

Introduction

When Jesus called the disciples, He invited them foremost into a relationship and on a personal journey. Our formation ministries seek to follow this example of Christ, to accompany one another. This is a very personal and relational action. The spring of 2020 launched a health crisis that inspired all of us to approach our interactions with one another in a manner that runs counterintuitive to the social nature of humankind. As we return to in-person ministries, we strive to continue to provide a safe and nurturing environment for parishioners to grow in their love and relationship with God.

We learned a lot from the spring of 2020, including a renewed emphasis on our department's role to support parents as the primary catechist and educator of their children. The following plan has been created to provide for a fluid transition from face-to-face sessions to online ministries as dictated by a crisis affecting our parish and local community. The movement from phase to phase will be dictated by the situation at hand whether it be guided by the Department of Public Instruction, Department of Health Services, or local authorities as the safety and well-being of the parish community are taken into consideration. During and following a crisis, **our goals are to keep our parishioners safe, care for the social and emotional well-being of all of our community members, and design flexible plans to keep accompanying disciples in their faith journey.** We strive to adapt our methods to meet the challenges we are presented with amid the fluid conditions our world presents.

We appreciate your support of this plan as it is in the best interest of each one for the sake of all.

St. Dominic Parish Mission Statement

“To Seek Christ, Know Christ and Become Christ, each one for the sake of all.”

We are a thriving community of Christians in the Roman Catholic Tradition, assembled under the patronage of St. Dominic, the preacher and teacher.

We hear the voice of the Lord in our lives and desire to live the call of the Gospel by growing in faith through:

- Actively participating in liturgy, the Word of God, prayer, and the Sacraments;
- Extending ourselves in hospitality and evangelization;
- Serving human concerns of persons within and outside our Parish family;
- Offering lifetime opportunities for Christian formation and ongoing conversion; and
- Sharing in stewardship with our time, talent, and treasure.

Main Contact

If you have questions or concerns regarding this action plan, or to report an exposure, please contact:



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Thumbnail Sketch of Guidelines

Below is a thumbnail sketch of the rules developed from the crisis plan. Students and families are expected to abide by these rules as they are for the safety of our entire parish community.

- **If you (or your child if they are the participant) are sick, please stay home! This is especially true if any of the symptoms commonly associated with COVID-19, such as cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea are present. Should your child(ren) exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, we require that you keep your child(ren) home**
- Parents and Legal Guardians shall take the necessary steps to determine whether their child(ren) are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, including, but not limited to, temperature checks for fever (as defined by the CDC as at or above 100.4)
- Any child or participant that demonstrates any symptoms of COVID-19 while attending a ministry will be asked to immediately leave. For children, they will be moved to a separate location and the parish will contact that child's Parents and Legal Guardians to require that child be picked up and taken home in a timely manner
- Wash hands with soap and water frequently.
- Sanitize or wash hands upon entering any room and upon leaving any room.
- Wipe down touchable surfaces after each use.
- **Any teasing or bullying about the wearing of or not wearing of facemasks will not be tolerated.**

General Guidelines

St. Dominic Catholic Parish and School has implemented universal precautions as dictated per the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020. To ensure that we are always operating in a safe and sanitary way to control the spread of contagions, we employ the following prevention strategies provided by the CDC to slow the spread of contagious illnesses:

- Universal and correct use of facemasks
- Physical distancing
- Frequent handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

Universal and correct use of facemasks

As of August 2021, the wearing of facemasks is strongly recommended, especially for children under the age of 12 and those who are unvaccinated. At this time, the wearing of facemasks is per the discretion of the individual/family. Parish leadership reserves the right to require facemasks when the health and well-being of the parish community demands it per the level of contagions in the local community or when the ability to properly social distance demands it.

Many contagions are spread through the sharing of respiratory droplets. To prevent the inadvertent sharing of respiratory droplets, all parishioners are encouraged to wear a facemask. At a minimum, we ask that parishioners carry a facemask on their person while on campus in case a situation arises that would require masking for the safety of those gathered (ie a symptomatic individual is waiting to be picked up – that individual along with staff and catechists waiting with the individual).

For safety reasons, St. Dominic Catholic Parish encourages students wear facemasks that have ear loops and not tie behind their head. Facemasks are to be worn over the mouth and nose to be the most effective per the directions of the CDC. Catechists will work with students to ensure that masks are being worn properly throughout the sessions. Facemasks bearing images that are inappropriate in nature or not in line with the mission of the parish are prohibited such as those with offensive language, offensive images, etc. Facemasks will also be expected when we are unable to properly accommodate for physical distancing, especially in hallways.

Physical Distancing

We ask parishioners to maintain at least a 3-foot distance of other individuals outside one's family-unit and to be mindful of a person's "physical bubble", especially that their bubble may be larger than what you are comfortable with. St. Dominic Catholic Parish will additionally address physical distancing by arranging classrooms and meeting spaces as best as we can to provide appropriate spacing. Formation classes will also stagger time spent in the hallways, bathrooms, and other common spaces in the building. All ministries (Child, Student, and Adult) will stagger the dismissal of classes and meetings to limit traffic in hallways, stairwells, and doorways. When we are unable to appropriate physical distancing, facemasks should be worn.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

All of the students and adults participating in our parish ministries and events are expected to wash their hands with soap and water frequently throughout the day. Everyone will be expected to wash/sanitize hands when entering the classroom or meeting space, after using the restroom, prior to and after eating, after touching educational materials/manipulatives, or at any other time deemed necessary. When soap and water are not readily available, the use of hand sanitizer (alcohol based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol) is expected.

Please employ proper hygiene practices when it comes to controlling coughing and sneezing. All individuals are to be covering up their coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the crook of their elbow. We know that this sometimes gets tricky so should we cough or sneeze into our hands, hands will instantly need to be washed or sanitized. It will take all of us working together to develop this healthy practice.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

The physical layout of meeting spaces and classrooms will strive to provide proper physical distance between individuals. Ministry Leaders (Catechists, Core Team Members, Small Group Leaders, etc) are to ensure that touchable surfaces such as desks, tables, chairs, light switches and door knobs be cleaned and disinfected after room usage. Each meeting space and classroom have been equipped with a cleaning solution for this purpose. For large group events (ie Edge, Life Teen, That Man is You, Women of Grace, etc) ministry leaders will disinfect the space with an atomizer before and after.

Food & Beverages

To help control respiratory droplets we ask ministries to limit or restrict the consumption of food and beverages. Any provided meals, snacks, and/or beverages should be pre-packaged.

Use of Outdoor Spaces

While all of our classrooms and meeting spaces circulate air from the outdoors at a regular rate. Ministries and/or classes may be conducted outside when possible and appropriate. For groups larger than 15, we encourage reserving outdoor space in advance.

Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine

When a positive case of a highly communicable disease is identified within a ministry group: participants will be notified and encouraged to watch for symptoms. For ministries involving minors, parents of that group/ministry will be notified and encouraged to watch their child(ren) for symptoms. In certain cases, the parish and school must perform contact tracing to identify those individuals who have been in direct contact with the individual who tested positive. The parish and school must comply with guidelines of the Waukesha County Health Department.

Any individual who is not feeling well and showing symptoms of a contagious illness should stay home.

Any individual with a positive test result should isolate or quarantine.

Isolation should be used to separate individuals diagnosed with the Coronavirus and its variants from those who are not infected. Individuals in isolation should stay home and follow the direction of the local health authority about when it is safe for them to be around others. Isolation is 10 days from the onset of symptoms or 10 days from a positive test.

Quarantine should be used for individuals who might have been exposed to the Coronavirus and its variants. Close contacts, identified through contact tracing, should quarantine for 10-14 days **unless** they are fully vaccinated AND asymptomatic (do not have symptoms) **OR** have tested positive in the last 3 months.

Quarantine is most effective when practiced for 14 days from exposure in order to monitor symptoms. An individual remaining asymptomatic may only have to quarantine for 7 days with proof of a negative test.

Fully vaccinated individuals or individuals who consistently and properly wear a facemask, do not need to quarantine provided they are asymptomatic. Individuals should continue to self-monitor and immediately isolate and pursue testing if symptoms develop.

Contact Tracing is the practice of identifying those individuals who have been within 3 feet of a contagious individual for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes. Individuals who have engaged with a contagious individual according to this stipulation must quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated or have been consistently and properly wearing a facemask.

Emergencies (Fire, Lockdown, Tornado)

An emergency dictates that it is more important to get participants/students to safety than it is to mind physical distancing.

Response Protocols

As a parish community, the ability to gather to grow in our faith and relationship with God with other believers is paramount to our mission. The goal of St. Dominic Catholic Parish is to safely provide for in person interactions and ministries. We do realize there may be times when we must adapt our format as determined by what is happening in the local community around us.

Since our populations belong to different schools and communities, parish leadership will utilize Waukesha County data to make an informed decision for our parish community. In order to be responsive to these changing variables, St. Dominic Catholic Parish has developed four scenarios to be employed based on the safety needs of the community. The four scenarios are referred to in this plan as Green, Yellow, Orange, and Red. Parish leadership will monitor trends in the county's number of positive/confirmed new cases from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Once a week, Parish leadership will determine the mean of new cases over the reported two-week period (found by changing "Activity Indicator" to "Percent Positive") to determine which scenario to employ.

Level	Description	Two Week Average of Positive Tests
Green	The green scenario will be engaged when there are low transmission instances in our local community. The green scenario most closely mimics "normal".	<175
Yellow	The yellow scenario will be engaged when there is moderate transmission instances and a greater need for vigilance against danger/contagion to the population at large.	175-349
Orange	The orange scenario will be engaged when there is substantial transmission instances and a high need for vigilance against danger/contagion to the population at large.	350-499
Red	The red scenario will be engaged when there is high transmission instances and there is an imminent threat to the health and well-being of the population at large. The parameter for determining the need to be in red will be that a stay at home order has been issued.	≥ 500

Area of Focus	Green Level	Yellow Level	Orange Level	Red Level
Size Restrictions	No size restrictions	Groups limited to 50 people or 25% of room capacity.	Groups limited to small groups (10-12 individuals).	Ministries are moved online or suspended.
Distance	Strive to provide at least 3 feet between individuals as space and activity allow	Strive to provide 3 to 6 feet between individuals Use of "Small Group Bubbles" in large group settings.	Strive to provide at least 6 feet between individuals.	
Facemasks	Strongly recommended for those under 12 years of age and the unvaccinated.	Required for those who are unvaccinated Strongly recommended for those vaccinated.	Required for all, regardless of vaccination status.	
Food	Pre-packaged items preferred.	Food and beverage service is dependent on written approval from the Director of Formation.	All food and beverage outside of water is suspended.	

St. Dominic Catholic Parish may need to move into and out of these phases fluidly based on the situation at hand. The administration will always communicate when and why those changes will take place as soon as possible to provide parishioners time to adjust. Individual ministries may need to respond separately from the rest of the department based on individual situations.

Regardless of the scenario employed, St. Dominic Catholic Parish and School wishes to honor parents as the primary catechists of their children. If the situation we find ourselves in results in parents independently making the decision to keep their children at home, St. Dominic Catholic Parish will respond accordingly. We wish everyone to feel comfortable and at ease especially in times that elevate fear and anxiety. Parents are encouraged to reach out to administration to discuss alternatives.

Handling of an Exposure

St. Dominic Catholic Parish views exposure in three ways: direct exposure, proximal exposure, and remote exposure. While scenarios may vary and cases will be unique to the individual or ministry, the following understandings will be employed when making decisions on behalf of the parish community.

Direct exposure: A participant/student has tested positive for coronavirus or other novel contagious illness.

Proximal exposure: A participant/student’s family unit has tested positive for coronavirus or other novel contagious illness or a member of the family unit has been quarantined.

Remote exposure: A participant/student has learned that they have been in contact with someone outside their family unit who has tested positive for coronavirus or other novel contagious illness but maintained proper care requirements in their presence.

Direct or Proximal Exposure to the coronavirus or other novel contagion

In the event that you or a household member (living with you) has been knowingly exposed **OR** has tested positive to the coronavirus or other novel contagion, you/your parent or legal guardian should immediately take the following steps:

1. Contact the your/your child’s primary care physician
2. Notify the local health department
3. Follow the local health department’s protocols for quarantine, isolation and return to work or school
4. Notify the parish, specifically the Director of Formation, of exposure. The parish will then alert the community as to the next course of action.
5. Prior to the participant/student returning to our ministries, the parents or legal guardians will contact the parish to inform the parish of the steps taken to ensure that the child is no longer contagious based on the protocols and guidelines of the local health department.
6. To return to our ministries, proper documentation must be submitted to the Director of Formation. You/Your student may return after receiving a confirmation email from the Director of Formation.

Based on what is reported to the parish the following protocols will be launched. **This plan could vary based on the exposure in relation to the ministry.**

Direct exposure	Proximal exposure	Remote exposure
Inform the Director of Formation	Inform the Ministry Lead or the Director of Formation	Monitor symptoms
Person is to be Isolated*	Unvaccinated: Quarantine and Monitor symptoms.	
Parish will assist in contact tracing and suspend ministries or small groups as needed.	Vaccinated: Monitor symptoms and quarantine if needed.	

***The individual is to remain home until they are fever free for 10 days from when fever broke OR at least 14 days from onset of symptoms AND improvement in respiratory symptoms OR negative COVID tests with no other symptoms**

St. Dominic Catholic Parish is taking all illness seriously, as we wish to keep contagion low in order for our parish and school to continue to operate. We reserve the right to refuse re-entry of anyone onto our campus without proper documentation for the health and safety of the community.

General Conditions

This document is subject to review and change as conditions warrant. Said changes are deemed immediate and do not require distribution of the updated Crisis Plan for a Pandemic. Any errors or omissions in this document are considered reparable given the intent of the policy and procedure.

Document Information

This document was created 17 September 2020 by the formation department staff in conjunction with the crisis policy utilized in the parish school.

It was last revised on 03 October 2021.