**Q: How long will the hybrid learning model be in place?**

**A:** Great question! We will resume in-person learning the first Monday following Berks County's return to "low" risk from "moderate." We could, of course, move to a fully virtual learning model if health reasons dictate, or if the Governor makes that decision.

**Q: What is the communication plan if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?**

**A:** Sacred Heart School will follow the CDC, PA Department of Health and Diocese of Allentown guidance and will establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials regarding COVID-19 diagnoses and/or symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school-specific protocols. This includes contact tracing and recommendations for testing and quarantine.