

## **SAFETY PLAN FOR FAITH FORMATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

### Guiding Principles

1. We are all in this together, and must come together and provide support to one another, as one community of faith. Our commitment is to work together, to work from facts and accurate information, and to follow best preventive practices to keep ourselves and others healthy.
2. Our decisions will be guided by the health and safety of our parish, from our young people and their families, to our staff, and our volunteers.
3. We are committed to taking whatever measures are necessary to slow down the spread of COVID-19. We must all do our part to ensure our individual and collective health and safety.
4. We will take our cues from the Catholic Diocese of Evansville along with the Posey County School Corporations when it comes to suspending in-person gathering.
5. Our goal is to keep the parish community informed, maintain transparency, and keep all channels of communication open with members of the parish, staff, and volunteers.





## MITIGATING COMMUNITY SPREAD

- Students, catechists and volunteers will self-monitor temperature and symptoms before coming on parish grounds.
- **STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK OR NOT FEELING AT YOUR BEST!**
- Hand soap and paper towels will be provided in all bathrooms.
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be provided in each learning space.
- Post signage in learning space and bathrooms to communicate how to stop the spread of COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, and Diocese specific protocols.
- The use of face masks will be required when entering buildings, walking through hallways, entryways, and stairwells.
- Face masks will be required when leaving the learning space to use the restroom or exiting the building.
- Water fountain mouthpieces will be turned off. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles. Some bottles of water will be available if needed.
- Learning spaces and all high-touched areas will be cleaned and disinfected before each group of students and volunteers arrive as well as after everyone has vacated the buildings.



## TRANSPORTATION

- Youths who do not have a license to drive are asked to be brought to and picked up from the parish by a member of their household who is licensed to drive.
- Youths who do not have a license to drive *should not* be driven to the parish nor picked up by someone who does not live under the same roof.
- Youth who do have a license can drive themselves to and from the parish and any siblings who live under the same roof as them.
- Youth who do have a license *should not* drive a friend to and from the parish unless that person lives under the same roof.



## ENTERING/LEAVING PARISH BUILDINGS

- Students, catechists and volunteers will self-monitor temperature and symptoms before coming on parish grounds.
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be provided for students and volunteers.
- Post signage at entrances how to stop the spread of COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, and Diocese specific protocols.
- Masks/Face coverings *must be* worn by all students, catechists and volunteers when entering or leaving the building.
- Students, catechists and volunteers who feel ill/experience symptoms after arriving will be isolated (see below).



## FOOD

- High School meals will be suspended for now.
- Youth are encouraged to eat before coming to the parish when possible.
- Youth may bring their own pre-packaged food when absolutely necessary.
- The Parish will have a limited amount of pre-packaged individual “snack bag” style chips and cookies.
- The Parish will have a limited amount of bottled water for students, catechists and volunteers if needed.



## RESTROOMS

- If at all possible, youth are asked to take care of their restroom needs before coming on the premises.
- When a youth needs to use parish facilities, they *must* wear a face covering on their way to, while in, and on their way out of the restroom.
- It is preferable that only one youth use the restroom at a time. However, if this is not possible, only two youth *at most* should be together in the restroom all the while wearing a face covering and doing their best to keep a six-foot distance from each other.
- Before leaving the restroom, youth must thoroughly wash their hands.
- CDC guidelines for handwashing procedures will be posted in the restrooms.
- On returning to the learning space, youth will be required to use hand sanitizer before returning to their place in the room as an additional precaution.



## CATECHESIS, LEARNING AND THE GATHERING SPACE

- When weather permits, gatherings will be outside as much as possible.
- Seating between learners will be 6 feet apart while gathered.
- Tables and desks will be spaced a minimum of 6 foot apart from each other.
- Face coverings should be worn while meeting inside and outside for group gatherings and classes.
- All physical contact is to be avoided (hand shaking, fist-bumps, hugs, etc.)
- Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol will be provided in the learning space.
- Upon entering the gathering space, each youth will be asked to sanitize their hands.
- After blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing, youth will need to re-sanitize their hands.

### IF A YOUTH OR VOLUNTEER BECOMES SICK AT THE PARISH

- Anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms during faith formation will be placed in a **COVID quarantine room**.
- A volunteer will be designated to take care of the sick youth or adult and take them to the quarantine room.

- While in the quarantine room, the youth/adult will be assessed as to their capacity to leave. If the youth is licensed to drive and can safely operate a vehicle, they will be allowed to leave the quarantine room and drive home.
- If the youth is not licensed to drive or is incapacitated in some way, his/her parents will be called.
- Parents picking up the sick youth will be asked to call the DRE or catechist when they arrive. The sick youth will be sent out or escorted to the parent.
- The designated individual working with this situation will need to be quarantined for two weeks.
- Sick youth, catechists and volunteers should not return to faith formation until they have met the state Department of Public Health and/or CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation.
- Areas used by the COVID-19 sick person will be closed off and not used for 24 hours.
- After a full 24 hours have passed, the areas will be deep cleaned and disinfected.
- The parish will notify the diocese, local health officials, staff, and families immediately of a *possible case* of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.
- If the youth, catechist or volunteer with symptoms does test positive for COVID-19, they or their parents are asked to contact the parish office immediately.
- The Diocese of Evansville and the Posey County health department will assist the parish officials to provide guidance on next steps, i.e. informing those who have had close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19, determining operations status, etc.



## **COMMUNICATION**

- In the event of a positive test, the parish will follow the latest guidelines from the Indiana Department of Health and the Catholic Diocese of Evansville. Parish personnel will be in direct contact with the Posey County Health Department and the Diocesan Office for Catechesis.
- Communication to families who will be participating in gathered faith formation opportunities is critical. Valid, up-to-date, multiple-ways, and accurate contact information will be gathered at registration.
- Communication to students, families, catechists and volunteers will include updates on the following: program suspension/closing, continued formation/enrichment or a rationale for the lack thereof, expectations for both youth, families, catechists and volunteers.
- The Faith Formation Office must be notified whenever a youth, household family member, catechist, and/or volunteer: has tested positive for COVID-19, is being tested for COVID-19, has traveled outside the State of Indiana for more than 24 hours, presents signs and symptoms indicative of COVID-19.
- The Parish will notify parents, catechists, and/or volunteers whenever a staff member or member of their household, youth and/or one of their household family members, catechists, and/or volunteers: has tested positive for COVID-19, is being tested for

COVID-19, has traveled outside the State of Indiana for more than 24 hours, presents signs and symptoms indicative of COVID-19.

- Communications in the form of email, text, letters, and phone calls will be used to disseminate information. The use of social media will also be incorporated in an appropriate and responsible way. Communications will be done while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.

### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- Physical distancing of at least 6 feet will be promoted when all possible.
- Youth, staff, catechists and volunteers should wash hands and avoid touching their face, eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Key hand washing/sanitizing times include after arriving inside the building, after using the restroom, after blowing nose, coughing or sneezing.
- Youth, staff, catechists, volunteers should remain home if someone in the household has COVID-19 symptoms or is being tested for COVID-19.



### **EXCLUSION FROM PARTICIPATING IN GATHERED SESSIONS**

- If a young person, a catechist or volunteer has any of the following symptoms: a fever of 100°F or greater, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, fatigue, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell.
- Youth, catechists and volunteers who are called in sick will be asked if they are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Youth, staff, catechists and volunteers will be excluded from participating in gathered sessions if they test positive for COVID-19 or exhibit one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19.
- If North Posey High School reaches their 5% threshold of COVID-19 cases or North Posey School Corporation goes into “yellow mode” meaning there are  $\geq 20\%$  but  $\leq 25\%$  absence due to **any illness**; or excessive staff absence due to illness; or at the recommendation of the PCHD in response to positive COVID-19 cases. While in “yellow mode,” gathered faith formation sessions will be suspended.

