

THE KEYS TO A SAFE RETURN

Catholic Schools Office
Diocese of Birmingham

Boldly Catholic | Academically Excellent | Rooted in Truth



This guidance was developed to:

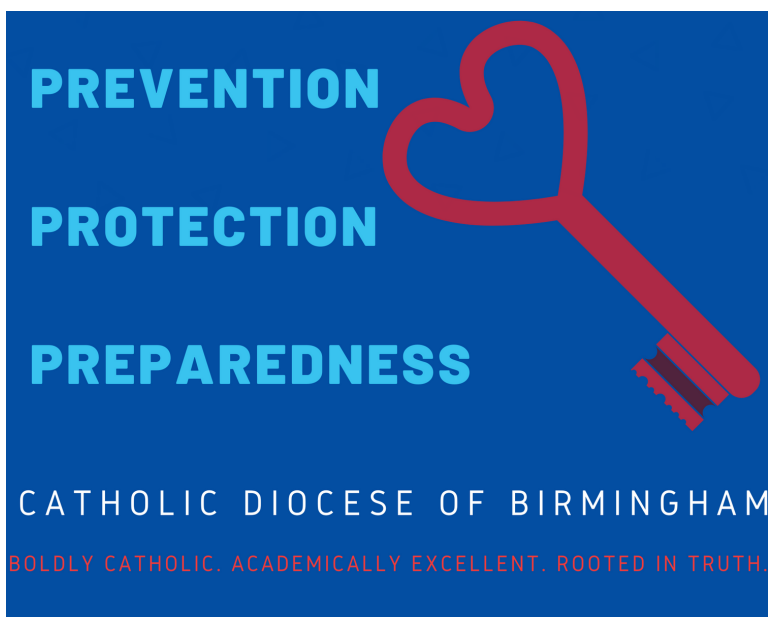
- Prioritize safety
- Incorporate CDC and ADPH health guidance into plans for our Catholic school communities
- Ensure the continuation of high quality academic and spiritual instruction throughout changing circumstances
- Be mindful and respectful of the shared burdens involved in a large-scale shift
- Begin stringently with the hope of easing measures as the health situation and research evolves

This guidance is to be interpreted through the assumptions that:

- Until an effective vaccine and/or treatment is widely available, preventative, protective, and preparedness measures are necessary to create the safest environment that we can
- All school and diocesan stakeholders will have to adapt to this new environment
- We must all do our part to mitigate the risk of contracting illness
- Protective measures will be lessened if/when health guidance and research indicates that we can do so

Through a tiered system of responses and utilizing state, local, and national health guidance, our schools will minimize risk and maximize academic and spiritual instruction through three pillars:

Preventative Measures, Protective Measures, and Preparedness Measures, while continuing to emphasize Catholic Identity; high-quality, developmentally-appropriate curriculum and instruction; community building and relationships; and the importance of outdoor play and socialization.



Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: "Do not be afraid" (Matthew 28:5). And we, together with Peter, "cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us" (1 Peter 5:7).

- Pope Francis
Strong in the Face of Tribulation:
A Sure Support in Time of Trial

TIMELINE



MAY-JUNE, 2020

Survey administrators,
parents, and teachers

Form committee to plan for
return to school

**PHASE
I**

JUNE 2020

School administrators work
with committee to assess
needs
Initial Plans communicated
to diocesan community

**PHASE
II**

JUNE-AUGUST, 2020

School specific plans refined
and communicated

Collect necessary supplies

Training, planning, and
support provided for staff,
teachers, and families

**PHASE
III**

AUGUST-ONGOING

Safe return plans
implemented

Family training and support
continue

**PHASE
IV**

Feedback and input
solicited





THE PILLARS OF PREVENTION, PROTECTION, AND PREPAREDNESS ARE THE KEY TO A SAFE RETURN FOR OUR STUDENTS AND OUR STAFF

Prevention

Protection

Preparedness

Updating attendance and sick leave policies for students and staff to encourage all to stay home when sick

Maintaining 6-foot distance as much as possible

Remaining up-to-date with guidance from national, state, and local health organizations

Implementing new "return to school" criteria after a student or staff member has been sick

Maintaining student cohort groups as much as possible

Continually evaluating practices within the 3 Pillars to lessen or strengthen according to the current local health situation and to maintain efficiency and effectiveness

Screening students, staff, and visitors through temperature checks and a short questionnaire daily

For the safety of all, wearing a face covering is required

Planning for and communicating steps to be taken should cases occur within the school community

Increased frequency for cleaning and disinfecting shared items and spaces throughout the school day and at the end of each day

Creating community through virtual opportunities for interaction

Implementing a tiered system of short-term virtual adaptations to instruction in response to the local health situation when needed

Increasing hand washing opportunities and teaching safe hygiene practices

Updating certain systems and schedules to allow for recess, food service, hallway traffic, and school assemblies to continue in safe ways

Train students, staff, and families in protocols that will be implemented and instructional methods that will be used

Reducing entry to the school building during school hours for non-essential contractors or vendors

Increase ventilation and airflow in indoor spaces and encourage outdoor time

Implement social-emotional learning supports for students, families, and staff

Maintaining 6-foot distance for all visitors not within the same household

Offer Catholic Virtual for families who prefer a fully virtual option



**A TIERED SYSTEM OF RESPONSE
 ALLOWS FOR LOCAL SCHOOL
 ADMINISTRATION TO UTILIZE MODELS
 BASED ON SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY
 NEEDS**



Tier 1: Face to Face Instruction

Tier 1 is utilized when national, state, and/or local health orders, guidance, and/or conditions allow for face to face instruction to occur in school buildings.

A full-time virtual option will be offered through Catholic Virtual.

- Screening Protocols
- Arrival and Dismissal Protocols
- Cleaning Protocols
- Social Distancing
- Scheduling
- Visual Cues
- High Quality Instruction & Assessment
- Create and Maintain Community
- Promote Catholic Identity

Tier 2: Hybrid Learning

Tier 2 is utilized when additional precaution is necessary due to national, state, and/or local health orders, guidance, and/or conditions OR when school facilities and/or personnel constraints do not allow for Tier I instruction to safely occur.

- Scheduling- Alternate Weeks
- Screening Protocols
- Arrival and Dismissal Protocols
- Cleaning Protocols
- Social Distancing
- Visual Cues
- High Quality Hybrid Instruction
- Technology Support
- Create and Maintain Community
- Promote Catholic Identity

Tier 3: CASE Learning

Tier 3 is utilized when national, state, and/or local health orders, guidance, and/or conditions do not allow for face to face instruction to occur in school buildings. Continuation of Academic and Spiritual Education (CASE Learning) takes place for a short period.

- High Quality Online Instruction & Assessment- CASE Learning
- Technology Support
- Create and Maintain Community
- Promote Catholic Identity

