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2018 National Blue Ribbon  
School of Excellence

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# SAINT JEROME SCHOOL

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**ADVANCING EDUCATION:  
LEADING WITH HOPE**

**2021 – 2022**

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## Introduction

We have created this plan to aid in providing for the health and wellbeing of our school where students, employees, and families feel safe and to reduce the impact of COVID-19 conditions upon returning to school. The guidelines referenced in this plan are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the State of New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) The Road Back and the Diocese of Trenton, Department of Catholic Education. Regular updates will be made to this plan based on information provided by the CDC, AAP and applicable federal, state and local agencies.

## Background

We are once again approaching a school year that will reflect the current challenges of COVID-19. We know that COVID-19 conditions throughout the country and in our own area continue to evolve. This document reflects the guidance we follow from diocesan, state and federal health authorities. We realize that these documents will evolve and sometimes very quickly.

We have a fundamental responsibility to educate our students continuously throughout the school year, and we are fully committed to doing so safely, thoughtfully, and with equity and facts guiding our decision making. **School Year : Advancing Education: Leading with Hope** is our plan to deliver uninterrupted high-quality instruction to ALL students while:

- maintaining healthy and safe environments for everyone
- supporting the many needs of our students, families and staff as we are able

In mid-July, committees met to advise on the safest and most productive manner of opening our school. The school year will start on **Tuesday, September 7, 2021**, allowing extra time for teachers and students to deepen their skills with engaging digital instruction and learning. Saint Jerome School will start the school year with:

1. Five full days in school (Brick and mortar) education
2. Live stream education is only available to students who are in quarantine or have an exemption from a medical profession. (Appendix D)

## Schedule

### **Tuesday, September 7 and Wednesday, September 8, 2021 Grades K through Eight**

#### **7:40 School begins.**

These two days will be half days to give teachers and students the opportunity to use all the instructional materials. In the afternoon, the teachers will be available until 2:30 p.m. to help with any adjustments that need to be made.

### **Thursday, September 9 and Friday, September 10, 2021**

These two days will be full days to give teachers and students the opportunity to follow the regular schedule. We will have our opening school Mass on Friday, September 10, 2021. We will celebrate our blessings and commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001.

#### **Thursday, September 9, 2021**

Pre-K Three and Four Orientation

9:15 am: Pre-K 4, 10:15 am Pre-K three

#### **Monday, September 13, 2021**

Pre-K Three and Four begin school.

If necessary, the school is prepared for a hybrid model that includes a combination of in-school and VIP education. Students will transition to this hybrid learning model, which is a mix of in-person and digital learning, if state, diocesan and other indicators support that it is safe to do so. Additionally, education will continue if the Governor by executive order closes in-school learning. A 100% digital learning option will be available at that time, and students will continue to be taught by teachers at Saint Jerome School.

We know that once again the upcoming school year will be a challenging one for all of us. It will require faculty, the students, and families we serve to be flexible as conditions continue to change. This “new normal” will not be simple or easy. But, as I have said before, the best way to work through a crisis is to be “*brave, strong, true*”

together. **Advancing Education: Leading with Hope: 2021 - 2022** in the new school year will take each one of us doing our part. Together we can support a safe and successful school year for everyone.

Our goal is to deliver high-quality Catholic instruction seamlessly to all students while maintaining the health and well-being of everyone involved — despite any changes in COVID-19 conditions. During this planning, we addressed the health and safety of all persons while being mindful of both the social-emotional, academic and spiritual needs of our students.

**Committee**

Sister Elizabeth Seton Dalessio, MPF	Principal
Sister Angelina Pelliccia, MPF	Principal Emeritus
William Adams, MD	Parent
Joseph Ferro, MD	Parent
Glenda Fulo, RN	Parent
Janene Hubbard	Faculty
Francoise Jean-Louis, RN	Parent
Francesca Laugelli	Faculty
Geraldine LeTendre	Faculty
Tim Karaban	Technology Consultant
Suzanne Marcantonio, RN	School Nurse
Gale Swinton	Faculty
Sister Elizabeth Toft, MPF	Director of Religious Education
Alisa Vandenbrouck, RN	Parent

**Section One: Planning and Timelines**

**Guiding Principles**

The Saint Jerome School Administration developed the following principles to ensure the continued well-being of all its members:

1. Student and Employee Safety Measures

2. Health Guidelines
3. Educational and Spiritual needs of Students
4. Support for Families

### **Communication with Families**

1. In case of an emergency, the Saint Jerome Messenger Alert system will be used.
2. The principal will initiate all major communications. The principal may delegate further communications to others.
3. The principal may use the school's video conferencing system as a means of live communication.
4. If needed, redundancy of communications can be through the internet and telephone.
5. Updates on COVID-19 information will be placed on the school's website.
6. Teachers, students, and parents need to check their email often.
7. Follow the Saint Jerome School social media platforms.

### **Development of Phases and Timelines**

During the 2020 – 2021 school year, the Parish, School Administration and Faculty continually assessed the status of education and the development of a plan for the opening of school in a safe and healthy environment. The Academic plan is ongoing and develops as the Governor and Commissioner of Education inform the citizens of New Jersey regarding the opening of schools. The Administration developed the following timeline as a guide for the reopening of schools.

## **Section Two: Health Protocols for Students, Parents, Employees , Volunteers**

### **Prior to School**

Parents are encouraged to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick. At minimum, the child's parent/guardian should complete the screening prior to the beginning of the school day. **Parents are not required to report via the Genesis Student Information System. If a student is ill, the parent is required to call the school and report the absence.**

COVID-19 symptoms include:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

This list may not include all possible symptoms. Any updates to this list by the CDC can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

**As of August 20, 2021, there is no statewide policy for testing students and currently neither the CDC nor the NJDOH recommend daily testing of students.**

**The School Administration will continue to monitor this guideline and will randomly check students who may appear to have symptoms.**

### **Students**

Parents are encouraged to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick.

- Students are required to wear face coverings at all times, unless doing so would inhibit the student's health. In this case, note describing the procedure for wearing the mask is required from a medical professional.

*(See Appendix*

- Student health checks must be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.
- Results must be documented when signs/symptoms of COVID-19 are observed.
- Any screening policy must account for students with disabilities and accommodations.

### **Student Face Coverings**

Students **are required** to wear face coverings at all times including entry and exit of the building. Properly worn mask or face covering must include both nose and mouth including pediatric size mask for younger children.

Saint Jerome School families are required to provide their child/children face coverings. Each student should have at least three masks. Masks need to be washed each day.

Masks with printed sayings or designs other than manufacturer logos **are not permitted**. If a student forgets his/her face covering at home or a student damages or misplaces his/her face covering during the school day, Saint Jerome School will provide the student a disposable face covering.

### ***Medical Necessity***

In the case of a medical necessity, a student may be exempt from wearing a mask per Executive Order 251. This request is for medical purposes only. A completed medical form must be on file in the school office. See Appendix D

### **Employee Face Coverings**

School personnel **are required to wear** face coverings throughout the day. Properly worn mask or face covering must include both nose and mouth. Permitted face coverings include a face mask, or neck gaiter. Neck gaiters should be navy in color. Face masks with printed sayings or designs other than manufacturer logos **are not permitted**.

Plastic face shields are not permitted (CDC, NJ DOE). In addition to using PPE, students and employees will be encouraged to:

- Wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use hand sanitizer when soap is not available.
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or use the inside of their elbow when they cough or sneeze.

### ***Medical Necessity***

In the case of a medical necessity, a faculty or staff member may be exempt from wearing a mask per Executive Order 251. This request is for medical purposes only. A completed medical form must be on file in the school office. See Appendix D

### **Vaccinations**

On Monday, August 21, 2021, Governor Murphy signed Executive order 253 regarding vaccinations.

**For purposes of Executive Order No. 253, preschool to Grade 12 settings include:**

- **All public, private, and parochial preschool programs, elementary, and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools.**

**For purposes of Executive Order No. 253, workers are defined as:**

- **All individuals employed by a preschool to Grade 12 setting as defined above, both full- and part-time, including, but not limited to, administrators, teachers, educational support professionals, individuals providing food, custodial, and administrative support services;**
- **Substitute teachers, whether employed directly by a preschool to Grade 12 setting or otherwise contracted; and,**
- **Contractors, providers, and any other individuals performing work in preschool to Grade 12 settings whose job duties require them to make regular visits to such covered settings, including volunteers.**

## Personal Hygiene

Students will be reminded to wash hands for at least 20 seconds at regular intervals, including before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing. If washing with soap and water is not possible, hand sanitizer should be used.

Hand sanitizing stations are located throughout the buildings:

- in each classroom
- near lunchrooms and bathrooms

The CDC recommends rubbing the product over all surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry, about 20 seconds, then wash hands with soap and water as soon as possible.

## Social Distancing

Social distancing is an effective way to prevent potential infection. Employees, students, parents, and visitors should practice staying approximately three feet away from others and eliminating contact with others.

Saint Jerome School will allow for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable. This can be achieved by ensuring students are seated at least 6 feet apart and considering the flow of student traffic around the room.

Social distancing guidance will support a 3-foot radius around each student desk (from the center), resulting in a 6-foot total distance between any two students.

Saint Jerome School has put additional modifications in place. These include:

- Using physical barriers between desks and turning desks to face the same direction (rather than facing each other) and having students sit on only one side of the table, spaced apart.
- Traffic Flow – Taped lines on the floor will mark the walking direction throughout the halls to maintain the social distancing requirement of 6 feet
- When weather allows, windows will be opened to allow for greater air circulation.
- Ad-hoc Interactions/Gatherings – Non-essential/informal meetings and visiting will be avoided ***Please note that social distancing should still be practiced even with the use of gloves and masks.***

## **Student Arrival to School**

### **Transportation - Bus Protocols**

Saint Jerome School students are provided transportation by their resident public school districts. Saint Jerome School does not set the policies and procedures for transportation. For more information regarding the transportation protocols for your child, please contact your respective public-school district. Saint Jerome School students will be required to follow whatever transportation rules are set forth by their resident public school districts. Students will be given assigned seats. No student is permitted to stand or move about the bus. Social distancing must be maintained. Masks must be worn.

Any randomly selected bus rider displaying a temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit will be directed to the nurse's office for a secondary temporal temperature screening.

### **Student Dismissal from School Car Rider/Drop-off Lane**

Staggered dismissal times will be utilized for end of day pick-up to allow car riders to exit the building in an efficient manner. Detailed instructions on this process will be provided in orientation materials that will be provided to families prior to the start of the school year.

### **Protocol for Symptomatic Students and Employees**

If an employee or student becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms while at school that are not otherwise explained, he/she will immediately report to the nurse's office and be escorted to a designated area so they are safely and respectfully isolated from others. Students will remain in isolation with continued supervision and care until picked up by an authorized adult. A case form will then be completed.

- The nurse and others attending the suspected infected person will wear a protective mask and gloves while working with the suspected infected person.
- The nurse will direct the ill employee to leave work or call the parent of the student to be picked up and go home.

- The school will follow current State of New Jersey Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting - <https://www.nj.gov/health/>. Saint Jerome School staff may be required to identify persons who may have encountered the suspected infected person. The name of the individual would only be provided to the local health department if requested.
- The isolation area and suspected employee's or student's work area/classroom will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, in addition to all other common surfaces recently touched by the employee or student.
- When an individual tests positive for COVID-19, Saint Jerome School will notify local health officials.
  - Families and employees who may be directly affected by the confirmed positive case will be notified as contact tracing protocols are completed while maintaining full and professional confidentiality.
  - Saint Jerome School will be prepared to provide the following information when consulting the local health department:
    - The identity of the person with COVID-19 or probable COVID-19 (i.e. staff, child in care, household contact) as well as his/her address, phone number and email.
    - The date the person with COVID-19 or probable COVID-19 was last in the building.
    - Types of interactions the person may have had with other persons in the building or in other locations.
    - How long their interactions were with other persons in the building.
    - If other persons in the class have developed any symptoms.
    - Any other information to assist with the determination of next steps.

### **Contact Tracing**

Saint Jerome School will follow the Monmouth County Health Commission protocol required for contact tracing/notification.

### **Parent Communication Responsibility**

- Confidentiality will be maintained
- Leave message on the nurse's voicemail to report symptoms/test results
- Do not email the nurse (calling is the safest way to maintain confidentiality)
- 

### **School Responsibility**

- Notify Local Health Department
- Positive tests should be reported to the Health Department by the doctor as well
- Privacy of infected person must be maintained. No names will be identified.
- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, we will work directly with the Monmouth County Health Commission concerning quarantine requirements and contact tracing.

### **Re-admittance Procedures After Recovery From COVID-19**

Re-admittance procedures for students and employees to school after recovering from COVID-19 will be established in conjunction with the school nurse under guidance from the department of health. As of August 20, 2021, the CDC recommends that schools immediately notify local health officials once learning of a COVID-19 case in someone who has been in the school. The local health officials will help administrators determine a course of action.

Decisions will be made based on the most up to date CDC recommendations and on a case-by-case basis. Any student or employee returning after recovery from COVID-19 must contact the school nurse at least one day prior to anticipated return. Medical Clearance from a Health Care Professional must be provided to be re-admitted into School. Below is guidance from the CDC that can be referenced:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>

If you have been in close contact with a person confirmed to have COVID-19, you will be required to quarantine for 14 days from the last point of exposure.

### **What is the purpose of quarantine?**

Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent spread of disease that can occur before people know they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.

### **Who needs to be quarantined?**

Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19. This includes people who previously had COVID-19 and people who have taken a serologic (antibody) test and have antibodies to the virus.

### **What counts as close contact?**

- You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
- You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19
- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
- You shared eating or drinking utensils
- They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you

### **If you think or know you had COVID-19, and had symptoms, you can be with others after:**

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared and
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved

Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might get tested to see if you still have COVID-19. If you will be tested, you can be around others when you have no fever, respiratory symptoms have improved, and you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

**If you tested positive for COVID-19, but had no symptoms and continue to have no symptoms, you can be with others after:**

- 10 days have passed since test
- Depending on your healthcare provider’s advice and availability of testing, you might get tested to see if you still have COVID-19. If you will be tested, you can be around others after you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.

**If you develop symptoms after testing positive:** Follow the guidance above for “you think or know you had COVID and had symptoms.”

**Travel to States Identified as At-Risk**

- The Governor has not mandated any quarantine to other states at this time.
- The United States Department of State has issued quarantine protocols for International Travel. Saint Jerome School will follow all protocols as listed by the State Department.

**Personal Protective Equipment**

To minimize exposure to COVID-19, PPE may be needed to prevent certain exposures. Face coverings are an important part of employee and student protection.

**Facilities Cleaning**

The safety of our students and employees is our priority. Upon reopening, Saint Jerome School will have been completely cleaned and disinfected and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions. In addition to the deep cleaning of the school before students and employees return, the cleaning steps outlined below will be taken to disinfect workplace surfaces, chairs, tables, etc. to protect students and employees and reduce the risk of spread of infection. Saint Jerome School maintains a rigorous and comprehensive cleaning schedule carried out by designated employees and specialized cleaning contractors. We will require employees to maintain this safety standard by continuously cleaning and disinfecting based on the frequency stated

below. Deep cleaning is triggered when an active employee or student is identified as positive for COVID 19 based on testing.

**General Disinfection Measures**

Cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces will be the main focus of the maintenance personnel during reopening. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends cleaning frequently. To reduce the risk of transmission and infection effective cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces likely to be contaminated, while concentrating on "high touch" or "frequently touched" surfaces, will be disinfected at least daily.

Custodial staff will be supplied with the proper PPE equipment. Disposable cleaning items and EPA approved disinfectants against COVID-19 will be used. The staff will be instructed on how to apply the disinfectants. Checklists will be provided to ensure procedures and steps are followed. Two electrostatic sanitizing misting machines have been purchased and will be used after school hours using safe and effective products. Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and throughout the building.

The following cleaning procedures will begin immediately upon reentry of personnel, teaching staff, and students in accordance with current CDC and state guidelines.

<b>Restrooms:</b>	<b>Hallways:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doorknobs or handles</li> <li>• Light switches and cover plates</li> <li>• Paper towel dispenser knobs</li> <li>• Faucet handles</li> <li>• Toilet and urinal flush levers</li> <li>• Stall partition door handles</li> <li>• Other misc. items identified to area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doorknobs or handles</li> <li>• Light switches and cover plates</li> <li>• Elevator operating buttons</li> <li>• Handrails</li> <li>• Water fountains will be CLOSED</li> <li>• Other misc. items identified to area</li> </ul>

<b>Cafeteria:</b> <b>(When lunch program resumes)</b>	<b>Classrooms, Offices and Nurses Rm:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refrigerator door handles</li> <li>• Microwave / Oven door handles</li> <li>• Table tops in Kitchen</li> <li>• Counter / work tops</li> <li>• Doorknobs or handles</li> <li>• Light switches and cover plates</li> <li>• <b>Note: Cafeteria staff will oversee the daily cleaning procedures</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doorknobs or handles - including coat closet</li> <li>• Light switches and cover plates</li> <li>• Desktops and Chair backs</li> <li>• Keyboards, Copiers in Office</li> <li>• Telephones, Carts</li> <li>• Other misc. items identified to area</li> <li>• <b>Note: In the Nurse's Office and the Isolation Room specific attention will be taken at the direction of the School Nurse.</b></li> </ul>



CLEANING & DISINFECTING ROUTINE: RESTROOMS							
Week of:							
<b>MONDAY:</b>	Stall Door Handles	ToiletSeat/ Paper Dispenser	Toilet Handle	Urinal Handle	Soap Dispenser	Sink &Faucets	Paper Towel Dispenser
MORNING 6AM -9AM							
MID-MORNING 10AM -12PM							
AFTERNOON 12PM - 3PM							
LATE AFTERNOON 3PM - 6PM							
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Stall Door Handles	ToiletSeat/ Paper Dispenser	Toilet Handle	Urinal Handle	Soap Dispenser	Sink &Faucets	Paper Towel Dispenser
MORNING 6AM -9AM							
MID-MORNING 10AM -12PM							
AFTERNOON 12PM - 3PM							
LATE AFTERNOON 3PM - 6PM							
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	Stall Door Handles	Toilet Seat/Paper Dispenser	Toilet Handle	Urinal Handle	Soap Dispenser	Sink & Faucets	Paper Towel Dispenser
MORNING 6AM-9AM							
MID-MORNING 10AM-12PM							
AFTERNOON 12PM - 3PM							
LATE AFTERNOON 3PM - 6PM							
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Stall Door Handles	Toilet Seat/Paper Dispenser	Toilet Handle	Urinal Handle	Soap Dispenser	Sink & Faucets	Paper Towel Dispenser
MORNING 6AM -9AM							
MID-MORNING 10AM -12PM							
AFTERNOON 12PM -3PM							
LATE AFTERNOON 3PM - 6PM							
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	Stall Door Handles	ToiletSeat/ Paper Dispenser	Toilet Handle	Urinal Handle	Soap Dispenser	Sink & Faucets	Paper Towel Dispenser
MORNING 6AM-9AM							
MID-MORNING 10AM -12PM							
AFTERNOON 12PM - 3PM							
LATE AFTERNOON 3PM-6PM							

**For Early Childhood programs, when possible:**

- Keep children three feet apart during nap time (can have cots-oriented head to foot), when eating, and doing other activities.
- Avoid close group-learning activities like reading circles.
- Designate times on the schedule to take students out of the classroom to wash hands with soap and water, including, at a minimum:
  - ✓ at the start of the day when children enter the classroom
  - ✓ before snacks and lunch
  - ✓ after using the toilet or helping a child use a toilet
  - ✓ after sneezing, wiping, and blowing noses
  - ✓ after snacks and lunch, particularly if hands are sticky, greasy, or soiled
  - ✓ when students come in from outdoor play or recess

In limited cases, hand hygiene with an alcohol-based sanitizer or alcohol-based wipes, when there is no visible soiling of hands, are alternatives to hand washing with soap and water by children over 24 months of age, under the supervision of the teacher. The CDC recommends an alcohol-based sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol and to rub the product over all surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry, about 20 seconds, then wash hands with soap and water as soon as possible.

**Signage**

Signage will be displayed throughout the school to provide direction and encourage social distancing and personal hygiene. Examples of the signage messages are:

- “Please Practice Social Distancing-Keep 6-Feet Apart”
- “Walk this Way” (Hallway Directional Signs)
- “Remember to Wash Your Hands”

**Restroom Usage During the School Day**

All student and employee bathrooms have been updated with touchless/hands free equipment to limit contact and contamination. To adhere to the social distancing guidelines, Saint Jerome School will monitor and minimize the number of students utilizing the bathrooms simultaneously. Saint Jerome School personnel will work collaboratively to ensure that these precautions are taken, and our students will be encouraged to practice these safety measures.

Classes will have assigned times to use the restroom. Classrooms will also be assigned to a specific bathroom. This will limit the ability to have multiple children in the halls or bathrooms together.

### **Recess**

Recess will be in staggered shifts with efforts to promote social distancing and hygiene protocols. The use of our school grounds will be used weather permitting. Specific areas may be designated for each class during recess to avoid mixing. Cones, flags, tape, or other signs may be used to create boundaries between groups to assist with social distancing.

### **Physical Education**

Students in all grades will be required to wear their physical education uniform to school on their designated gym day. Weather permitting, students will participate in outdoor activities that will conform to social distancing guidelines. Indoor physical education classes will consist of appropriate age level activities that will be implemented within the students' designated classrooms.

### **Food**

Bringing or sharing refreshments during the school day is prohibited to limit the risk of contamination. Snack items, candy, and drinks will not be provided until further notice. All food will be kept at student's designated place. Personal deliveries such as packages may not be delivered to the school.

### **Lunch**

Saint Jerome School will have its students eat lunch primarily in their classrooms. As conditions permit, the P.T.A. will sponsor the lunch program. At that time, all food will be individually wrapped. P.T.A. parents will deliver food to classrooms and must follow all CDC regulations regarding social distancing, PPE and sanitation protocols.

Students must:

- Maintain social distancing
- Wash hands before and after eating lunch
- Dispose of garbage in clearly labeled containers

## **Sports and Extracurricular Activities**

Saint Jerome School acknowledges that our sports and extracurricular activities foster the development of our students and support our robust and rigorous academic programming. It is our intention to follow direction from the Diocese of Trenton together with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) guidelines in returning to sports and extracurricular activities for the 2021 – 2022. The Saint Jerome Community will be notified regarding specific requirements and guidance pertaining to each sport and extracurricular activity as they become available and in preparation for that sport's season.

## **After School Program**

Before and after care programs are permitted.

Students who participate in the Before or After-School Program will be asked to register in advance.

After Care rooms will be sanitized before and after the beginning of the After-School program each day.

- Activities during the After-School program will be limited to snack, homework, and independent activities that can take place while socially distanced. Students will not be able to share snacks and/or toys.
- Students attending After School program will be placed into small groups with one specific After Care moderator following social distance guidelines.
- Students must wear masks, wash their hands, and use hand sanitizer throughout their time at After School program.
- Parents will be asked to remain outside of the building for pick-up. An After School staff member will bring students to you for pick-up.
- Students will be asked to bring their own materials to minimize sharing of resources (i.e. crayons, scissors, markers, etc.).

## **Visitor Restrictions**

Saint Jerome School will not allow normal visits to the school. If an appointment is deemed essential, please contact the main office and an appointment will be scheduled.

Face coverings will be required for all visitors unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health or the individual is under two years of age.

Once school begins in September, visitors and volunteers must show proof of complete vaccination or results of current week COVID testing results. Fewer people entering the school building allows for greater implementation of safety measures. In case of emergencies, families will be contacted directly by school personnel and given instructions/protocol on where to meet their child.

Visitors must enter the school via the doors on the side of the building where the portico and elevator are located. There is an office window for any business matters or to drop items off for a student. If your child forgets something at home and it is needed during the school day, a drop off area will be located at the main entrance for your convenience. Please let the main office know so they can retrieve the item and bring it to your child.

### **Section Three: Academics**

#### **Return to School**

Presently, the State of New Jersey is returning to a traditional face-to-face classroom instruction in September 2021. We must be prepared to provide other models of instruction. Saint Jerome School's goal is to design flexible instructional plans that work best in both traditional face-to-face and remote environments.

#### ***Remote Instruction ( Only in the case of school closing, quarantine or Positive COVID 19 results)***

The following regulations are necessary to fully participate in the educational environment of Saint Jerome School. This will require the student to sign into the appropriate educational platform each day:

**Grades Pre-K through Grade Two:** ZOOM and Google Classroom for each class according to his/her schedule.

**Grades Three through Eight:** Microsoft Teams

#### **Special Circumstances**

If a student is required to quarantine or contracts COVID-19, that student may participate with synchronous learning once approved by the

Administration. Elective Remote Instruction will need to be scheduled and approved by the Administration to ensure that the minimum requirements for home are in place and that the parents understand the home responsibilities.

### ***Distance Learning***

Distance learning during the school year will look different than it did last year.

- **Only students who are absent because of COVID 19 or because of quarantine and isolation will be allowed to use distance learning options. The student must be absent for a two week period.**
- Teachers will provide daily online virtual instruction for students. Saint Jerome School will use Microsoft Teams as the remote learning platform to help deliver daily live instruction from the classroom teacher.
- Distance learning students will participate through simulcast lessons and learning activities with their teachers and classmates.
- Students will be required to follow their class schedule each day. To receive credit for the school day, students must be present and participate during the designated time periods.
- Students should treat remote learning the same way they treat in-person learning.
- Students should be logging in daily to participate in classroom instruction, activities, and assessments.
- Classwork, homework, essays, tests, and quizzes must be completed by the posted due dates put forth by the teacher.
- Academic integrity is of the utmost importance. Please ensure that students are completing schoolwork with the same standards that are placed upon them in an in-person classroom setting.

## Remote Learning Guidelines for Parents and Students

- Designate a workspace for remote learning. Keep supplies (computer, texts for school, paper, pencils, etc.) easily accessible and organized.
- Students must use headphones or earbuds during class. This helps with distractions for both the remote learner and the student in the brick and mortar environment.
- Given the extraordinary nature of online learning, even higher behavioral expectations for school are required. When behavior expectations are not met, teachers may report this to the Administration, as they would when at school. The Administration will communicate with students and families as needed.
- Ensure that student joins class on time and follows all instructions given by the teacher. Teachers will be taking attendance for each class period.
- To better replicate the classroom experience, all students should attend online classes with video on and microphones muted. When attending classes online, all class work, test and quizzes must be handed in by the end of the class period unless teacher has advised otherwise.
- Only students who were assigned for virtual education should attend remotely.
- To help maintain the integrity of our on-line learning and maintain trust with your teacher and other students in the school students:
  - Will not share videos, documents, chats, etc.
  - Must adhere to the Saint Jerome Elementary School Acceptable Usage Policy
- Keep distractions to a minimum.
  - Telephones are not allowed
  - Keep only the tabs needed for your work open
  - Students who attend virtually must use headphones or earbuds
- All students must follow the Handbook Dress Code protocol when attending live class. This is for all students whether they are in school or attending class virtually. (e.g. no hoodies, no pajamas, uniforms).

***Grading and Attendance Policy***

Students are expected to complete assignments to receive credit for their courses for the school year regardless of whether the student is participating in remote or in-person learning.

- Remote learning protocols will match in-person class protocols.
  - Students in remote learning will follow the same schedule as the students in school. However, students will be live for new concepts but will leave the live session to complete practice work. The idea is to avoid having remote learners sitting in front of a computer screen for six straight hours.
  - Ex: Teacher introduces concept of integers in math class. All students will be present. Teacher assigns work as reinforcement. Remote learners may leave live class to complete work.
  - Ex. Students in school will take breaks to go outside. Remote learners should do the same activity if at all possible.
- Students must adhere to due dates, testing, and project schedules. Academic policies are in the SJS Student and Parent Handbook.
- Absences will be reported to the Administration.
- Parents must inform the school of a student's absence whether participation is in a remote or in class learning environment.

**Catholic Identity**

Catholic schools have a two-fold charge: providing an education that is academically excellent and one that is deeply rooted in Catholic identity. There will be intentional Catholic values infused across all grade levels and all subject matter. Participation in liturgy and prayer will continue to be encouraged for both traditional face-to-face and remote settings. Service-learning opportunities will remain a priority in our schools.

## **Resources**

American Association of Pediatrics (AAP):

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Center for Disease Control (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

Diocese of Trenton, Department of Catholic Schools:

<https://dioceseoftrenton.org/catholic-schools>

Monmouth County Regional Health Commission (MCRHC):

<https://www.mcrhc.org/>

New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE):

<https://www.nj.gov/education/reopening/NJDOETheRoadBack.pdf>

## Appendix A

### COVID-19 DAILY HOME SCREENING CHECK LIST

To be conducted every morning for the safety and well-being of all.

#### Section 1: Symptoms

- Do you have any of these symptoms? If yes, then PLEASE STAY HOME.
- Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
- Sore throat
- Uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for individuals with
- chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

#### Section 2: Conditions

- Have you answered yes to any of these? If yes, then PLEASE STAY HOME.
- Have you had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
- OR
- Have you had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19
- OR
- Have you traveled within the last 2 weeks to a state that is listed as an advisory?
- OR
- Have a COVID-19 test pending

**If you have responded YES to any of the above symptoms and/or conditions, it is extremely important that you NOT come to school and you should contact a healthcare provider for guidance. Call the school office to report the absence.**

## Appendix B

### Governor Murphy Executive Orders Pertaining to Schools

#### EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 252

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, I issued Executive Order No. 103, declaring the existence of a Public Health Emergency, pursuant to the Emergency Health Powers Act (“EHPA”), N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 et seq., and a State of Emergency, pursuant to the New Jersey Civilian Defense and Disaster Control Act (“Disaster Control Act”), N.J.S.A. App A:9-33 et seq., in the State of New Jersey for Coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, through Executive Order Nos. 119, 138, 151, 162, 171, 180, 186, 191, 200, 210, 215, 222, 231, 235, and 240, issued on April 7, 2020, May 6, 2020, June 4, 2020, July 2, 2020, August 1, 2020, August 27, 2020, September 25, 2020, October 24, 2020, November 22, 2020, December 21, 2020, January 19, 2021, February 17, 2021, March 17, 2021, April 15, 2021, and May 14, 2021, respectively, the facts and circumstances of which are adopted by reference herein, I declared that the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency continued to exist and declared that all Executive Orders and Administrative Orders adopted in whole or in part in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency remained in full force and effect; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-34 and -51, I reserve the right to utilize and employ all available resources of State government to protect against the emergency created by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as COVID-19 continued to spread across New Jersey, I have issued a series of Executive Orders pursuant to my authority under the Disaster Control Act and the EHPA, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare against the emergency created by COVID-19, including Executive

Order Nos. 104-133, Nos. 135-138, Nos. 140-166,  
Nos. 168-173, No. 175, Nos. 177-181, No. 183, Nos. 186-187, Nos. 189-  
198, No. 200, Nos. 203-204, No. 207, and Nos. 210-211 (2020) and Nos.  
214-216, Nos. 219-220, Nos. 222-223, No. 225, Nos. 228-235, and Nos.  
237-244, No. 246, No. 249, and No. 251 (2021), the facts and circumstances of which are  
all adopted by reference herein; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2021, I signed Assembly Bill No. 5820 into law as P.L.2021, c.103 and  
issued Executive Order No. 244, which terminated the Public Health Emergency declared in  
Executive Order No. 103 (2020) but maintained the State of Emergency declared in that same Order;  
and

WHEREAS, P.L.2021, c.103 provided that following the termination of the Public Health  
Emergency declared in Executive Order No. 103 (2020), the Governor may continue to issue Orders  
related to vaccine distribution, administration, and management, COVID-19 testing, and data  
collection; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has reported that new variants  
of COVID-19 have been identified in the United States, and that certain variants, particularly the  
B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, are more transmissible; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has emphasized that vaccination is a critical means to prevent spread of  
COVID-19 and to avoid infection of those individuals that cannot be vaccinated because their age or  
medical conditions precludes them from receiving one; and

WHEREAS, while over 5 million people in the State have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19,  
additional steps are necessary to ensure continued receipt by individuals in certain settings of concern  
to protect against spread of COVID-19 and to protect at-risk populations in their care; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has repeatedly emphasized the importance of heightened mitigation protocols

in certain congregate and health care settings because of the significant risk of spread and vulnerability of the populations served; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Counsel issued an opinion concluding that Section 564 of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3 does not prohibit public or private entities from imposing vaccination requirements while vaccinations are only available pursuant to emergency use authorization; and

WHEREAS, requiring workers in certain settings to receive a COVID-19 vaccine or undergo regular testing can help prevent outbreaks and reduce transmission to vulnerable individuals who may be at a higher risk of severe disease; and

WHEREAS, this Order is related to vaccination management, COVID-19 testing, and data collection, and is thus consistent with P.L.2021, c.103;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHILIP D. MURPHY, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. Covered health care and high-risk congregate settings (“covered settings”) must maintain a policy that requires covered workers to either provide adequate proof that they have been fully vaccinated or submit to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times weekly. This requirement shall take effect on September 7, 2021, at which time any covered workers that have not provided adequate proof that they are fully vaccinated must submit to weekly or twice weekly testing on an ongoing basis until fully vaccinated.
2. Covered workers may demonstrate proof of full vaccination status by presenting the following documents if they list COVID-19 vaccines authorized for Emergency Use Authorization (“EUA”) in the United States and/or the World Health Organization (“WHO”), along with an administration date for each dose:
  - a. The CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Card issued to the vaccine recipient by the vaccination

site, or an electronic or physical copy of the same;

- b. Official record from the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS) or other State immunization registry;
- c. A record from a health care provider’s portal/medical record system on official letterhead signed by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, physician’s assistant, registered nurse or pharmacist;
- d. A military immunization or health record from the United States Armed Forces; or
- e. Docket mobile phone application record or any state specific application that produces a digital health record.

Covered settings collecting vaccination information from covered workers must comport with all federal and state laws, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, that regulate the collection and storage of that information.

- 3. To satisfy the testing requirement, a covered worker must undergo screening testing at minimum one to two times each week. Where a covered setting requires an unvaccinated covered worker to submit proof of a COVID-19 test, the worker may choose either antigen or molecular tests that have EUA by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) or is operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Where a covered setting provides the unvaccinated covered worker with on-site access to COVID-19 tests, the covered setting may similarly elect to administer or provide access to either an antigen or molecular test.
- 4. If the covered worker is not working on-site in the covered setting during a week where testing would otherwise be required, the worker is not required to submit to testing for that week.
- 5. This requirement shall not supplant any requirement imposed by the covered setting regarding diagnostic testing of symptomatic workers or screening test of vaccinated workers.
- 6. Covered settings must have a policy for tracking test results from testing required by this

Order and must report results to local public health departments.

7. For purposes of this Order, covered settings shall be defined as follows: Health care facilities shall include acute, pediatric, inpatient rehabilitation, and psychiatric hospitals, including specialty hospitals, and ambulatory surgical centers; long-term care facilities; intermediate care facilities; residential detox, short-term, and long-term residential substance abuse disorder treatment facilities; clinic-based settings like ambulatory care, urgent care clinics, dialysis centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, family planning sites, and Opioid Treatment Programs; community-based healthcare settings including Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, pediatric and adult medical day care programs, and licensed home health agencies and registered health care service firms operating within the State. High-risk congregate settings include State and county correctional facilities; secure care facilities operated by the Juvenile Justice Commission; licensed community residences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (“IDD”) and traumatic brain injury (“TBI”); licensed community residences for adults with mental illness; and certified day programs for individuals with IDD and TBI. Long-term care facilities that are subject to New Jersey Department of Health (“DOH”) Executive Directive No. 20-026 and all subsequent supplemental directives, issued in reliance on the existence of the Public Health Emergency, which remain in effect until January 11, 2022, pursuant to P.L.2021, c.103, must continue to follow any additional requirements in those directives regarding testing.

8. For purposes of this Order, “covered workers” shall include employees, both full- and part-time, contractors, and other individuals working in covered settings, including individuals providing operational or custodial services or administrative support.

9. For purposes of this Order, a covered worker shall be considered “fully vaccinated” for COVID-19 two weeks or more after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks or more after they have received a single-dose vaccine. Individuals will only be considered fully vaccinated where they have received a COVID-19 vaccine that is currently authorized for

emergency use by the FDA or the WHO, or that are approved for use by the same. Workers who are not fully vaccinated, or for whom vaccination status is unknown or who have not provided sufficient proof of documentation, must be considered unvaccinated for purposes of this Order.

10. Nothing in this Order shall prevent a covered setting from instituting a vaccination or testing policy that includes additional or stricter requirements, so long as such policy comports with the minimum requirements of this Order. A covered setting may also maintain a policy that requires more frequent testing of covered workers.

11. The Commissioner of DOH is hereby authorized to issue a directive supplementing the requirements outlined in this Order, which may include, but not be limited to, any requirements for reporting vaccination and testing data to the DOH. Action taken by the Commissioner of Health pursuant to this Order shall not be subject to the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq..

12. The State Director of Emergency Management, who is the Superintendent of State Police, shall have the discretion to make additions, amendments, clarifications, exceptions, and exclusions to the terms of this Order.

13. It shall be the duty of every person or entity in this State or doing business in this State and of the members of the governing body and every official, employee, or agent of every political subdivision in this State and of each member of all other governmental bodies, agencies, and authorities in this State of any nature whatsoever, to cooperate fully in all matters concerning this Order, and to cooperate fully with any Administrative Orders issued pursuant to this Order.

14. No municipality, county, or any other agency or political subdivision of this State shall enact or enforce any order, rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution which will or might in any way conflict with any of the provisions of this Order, or which will or might in any way interfere with or impede its achievement.

15. Penalties for violations of this Order may be imposed under, among other statutes, N.J.S.A.

App. A:9-49 and -50.

16. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until revoked or modified by the Governor.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this 6th day of August,

Two Thousand and Twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States, the Two Hundred and Forty-Sixth. /s/ Philip D. Murphy Governor

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.  
253**

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, I issued Executive Order No. 103, declaring the existence of a Public Health Emergency, pursuant to the Emergency Health Powers Act (“EHPA”), N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 et seq., and a State of Emergency, pursuant to the New Jersey Civilian Defense and Disaster Control Act (“Disaster Control Act”), N.J.S.A. App A:9-33 et seq., in the State of New Jersey for Coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”); and

WHEREAS, through Executive Order Nos. 119, 138, 151, 162, 171, 180, 186, 191, 200, 210, 215, 222, 231, 235, and 240, issued on April 7, 2020, May 6, 2020, June 4, 2020, July 2, 2020, August 1, 2020, August 27, 2020, September 25, 2020, October 24, 2020, November 22, 2020, December 21, 2020, January 19, 2021, February 17, 2021, March 17, 2021, April 15, 2021, and May 14, 2021, respectively, the facts and circumstances of which are adopted by reference herein, I declared that the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency continued to exist and declared that all Executive Orders and Administrative Orders adopted in whole or in part in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency remained in full force and effect; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-34 and -51, I reserve the right to utilize and employ all available resources of State government to protect against the emergency created by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as COVID-19 continued to spread across New Jersey, I have issued a series of Executive Orders pursuant to my authority under the Disaster Control Act and the EHPA, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare against the emergency created by COVID-19, including Executive Order Nos. 104-133, Nos. 135-138, Nos. 140-166, Nos. 168-173, No. 175, Nos. 177-181, No. 183, Nos. 186-187, Nos. 189-198, No. 200, Nos. 203-204, No. 207, and Nos. 210-211 (2020) and Nos. 214-216, Nos. 219-220, Nos. 222-223, No. 225, Nos. 228-235, Nos. 237-244, No. 246, No. 249, and Nos. 251-252 (2021), the facts and circumstances of which are all adopted by reference herein; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2021, I signed Assembly Bill No. 5820 into law as P.L.2021, c.103 and issued Executive Order No. 244, which terminated the Public Health Emergency declared in Executive Order No. 103 (2020) but maintained the State of Emergency declared in that same Order; and

WHEREAS, P.L.2021, c.103 provided that following the termination of the Public Health Emergency declared in Executive Order No. 103 (2020), the Governor, Commissioner of the Department of Health (“DOH”), and the head of any other State agency may continue to issue Orders related to implementation of recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) to prevent or limit the transmission of COVID-19 and related to vaccine distribution, administration, and management, COVID-19 testing, and data collection; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics (“AAP”) has emphasized that in-person learning is critical for educational and social development of children, as evidence demonstrates that remote learning has been detrimental to the educational attainment of students of all ages and has exacerbated the mental health crisis among children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has reported that new variants of COVID-19 have been identified in the United States, and that certain variants, particularly the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, are more transmissible than previous strains; and

WHEREAS, the State has experienced significant upticks in critical COVID-19 metrics over the past few months, including COVID-19 positive cases, the rate of transmission, spot positivity, and new hospitalizations, that warrant additional precautions in certain settings, especially those with a substantial number of unvaccinated individuals; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has emphasized that vaccination is a critical means to prevent spread of COVID-19 and to avoid infection of those individuals that cannot be vaccinated because their age precludes them from receiving one, and has strongly recommended vaccination of all eligible teachers and educational staff; and

WHEREAS, while over 5.4 million people in the State have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, additional steps are necessary to ensure continued vaccinations of individuals in certain settings of concern to protect against spread of COVID-19 and to sustain the provision of full in-person instruction for New Jersey students; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Counsel issued an opinion concluding that Section 564 of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 360bbb-3 does not prohibit public or private entities from imposing vaccination requirements while vaccinations are only available pursuant to Emergency Use Authorization (“EUA”); and

WHEREAS, requiring workers in public, private, and parochial preschool programs, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools (collectively “school

districts”) to receive a COVID-19 vaccine or undergo regular testing can help prevent outbreaks and reduce transmission to children, including those who are not yet eligible for vaccination; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has emphasized that COVID-19 vaccines are effective, in that they can prevent individuals from getting and spreading the virus, and can prevent severe illness in individuals who do contract COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, preventing transmission of COVID-19 is critical to keeping schools open for in-person instruction; and

WHEREAS, school districts have access to multiple sources of funding to address costs associated with worker vaccination efforts and testing, including three rounds of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds and Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools within the Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds; and

WHEREAS, the State will continue to work closely with school districts to successfully implement the requirements of this Order; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 251 (2021) requires all school districts to maintain a policy regarding mandatory use of face masks by staff, students, and visitors in the indoor portion of school district premises; and

WHEREAS, that Order allows for exemptions from mask-wearing when “doing so would inhibit the individual’s health,” “when the individual has trouble breathing,” and when a student’s documented medical condition or disability precludes use of a face mask; and WHEREAS, the AAP and CDC continue to emphasize the importance of universal indoor masking for teachers, staff, and students, particularly as the majority of the student population remains ineligible for vaccination at this time; and

WHEREAS, exemptions to mask wearing should be as limited as possible to maximize protections; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and appropriate that school districts’ policies regarding a medical exemption from mask wearing require individuals to submit medical documentation; and

WHEREAS, this Order is related to vaccination management, COVID-19 testing, data collection, and the implementation of CDC recommendations, and is thus authorized under P.L.2021, c.103;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHILIP D. MURPHY, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby

## ORDER and DIRECT:

1. All public, private, and parochial preschool programs, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools (“covered settings”), must maintain a policy that requires all covered workers to either provide adequate proof to the covered setting that they have been fully vaccinated or submit to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times weekly. This requirement shall take effect on October 18, 2021, at which time any covered workers that have not provided adequate proof that they are fully vaccinated must submit to a minimum of weekly or twice weekly testing on an ongoing basis until fully vaccinated.

2. Covered workers may demonstrate proof of full vaccination status by presenting the following documents if they list COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for EUA in the United States and/or the World Health Organization (“WHO”), along with an administration date for each dose:

- a. The CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Card issued to the vaccine recipient by the vaccination site, or an electronic or physical copy of the same;
- b. Official record from the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIIIS) or other State immunization registry;
- c. A record from a health care provider’s portal/medical record system on official letterhead signed by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, physician’s assistant, registered nurse or pharmacist;
- d. A military immunization or health record from the United States Armed Forces; or
- e. Docket mobile phone application record or any state specific application that produces a digital health record.

Covered settings collecting vaccination information from covered workers must comport with all federal and State laws, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, that regulate the collection and storage of that information.

3. To satisfy the testing requirement, a covered worker must undergo screening testing at minimum one to two times each week. Where a covered setting requires an

unvaccinated covered worker to submit proof of a COVID-19 test, the worker may choose either antigen or molecular tests that have EUA by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) or are operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Where a covered setting provides the unvaccinated covered worker with on-site access to COVID-19 tests, the covered setting may similarly elect to administer or provide access to either an antigen or molecular test. If the covered worker is not working on-site in the covered setting during a week where testing would otherwise be required, the covered setting’s policy need not require the worker to submit to testing for that week. This requirement shall not supplant any requirement imposed by the covered setting regarding diagnostic testing of symptomatic workers or screening testing of vaccinated workers.

4. Covered settings must have a policy for tracking test results from testing required by this Order and must report results to local public health departments.

5. For purposes of this Order, “covered workers” shall include all individuals employed by the covered setting, both full- and part-time, including, but not limited to, administrators, teachers, educational support professionals, individuals providing food, custodial, and administrative support services, substitute teachers, whether employed directly by a covered setting or otherwise contracted, contractors, providers, and any other individuals performing work in covered settings whose job duties require them to make regular visits to such covered settings, including volunteers. Covered workers do not include individuals who visit the covered setting only to provide one-time or limited-duration repairs, services, or construction.

6. For purposes of this Order, a covered worker shall be considered “fully vaccinated” for COVID-19 two weeks or more after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks or more after they have received a single-dose vaccine. Individuals will only be considered fully vaccinated where they have received a COVID-19 vaccine that is currently authorized for emergency use by the FDA or the WHO, or that are approved for use by the same. Workers who are not fully vaccinated, or for whom vaccination status is unknown or who have not provided sufficient proof of documentation, shall be

considered unvaccinated for purposes of this Order.

7. Nothing in this Order shall prevent a covered setting from instituting a vaccination or testing policy that includes additional or stricter requirements, so long as such policy comports with the minimum requirements of this Order. A covered setting may also maintain a policy that requires more frequent testing of covered workers.

8. The Commissioner of the DOH is hereby authorized to issue a directive supplementing the requirements outlined in this Order, which may include, but not be limited to, any requirements for reporting vaccination and testing data to the DOH. Actions taken by the Commissioner of the DOH pursuant to this Order shall not be subject to the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq.

9. It is hereby clarified that the policy of public, private, and parochial preschool programs, and elementary and secondary schools, including charter and renaissance schools, regarding mandatory mask wearing in the indoor portion of school district premises, as outlined in Executive Order No. 251 (2021), must require individuals seeking a medical exemption from mask wearing under Paragraphs 1(a) – (c) of that Order to produce written documentation from a medical professional to support the exemption. Self-attestations and parental attestations are not sufficient for this purpose.

10. The State Director of Emergency Management, who is the Superintendent of State Police, shall have the discretion to make additions, amendments, clarifications, exceptions, and exclusions to the terms of this Order.

11. It shall be the duty of every person or entity in this State or doing business in this State and of the members of the governing body and every official, employee, or agent of every political subdivision in this State and of each member of all other governmental bodies, agencies, and authorities in this State of any nature whatsoever, to cooperate fully in all matters concerning this Order, and to cooperate fully with any Administrative Orders issued pursuant to this Order.

12. No municipality, county, or any other agency or political subdivision of this State shall enact or enforce any order, rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution which will or

might in any way conflict with any of the provisions of this Order, or which will or might in any way interfere with or impede its achievement.

13. Penalties for violations of this Order may be imposed under, among other statutes, N.J.S.A. App. A:9-49 and -50.

14. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until revoked or modified by the Governor.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of  
August,  
Two Thousand and Twenty-one, and of  
the Independence of the United States, the  
Two Hundred and Forty-Sixth.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor



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## DIOCESE OF TRENTON

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### Appendix C

#### Diocese of Trenton

##### Department of Catholic Schools

We received the following memorandum from Dr. Vincent de Paul Schmidt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Catholic Schools Diocese of Trenton:

The Governor of New Jersey has declared, through Executive Order 251, that all schools (public and non-public) will start the school year 2021-2022 wearing masks in the classrooms.

Up until this point, the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Trenton have followed the mandates that were formally outlined in Executive Order 175 as well as the directives of the local health departments in which our schools reside. The protocol of following State of New Jersey mandates and the recommendations of the local health departments will continue.

I would like to clarify the position of the DCS as of this writing. Understanding that if the Covid pandemic forces a different path forward, the Catholic schools will (as we have done since March 2020), adapt and do everything possible to keep our schools open with the safety and health of our students as the primary concern.

Vaccines have been proven to assist people to avoid the most horrific effects of the Covid-19 virus. The DCS strongly recommends, but **does not mandate**, along with the Centers for Disease Control and the State Health Department, getting vaccinated to mitigate the effects of Covid-19.

Masks have been an effective tool in combating the spread of the virus through airborne transmission. The Executive Order 251 states that masks are mandated to be worn in our Catholic schools.

All students, faculty, staff and administrators will be required to wear a mask while engaged in school activities. The masks will ensure safety as the highest of priorities.

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701 Lawrenceville Road, P.O. Box 5147, Trenton, NJ 08638-0147  
Phone: 1-609-406-7400 x 7149/7148 • Fax: 1-609-406-7429

*Department of Catholic Schools*



DIOCESE OF  
Diocese of Trenton  
TRENTON

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**Appendix D**

**REQUEST FOR MEDICAL EXEMPTION FROM MANDATORY MASK  
WEARING  
AS PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 251**

**SCHOOL PATIENT IS ATTENDING:**

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Name of Student (Patient):

Patient Date of Birth:

Name of Parent/Guardian:

Patient/Parent Home Address:

Patient/Parent Email Address:

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**Exemption Length:**

Beginning Date

\_\_\_\_\_ Ending Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Diagnosis and Contraindications:**

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DIOCESE OF  
TRENTON

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**PHYSICIAN ATTESTATION**

I am a physician (M.D. or D.O) licensed to practice medicine in a jurisdiction of the United States.

By signing below, I affirm the above diagnosis and contraindication(s). I understand that I might be required to submit supporting medical documentation. I also understand that any misrepresentation might result in referral to the New Jersey State Board of Medical Examiners and/or appropriate licensing/regulatory agency.

Healthcare Provider Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

License Number: \_\_\_\_\_ State of Licensure: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE ATTACH A SIGNED PRESCRIPTION INCLUDING THE  
PATIENT'S NAME AND STATE CONTRAINDICATIONS  
DUE TO MASK WEARING.**

## Appendix E

### COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Resources to help children cope:

Children's Wellness Institute

<https://childwellnessinstituteofnj.org/helping-children-cope-with-covid-19-the-coronavirus/>

Social Emotional Learning Alliance

[https://sel4us.org/covid-19-sel-mental-health/?link\\_id=0&can\\_id=dfaa5548cfd8a51d99259f3678b9f136&source=email-sel-and-mental-health-resources-during-covid-19-outbreak&email\\_referrer=email\\_753498&email\\_subject=sel-and-mental-health-resources-during-covid-19-outbreak](https://sel4us.org/covid-19-sel-mental-health/?link_id=0&can_id=dfaa5548cfd8a51d99259f3678b9f136&source=email-sel-and-mental-health-resources-during-covid-19-outbreak&email_referrer=email_753498&email_subject=sel-and-mental-health-resources-during-covid-19-outbreak)

[https://sel4us.org/blog/social-emotional-learning-supports-around-covid-19/?link\\_id=1&can\\_id=dfaa5548cfd8a51d99259f3678b9f136&source=email-sel-and-mental-health-resources-during-covid-19-outbreak&email\\_referrer=email\\_753498&email\\_subject=sel-and-mental-health-resources-during-covid-19-outbreak](https://sel4us.org/blog/social-emotional-learning-supports-around-covid-19/?link_id=1&can_id=dfaa5548cfd8a51d99259f3678b9f136&source=email-sel-and-mental-health-resources-during-covid-19-outbreak&email_referrer=email_753498&email_subject=sel-and-mental-health-resources-during-covid-19-outbreak)

Child Mind Organization

<https://childmind.org/coping-during-covid-19-resources-for-parents/>  
<https://childmind.org/article/supporting-kids-during-the-covid-19-crisis/>  
<https://childmind.org/article/supporting-teenagers-and-young-adults-during-the-coronavirus-crisis/>

CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/managing-stress-anxiety.html>

Frequently Asked Questions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

Taking Care of Yourself: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/coping/selfcare.asp>

You Tube Videos for Students on Coronavirus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSsKQPqpS7A>