



Dear Parents,

Bishop Hartley is working diligently in collaboration with the Diocese of Columbus, our local health department, and the State Department of Education to ensure students and staff return to a healthy and safe learning environment. As school nurse, I will be leading the way to minimize transmission of illness, protect our more vulnerable students and staff, and promote overall wellness within the Bishop Hartley community. We will follow a layered approach when addressing **COVID – 19 at school**.

- **Daily Health Assessments:** Students and staff are expected to take their own temperature before reporting to school and to stay home if temperature is above 100.0 F or if they are experiencing other symptoms of illness.
- Staff and students who are ill must stay home from school; they will be sent home if they become ill at school, particularly if they have one or more Covid-19 symptoms – fever, coughing, shortness of breath, sore throat, nasal congestion, body aches, chills, loss of taste/smell, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting. While waiting to go home, ill persons will continue to wear a face mask and will be in a separate room overseen by school personnel who will also wear a mask and monitor the ill person from outside the room.
- **Physical/Social Distancing:** We will strive to maintain physical distancing (recommended 6 feet apart) among all persons on school grounds. The school will post visual cues (i.e. floor markings, wall signage) and use other strategies to reinforce social distancing. We will follow protocols to facilitate social distancing in the halls and minimize congregating in common spaces including hallways, lobby, cafeteria, etc.
- **Face Coverings:** All persons on school grounds and waiting for or utilizing school transportation will wear face coverings. School nurses or personnel who care for sick persons will utilize appropriate PPE. Students and staff will be instructed on the appropriate way to wear and care for face masks. The CDC recommends face coverings for children in grades K through 12. There could be a few students who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical or other concerns in which case parents must discuss their concern as well as alternative options with the nurse and provide documentation of need from a health care provider.
- **Good Hygiene Practices:** Handwashing is encouraged upon entering the building and before lunch. In addition, hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol based) and sanitizing products will be made available for staff and students, especially in high traffic areas, including at the school entrance. High contact surfaces such as desks, doorknobs, light switches, etc. will be sanitized frequently.

Some final points for consideration:

The health department tells us we should expect “flare-ups” as students return to school. In anticipation of this probability, we will handle incidence of positive COVID cases by implementing additional measures beyond the ongoing precautions listed above. Our local health department will be notified and give direction to the school on the appropriate measures needed according to each incidence/exposure.

During the COVID pandemic, schools will be following a strict “sick policy,” students or staff who arrive at school ill will be sent home (see Daily Health Assessment).

For those sent home with COVID symptoms, Bishop Hartley will follow state and local guidelines which could require exclusion from school for 10 or more days. The nurse will use a tracking form to keep record of ill students and staff.

Immunization schedules have not been altered due to COVID, all students enrolled in the school must provide a current and complete immunization record. This includes the Meningitis requirement for Seniors.

As you can imagine, it will be a busy start to the school year. If your child has a health concern that requires medication or special considerations while at school, please meet with the nurse prior to the start of the school year so we can establish an action plan and ensure all needed medical records/documentation are in place. Medication and other medical forms, including physical examination forms, can be downloaded from the school website.

I welcome your questions and comments via email at [rhinterschied4163@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:rhinterschied4163@columbus.k12.oh.us).

Working together WE CAN DO THIS!

Regina Hinterschied, RN, LSN