

BACK TO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROTOCOL INFORMATION (Updated 8.25.21)

Given that all of the mandates from the Health Department have expired, we turn to recommendations to keep our community safe. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends layers of defense in schools to reduce transmission of the COVID-19 virus. As the community transmission fluctuates, these layers can increase or decrease. They also recommend that decisions be made with consideration to the local school and community. Below are the layers currently planned for the start of the 2021-22 RE program.

➤ Vaccinations

- The CDC encourages vaccinations for all eligible individuals.
- The COVID-19 vaccine is not listed on the School Required Vaccination list and, therefore, will not be a requirement for RE attendance.
(https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/School_Req_for_Schools_553548_7.pdf)

➤ Facial Coverings

- * Kent County Health Department has announced as of August 20, that a public health order is in place for that PK-4 through 6th graders, the catechists, as well as adults in the building, wear face coverings this year.
- * We strongly recommend that the 7th & 8th graders do so as well, along with our catechists and other adults in the building.

➤ COVID-19 Screenings, Testing and Contact Tracing

- Staff, students and parents are encouraged to monitor health conditions closely and stay home if you are sick or having COVID-19 symptoms.
- We encourage students and staff to get tested for COVID-19 if having symptoms or identified as a close contact of an individual with COVID-19.

➤ Parent and Guest Procedures

- All parents and special guests should self-screen for symptoms before coming to the school and will be required to check in and complete a health screen at the office.
- Volunteers are able to come into the building for specific volunteer assignments.

➤ RE Evening Routines

- Catechists, staff, parents and students will continue to sanitize hands in and out of rooms.
- Catechists will continue to keep rooms well ventilated.
- Classes will continue to regularly sanitize desks and common surfaces.