

FALL 2020

ST. JOHN PAUL II AREA FAITH COMMUNITY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR
STUDENTS AND PARENTS OF THE
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT
HOLY FAMILY - SILVER LAKE,
HOLY TRINITY - WINSTED,
AND ST. PIUS X - GLENCOE.

WELCOME BACK

Educating young people in the light of Christ is foundational to the mission of the Catholic Church. While the Church has carried out this work of education in the midst of social, health, and political crises in her long history, the current global COVID-19 pandemic has prompted unprecedented reflection on education and the central role of the Religious Ed community in promoting the spiritual growth of the child.

In preparing for the start of the 2020-21 school year, our local Church and the wider educational community throughout the state and the country will be required to make morally responsible decisions for how we educate the future citizens and leaders of our society during a pandemic, with special consideration for those children and community members who are the most vulnerable among us. With the information that is currently available, we affirm that the most prudent decision for our Religious Education programs is to closely follow the plan that Holy Trinity Catholic schools has in place for the safe reopening of its school buildings at the start of the 2020-21 school year.

Like the school, our Area Faith Religious Ed programs are preparing to implement a special set of policies and procedures for pandemic preparedness and response addressing the various possibilities of the state of the pandemic. These plans will preserve the education of the students to the highest degree possible while balancing that education and formation with the health needs of the community, keeping our Religious Ed volunteers and parish community safe and healthy. We recognize that the decision to return to Religious Ed this fall is deeply personal for each family. We pray for all our families, as they too have to make prudential decisions based on a multitude of considerations of their own particular situation. We ask for the prayers of the entire St. John Paul II Area Faith Community as we seek the wisdom and courage to continue our sacrificial work for the sake of one our noblest endeavors--the education and formation of our children.

MOVING FORWARD

- The primary plan for our Religious Ed programs is to return to in-person learning this fall. We have also have a home school option for families that are not yet comfortable with their children returning to the classroom, or already home school their children full time. The health and safety of our students and volunteers are our top priority. Religious Ed leadership will continue to monitor the situation and make changes to plans as necessary.
- The Religious Ed programs will provide educational materials and lessons to those with COVID-19 or who are quarantined, unable to attend class, or feel it is best in their particular situation to utilize the home school option at this time.
- If the governor of Minnesota declares that all public school systems across the state will close, our Religious Ed programs will follow the New Ulm Diocesan decision on how to respond.
- If the local public school district declares that its local public school or district will close, Religious Ed leadership will be responsible for making a decision and will consult the Diocese of New Ulm.

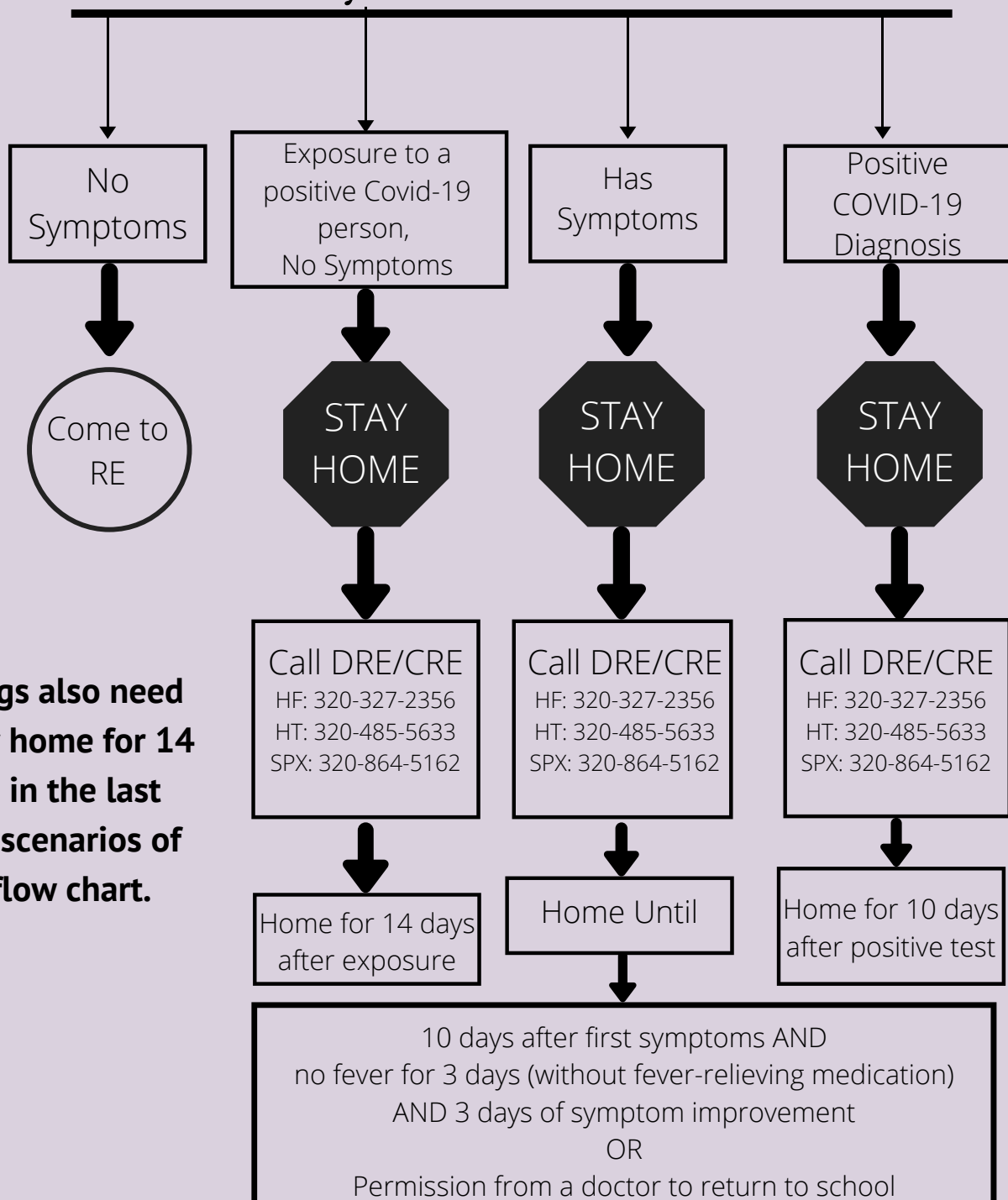
HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please screen your child for the following symptoms before coming to Religion class.

- Fever/Chills
- Cough
- Congestion
- Headache
- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Joint and Muscle Pain
- New loss of taste/smell

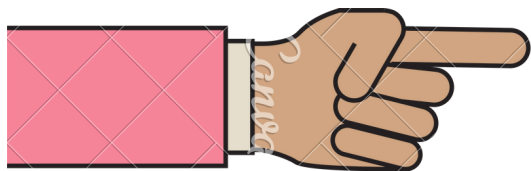
Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus

Daily Decision Flow Chart



Siblings also need to stay home for 14 days in the last three scenarios of the flow chart.

POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND



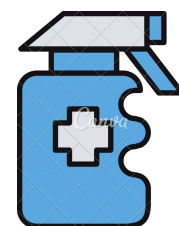
- If a student displays symptoms of illness, they will be sent to the office immediately.
- The student will be quarantined and parents will be notified to pick up their child immediately.
- If your child is sick, **parents must call** the Religious Ed office at least one hour before class begins informing the DRE/CRE about what symptoms they have.
- If a child is waiting for COVID-19 test results, they should remain home.

STEPS TO A HEALTHY & SAFE RETURN

- **Hand Washing & Sanitation**- We will teach and reinforce proper hand washing and sanitization protocols. Upon entering the classroom, students will be asked to use the sink in the classroom or go to the bathroom to wash their hands, or use the hand sanitizer that is in the classrooms.



- **Frequent Sanitation**- Our custodial staff has a robust routine for cleaning and disinfecting. This includes spraying and wiping down desks regularly and sanitizing frequently-touched surfaces. Because we use the classrooms at Holy Trinity school, sanitizing will take place after school and again after Religious Ed classes to insure all classrooms are safe for school students the next day.



- **Masks**- All Religious Ed Catechists, office aides, prayer listeners, and students will wear masks as mandated. A doctor's note is required if a student can't wear a mask. Students and Religious Ed staff are asked to bring a clean mask from home each week. If they forget, we will have a limited amount of disposable masks available at the office.



STEPS TO A HEALTHY & SAFE RETURN (CONT.)



- **Screening/Temperature Checks**- All persons in the building will be checked at entry. Anyone who has been exhibiting symptoms or who has a temperature over 100.0 degrees F. will not be allowed entry and sent home.



- **Social Distancing**- Markings and signage will be placed to serve as reminders for social distancing. To the best of our ability, desks will be spread apart to maintain social distancing. Waiting areas will also be marked to maintain social distancing.



- **Respiratory Etiquette**- Staff will remind and encourage proper cough etiquette and mask usage.



- **Student Materials**- Students will be asked to bring a clean face mask each week to class, and refrain from bringing any food or drink into the classrooms.

- **Visitors**- All visitors to Religious Ed will follow all above-defined safety and personal hygiene procedures for entering the building. Each visitor will be required to have a confirmed appointment with the DRE/CRE or Catechist. We will require each visitor entering the building to verbally affirm that they have no symptoms of COVID-19 that cannot be attributed to another health condition according to the Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist. All visitors will be required to wear a mask.



Please follow our arrival and dismissal protocols to keep everyone safe.

ARRIVAL AT RELIGIOUS ED

We ask that parents of students do not enter the building with their children unless they need to visit the office and have a prearranged appointment with the DRE/CRE or Catechist. Parents must wear a mask while in the building. Parents of students in Grade 1 may accompany their child to the classroom the first night of class only.

- Students and staff will enter through one set of doors.
- Students will be asked to enter the building one person/family at a time.
- Students will move straight from the main entrance to their classroom, or bench outside of the classroom if their Catechist is not there.

RELIGIOUS ED DISMISSAL

- Catechists will dismiss their classes one at a time in intervals to maintain social distancing.
- All students will exit through the same door in which they entered the building

IN THIS TOGETHER

During this time we realize more than ever the importance of teamwork and communication. We are all in this together. All of us want the best for our children: health, safety, love, a vibrant education, and a strong faith. As we move toward the new Religious Ed year, we ask that you all continue to pray for everyone in our Religious Ed and school communities.

Let us also remember to practice empathy with other parents, students, and staff.

The development of this guidance took into consideration the following publications and organizations:

- *Holy Trinity Catholic School*
- *Diocese of New Ulm*
- *Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis*
- *“Leading with Hope” developed by the Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education*
- *Guide to Reopening Schools, Catholic Mutual Group*
- *Considerations for Schools, CDC*
- *Minnesota Department of Health*