

## **Blessed Sacrament School 2022-2023 Covid Protocols**

On Thursday, August 11, the CDC announced new guidelines/recommendations for the public and school settings. Since the North Carolina Safe Schools Toolkit is no longer in effective, Blessed Sacrament School will follow the guidelines set by the CDC.

1. Masks in the school building are optional, unless there is an exposure. If you would like your child to wear a mask, please fill out the form found in the Knight Chronicle.
2. Social distancing of three or six feet are no longer required.
3. If your child is not vaccinated, they no longer have to quarantine if they are exposed to COVID-19, according to the CDC.
4. Any child exposed to COVID-19 in the classroom or at home, need to wear a facemask for 10 days, including at school, and need to be tested five days after they were exposed, if they are showing any symptoms. Parents will be responsible for the masks for their children.
5. Children who test positive for COVID-19 need to isolate for five days, noting that applies to people who are unvaccinated as well as vaccinated. If after day five, any fever is gone and symptoms are improving, the isolation period can end, but masking is still required for another five days.
6. For children who have COVID-19 and are isolating, the CDC is now recommending two negative tests 48 hours apart before going out in public again without a mask, or after day 10. The first test should be one on day six of isolation if they are fever-free for 24 hours, followed by a second rapid test 48 hours later, according to the CDC. If both tests are negative, children can leave their homes and not use a mask around others.
7. Blessed Sacrament School will continue reinforcing proper handwashing to lower the risk of spreading viruses, including the virus that causes COVID-19. In addition, surfaces will be cleaned at least once a day to reduce the risk of germs spreading by touching surfaces.
8. Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations is the leading public health strategy to prevent severe disease. Not only does it provide individual-level protection, but also high vaccination coverage reduces the burden of COVID-19 on people, schools, healthcare systems, and communities.
9. In the event of a severe Covid breakout at Blessed Sacrament, the protocols are subject to change.