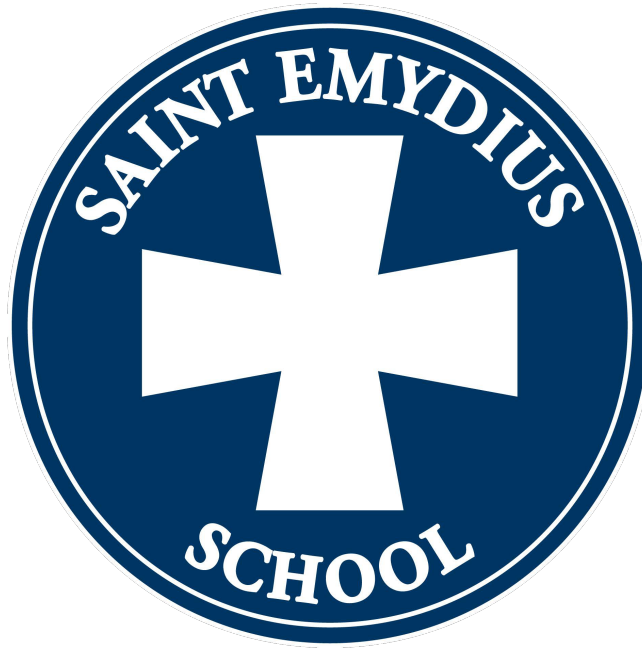


St. Emydius Catholic School



COVID-19 Protocols Handbook 2021- 2022 School Year

Revised 11/2021

Fully Accredited By:

Western Catholic Education Association (WCEA) and Western Association of
Schools and Colleges (WASC)

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The school has a COVID-19 Containment, Response and Control Plan that describes the school's comprehensive approach to preventing and containing the spread of COVID-19 on campus.

Return to Campus

St. Emydius Catholic School reopened for in-person instruction for grades TK-8 on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 using a Hybrid/HyFlex Model of Instruction.

For the 2021-2022 School Year, our campus will be open for in-person instruction for grades TK-8 on Monday, August 23, 2021 using a Hybrid/HyFlex Model of Instruction

Re-Opening Safety Measures

Now that we are permitted to return to in-person instruction, we want to ensure that we do it in the safest way possible. The purpose of this document is to indicate the various safety measures that will be put in place in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The measures outlined in this document are intended to keep all students and staff on campus as safe as possible while providing a quality Catholic education.

The following measures are subject to change and update as needed per the guidance of ADLA and County Public health officials. Should such changes take place, families will be notified by the school administration.

Academic Planning

St. Emydius Catholic School's faculty and staff are committed to providing a quality academic environment for its students. If we cannot fully open, the school will implement the Hybrid/HyFlex model for instruction. The Hybrid/HyFlex Learning Model where 100% of students are learning, and 50% are in school because of the need for a restrictive environment due to social distancing requirements.

Hybrid/HyFlex learning is a way of combining traditional classroom experience and digital course delivery that emphasizes using the best option for each learning objective.

A plan for updating Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and 504 Plans of students with special needs has been developed to ensure that education can continue without undue risk to the student. Currently the school has less than 10% of students who qualified for this service. The school will follow the guidelines in regard to cohorts, face mask, social distance, and the disinfecting areas being used by students.

Office Schedule: The office will be open from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Visitors Guidelines

Anyone other than Postal Carriers, UPS, or Federal Express must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Visitors should prescreen by taking their temperature at home before coming to our school campus.

Visitors need to call our school office to make an appointment for any in person matter and answer some health screening questions. We encourage visitors to handle matters remotely. Visitors upon arriving at the office will have their temperature checked. Visitors and all other adults must always wear face coverings. The office will provide a face covering for anyone that has forgotten or lost their mask.

Schedules

The school schedule has been modified to allow for social distancing. The goal is to minimize contact with others to the extent possible in a school setting.

On-Campus Schedule for Grades TK to 8

We will offer in-person instruction for students in grades TK-8. Based on the guidance from public health, students will be grouped in cohorts by grade-level to allow for social distancing.

Distance Learning Option for TK to 8

We will continue to offer distance learning for on-campus TK-8 grade students that may be required to stay at home due to illness or quarantine. We will utilize research-based blended learning instructional models to simultaneously support students on-campus and at-home. The models may vary based on teacher and grade-level, but include station rotation (students “rotate” through stations on a fixed schedule) and flipped classroom (students access prerecorded videos for the model/lecture and teachers use class time for teacher-guided practice and projects).

Attendance

Student attendance will continue to be taken daily.

- For students **on-campus**:
 - Attendance will be taken by the teacher and recorded in the school student information system, SchoolSpeak.
 - If your child will be absent for any reason, please call the office by 8:30am to report the absence.
 - If your child is not in class by 8:30am they will be marked Tardy.
 - If your child needs to be at home for an extended period due to quarantine, the student will participate in instruction through distance learning. It is your responsibility to communicate and coordinate with the child’s teacher(s).
 - If your child needs to be at home for an extended period due to illness, please coordinate with the administration and teacher.
- For students **at-home because of illness for more than a week**:
 - Attendance will be taken at the beginning and end of each virtual class session. There also needs to be some evidence of completed student work to be marked “present” for the day.
 - Teachers will record attendance by for each virtual session and record it in the school student information system. An email will be sent to parents to notify them of the absence for the session.
 - If your child is unable to participate in the day’s at-home learning due to illness or other reasons, notify the school’s office and teacher so we can document the reason of the absence on the child’s record.

Communication

We will continue to primarily communicate through two systems:

- SchoolSpeak - Our Student Information System (SIS) is used to manage student records of the school and communication with families.
- Google Classroom, Seesaw and Class Dojo - Each classroom will continue to use a Learning Management System (LMS) to communicate and organize student learning. Teachers will communicate with students through this platform
 - For students **on-campus and at-home**, assignments will be accessed using the LMS under teacher direction and guidance.
 - Parents are asked to communicate with teachers via email for formal concerns and for clarification through messages on Class Dojo. Parents can also make phone or video conferencing appointments. Please remember that the teachers' priority is time with the students. Teachers will be engaged in on-campus instruction, so they will likely not be able to respond during school hours. However, teachers will respond as soon as possible, but within 24 hours except on weekends, holidays and vacations.
 - The school administration will continue to provide a weekly newsletter of upcoming events by the end of each week. School information/forms will be posted on SchoolSpeak and Class Dojo.

Technology and Device Use

All students, whether on-campus or at-home, are expected to follow our Acceptable Use and Responsibility Policy that was signed as part of the beginning of year paperwork. The [Archdiocesan Acceptable Use and Responsibility Policy \(linked here\)](#)

- **On-campus** students will continue to utilize technology to engage in learning. Following health and safety guidelines, students will need to clean their devices with a disinfecting wipe. If your child was issued a school device, he/she is expected to bring it to school daily. It is the student's responsibility to charge the device each afternoon/evening at home and bring it to school fully charged. It is helpful to turn off the device after charging to minimize the drain on the battery.

The Plan includes, but is not limited to the following elements:

COVID-19 Health & Wellness Protocols

To minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission on our campus and comply with the county health mandates, we will be implementing the following plans and protocols. We ask for your cooperation and support.

At-Home Health Screenings

Parents are strongly advised to monitor for symptoms at home and be reminded to keep sick children at home until they are symptom free including but not limited to fever, cough, runny nose, vomiting, sore throat, chills, shortness of breath, body aches, diarrhea, headaches, etc. Children who are sick must remain home until they are fever/vomit free for a minimum of 24 hours without any medication. (Temperature should be below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.) Parents/guardians are asked to be cautious

for the safety of [Covid 19 Screening & Exposure Pathway](#).

At-School Screenings

Prior to entering campus, all students and staff must conduct a COVID-19 screening test and temperature check with a no-touch thermometer. The screening will be done via an online form. You will get an email every day with the link for the daily screening. Students who are symptom-free will receive a date-stamped certification to participate in school and related activities. They will receive a green checkmark, which they will show to enter school grounds. Students who have symptoms or potential exposure to COVID-19 will receive a red message which means they are not allowed to enter school and must contact the school office for further instructions. The teachers will monitor for signs of illness throughout the day. The school will use a Daily Screening for Students Checklist and the Checklist for Planning In-person Class provided by the [Screening Students for Symptoms CDC link](#).

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

We have created arrival and dismissal protocols that will allow us to efficiently screen students and reduce large gatherings.

Arrival time: 7:45am

- Student Health Screenings will begin at 7:45am via Norton Ave for walking students and through carline in our parking lot for those driving into campus.
- Several staff members will be conducting health screenings check at our drop off areas.
- Drop-off areas will close at 8:15am. After 8:15am, please park and walk your child to the front office for check-in.
- Carline: Enter gate on California Avenue and exit through alley gate closest to Norton Ave. Exit on Norton is right turn only.

What to expect when you arrive:

- **Mondays:** show your child's negative test result.
- **Daily:** Show your health screening clearance on your phone.
- Your student's temperature will be taken.
- Your student will exit the car or walk in the gate and proceed to their classroom line.
- Teachers will be present to assist, and will be ready and waiting to greet students.
- Your student will stand on dedicated space, to ensure safe social distancing.
- When class time arrives, teachers will lead classes to their classrooms, one at a time.

- If you arrive after your gate is closed, you will need to walk up to the front of the school.

Dismissal Procedure:**Monday-Thursday**

- TK-5 - Dismissal is at 2:45pm.
- Grades 6-8 - Dismissal is at 3:00pm.

Friday

- TK-5 - Dismissal is at 11:45am.
- Grades 6-8 - Dismissal is at 12:00pm.

If you have siblings, please pick up students at Junior High (Grades 6-8) Dismissal time.

Carline: Enter gate on California Avenue and exit through alley gate closest to Norton Ave. Exit on Norton is right turn only.

Cohorting/ Stable Groups

St. Emydius Catholic School will have students remain in their grade level with the same teacher for grades TK to 5th throughout the school day to reduce infection possibilities. For grades 6th-8th, the students will be moving to the other classrooms but follow the procedures of walking in one line. Students will store books and supplies in their bins/crates/backpacks. When necessary, students will engage in physical activity three-six feet apart. If a case should occur, then students in 6-8 will remain in their classroom and teachers will teach remotely from their classrooms.

We have 3 separate snack times (primary (Grades TK-2), intermediate (Grades 3-5), and junior high (Grades 6-8) and 3 separate lunch times (primary, intermediate, and junior high). Tables will be disinfected after each use.

We have 3 separate playtimes for recess (primary, intermediate and junior high) and 3 separate playtimes for lunch (primary, intermediate, and junior high).

Each grade will have a designated area to play. Students will be required to stay within their area and NOT walk over to another grades play area. This is part of the mitigation guidelines. In order to manage safety, limit potential exposure, and/or spreading, students must remain with their own grade.

We will have daily “game” class rotations which will enable a class to play a different game each day that is safe and fun. Some games may include kickball, “horse” basketball, and socially distanced passing volleyball, and even “pool noodle” tag and jump ropes will be available.

All games being played have been adjusted in order to promote social distancing rules. We want our kids to play and exercise, but we want them to remain safe. Equipment will be sanitized after each use. Students will immediately wash their hands after recess and lunch.

Recess

The students will be allowed to eat their snacks, while maintaining social distancing. The lunch tables have been moved and labeled for social distancing. Students will play and eat outside. Students will wear masks when playing, but they may remove them when eating. Shields have been provided for use at the lunch benches. On rainy days, students will eat in their classroom. Snacks will be provided by their parents.

Lunch

The different eating times will enable us to easily social distance and allow for the students to be comfortable while eating and talking. Students will play and eat outside. The lunch tables have been moved and labeled for social distancing. Students will wear masks when playing, but they may remove them when eating.

Staggered schedule (*When times overlap, one group is eating, while the other group is playing.)

Recess	Times
TK-2nd	9:30am-10am
3rd-5th	10:00am-10:30am
6th-8th	10:40am-11:10am
Lunch	Times
TK-2nd	11:30am-12:15pm
3rd-5th	12:00pm-12:45pm
6th-8th	12:30pm-1:15pm

The school has developed several strategies to prepare for when someone gets sick.

Symptom Monitoring

If a student experiences symptoms during the school day, the teachers and staff will follow the school plan to isolate and contact the family.

The administration will monitor faculty, staff, and students throughout the day for signs of illness. Students, faculty, and staff with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, who show coughing, fatigue, or shortness of breath, or display other COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home.

Any students, faculty, or staff exhibiting symptoms will immediately be required to wait in the dedicated health room (isolation area) until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility, as soon as possible. Families will be directed to the [community-related exposures link](#) on information about the next steps to get their child the appropriate care they need. The student/staff member will be confined to the health room (isolation room) until they can be transported home or to a healthcare facility as soon as practicable. The person will be sent home as quickly as possible and the area that the person came in contact with will be cleaned and disinfected after the 24-hour wait time that has been established by the CDC. We will follow established guidelines for triaging students in the office, recognizing that not all symptoms are COVID-19 related. Parents/Guardians will be advised that students are not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation, if identified as positive for COVID-19. If a positive case is verified, a member of the school's COVID Compliance

Team will follow all county public health procedures and notify the [County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health](#) and Los Angeles Archdiocese immediately and complete the ADLA COVID-19 Report Form & Instructions to report to the Archdiocese.

Reporting Positive Cases

If we have a confirmed case of COVID-19 in our school community, we will adhere to the reporting protocols set forth by the CDPH.

Handling a Positive Case of COVID-19

As stated above, anyone who displays COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home immediately and all areas that the person was in or near will be disinfected. If a positive case is verified, a member of the school's COVID Compliance Team will follow all county public health procedures and notify the [County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health](#) and Los Angeles Archdiocese immediately and complete the ADLA COVID-19 Report Form & Instructions to report to the Archdiocese.

St. Emydius Catholic School will follow the protocols and guidelines from the archdiocese, including notifying public health officials and quarantining students and staff, as necessary and support them in contact tracing including identifying students/staff who have been exposed. The principal will communicate with exposed school community members using SchoolSpeak, the school's Student Information System. All affected areas will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. In the instance that our school experiences multiple positive cases of COVID-19 in a 14-day period, we may need to, in consultation with local health authorities and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, consider a partial or full campus closure

Covid-19 Compliance Team

Name	Title
Erika Melendez	COVID-19 Compliance Lead DPH Liaison
Yvonne Wilcox	COVID-19 Compliance Staff Support
Erika Garcia	COVID-19 Compliance Parent and Student Support
Nancy Manzano	COVID-19 Compliance Parent and Student Support

Covid-19 Compliance Team is responsible for: establishing and enforcing all COVID-19 safety protocols. Ensuring that staff and students receive information about COVID-19 and serving as a liaison to the Department of Public Health in the event of an outbreak on campus. The school will use the [School Exposure Management Plan](#) provided by the county.

St. Emydius Catholic School will follow the local public health agency's specific protocols and sample communications. The school will follow DPH guidance on [Decision Pathways](#) for persons who have not been tested yet for COVID-19 but screen positive for symptoms prior to school entry or while at school and their contacts at school.

The School will Isolate Those Who are Sick

Students and staff should not come to school, and they should notify school officials if they (staff) or their child (families) become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.

The school will immediately separate staff and children with COVID-19 symptoms (such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath) at school. Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow CDC guidance for caring for oneself and others who are sick.

The school will designate the Health Room as the isolation room or area to separate students who have been exposed to COVID-19 symptoms but do not have symptoms.

Responding to Positive Cases Protocol

After a confirmed case is reported, specific safety protocols must be followed, and the information about the case(s) will be appropriately shared with the school community.

A. When a student, teacher, or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 and has exposed others at the school, we will implement the following steps:

1. Contact LACDPH Community Health Nurse/Disease Control and report it.
2. Isolate the case and exclude from the school until criteria for a return have been met.
3. Send the school community notification of a known COVID-19 case.
4. Identify contacts, quarantine, and exclude exposed contacts (i.e., likely the entire cohort) for 14 days after the last case was present in the school while infectious.
5. Recommend testing of contacts and prioritize symptomatic contacts. (Testing does not shorten the 14-day quarantine period).
6. Disinfect and clean the classroom and spaces where the known case spent significant time. Waiting as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
7. The rest of the school will remain open depending on the cases.

Notify Health Officials and Close Contacts

In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, school administrators will notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The school will inform those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

Contingency plans for full or partial closure of in-person school operations if that should become necessary based on an outbreak in the school or community.

Plan for Full or Partial School Closure

Should a COVID-19 outbreak occur in the school or community, the school will close depending on the level of outbreak. If it is determined safe to do so, the school staff and administration will remain on campus to instruct their students remotely over Zoom. If it is determined unsafe for the staff and administration to physically be on campus, a full school closure will take place during which time all students and employees will work remotely.

For Partial School Closures

If a student tests positive, the positive student will be put in the isolation room. The rest of that cohort will remain together and transfer to an area outside or in a classroom that is not being used. The affected cohort will wait in the new classroom/area until they can be picked up and begin quarantine. We will close off the area used by the person with COVID-19 for a significant amount of time. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection. If it is determined that no other cohorts are affected, in person learning will continue for them.

For Full School Closures

If there are three or more cases of flu, cold, or other symptoms relating to COVID-19 the school will notify the Department of Public Health for advice on how to safely proceed with in-person learning. It may be determined by the department of public health if a full closure is needed.

Plan for COVID-19 Testing at the school

Weekly Testing for Staff, Students, and Volunteers

The school will conduct weekly COVID-19 testing in partnership with Capstone Laboratories for our staff, students, and volunteers. Our school's testing site will be in the auditorium and will take place every Thursday. Results will be available within 24-48 hours. Regular testing will help protect our students, staff, family members, and others who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 or are otherwise at risk for getting seriously sick from COVID-19.

Through this program, we will be able to identify COVID-19 cases quickly and early, which can help us stop an outbreak before it happens. This will help us keep students in the classroom and able to take part in the school activities they love.

Exposed Students & Staff

Students and employees with an exposure to the case should test for COVID-19 and inform the school of test results. This will determine the extent of disease spread at the school and serve as a basis for further control measures. Testing resources include Employee Health Services or Occupational Health Services, Student Health Center, Personal Healthcare Providers, Community Testing Sites: covid19.lacounty.gov/testing. Individuals who need assistance finding a medical provider can call the LA County Information line 2-1-1, which is available 24/7.

Exposed students and employees who are **not fully vaccinated** must self-quarantine (stay in their home or another residence, separate from others) and monitor for symptoms for 10 days from their last contact with the case while infectious (as defined above). If they remain asymptomatic, quarantine can end after Day 10 from the last date of exposure without testing, but they must continue to monitor their health and adhere to COVID-19 prevention precautions through Day 14. Quarantine may end after Day 7 for exposed students who remain asymptomatic, if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative, but they must continue to monitor their health and adhere to COVID-19 prevention precautions through Day 14.

- **NOTE:** Asymptomatic persons who are fully vaccinated AND who are a close contact to a confirmed case are recommended to test for COVID-19 as a result of their exposure but are not required to quarantine. However, they should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure. Persons who have recovered from laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days AND who are a close contact to a confirmed case are not required to quarantine or test for COVID-19.
- DPH will contact exposed students and employees who meet the quarantine requirement through the DPH Case and Contact Investigation Program to collect additional information and issue the Health Officer Order for Quarantine.
- On August 11th, 2021 the California Department of Public Health issued an updated health order stating that all public and private school workers (paid and unpaid) will need to demonstrate proof of a COVID-19 vaccination or be subjected to weekly COVID-19 testing; see the link below. Students 12 and up are NOT included in this order, though should continue to be encouraged to vaccinate.

School Compliance Officer will determine whether additional notification is needed to inform the wider school community about the school exposure and precautions being taken to prevent spread of COVID-19.

Protections for Staff and Children at Higher Risk for Severe Illness from COVID-19

Vulnerable employees (those above age 65, and those with chronic health conditions that would place them at high risk if infected) are assigned work that can be done from home whenever possible. Employees in this category should discuss any concerns with their healthcare provider or occupational health services to make appropriate decisions on returning to the workplace.

The following FAQs build on the Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers and Guidance for Critical Infrastructure Workers.

Clean and Disinfect

St. Emydius Catholic School has acquired sufficient cleaning and disinfecting materials to allow for cleaning of common areas and surfaces throughout the day.

Category	Frequency
Workspace (i.e. classrooms, office)	Two times a day: after recess, after lunch, and/or after-school
Appliances (i.e. refrigerators, microwaves)	Daily after usage
Electronic Equipment (i.e. copy machines, share computers/ devices, printers)	At the end of each use and daily
General Used Objects (i.e. handles, light switches)	At least 2 times a day
Student and Teacher Restrooms	Two times a day: after recess, after lunch, and/or after-school
Common Area (i.e. Faculty Room, Parish Hall,)	Two times a day: after recess, after lunch, and/or after-school
Front Office	Two times a day: after recess, after lunch, and/or after-school
Lobbies Entry area	Two times a day: after recess, after lunch, and/or after-school

Commonly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs and railings, will be disinfected frequently throughout the day.

All working surfaces and shared objects will be sanitized after each use. Custodial staff will do a thorough cleaning of every classroom daily.

Teachers and staff will disinfect classroom common areas and objects throughout the school day.

The chart above includes a reference guide for the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting. All cleaning supplies comply with the lists of approved disinfectants.

The school will close off areas used by a sick person and will not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting.

The school will clean and disinfect immediately if an area is contaminated by a student confirmed with COVID-19. If a student tests positive, the students in the cohort will remain together in their classroom until they can be picked up and begin quarantine.

Hybrid/HyFlex Learning Model

If it is mandated by the health department to reduce class size the school will instruct in a hybrid model, during which time the students in Cohort 1 will work remotely two days a week while the students in Cohort 2 are learning in person. The following two days, Cohort 1 will learn in person while Cohort 2 is learning virtually.

In person class sizes will follow 14 students and 2 adults. Classrooms are equipped with fans and air purifiers to allow for proper air ventilation. Large windows in class will remain open, weather permitting.

Parents who choose to keep their child at home will be offered a virtual learning model. The school will assign days for each cohort.

Gatherings, Visitors, and Field Trips

The school will pursue virtual group events, gatherings, or meetings, if possible, and promote social distancing of at least 3-6 feet between people if events are held. Limit group size to the extent possible.

The school will limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as possible – especially with individuals who are not from the local geographic area (e.g., community, town, city, county).

The school will pursue virtual activities and events in lieu of field trips, student assemblies, special performances, school-wide parent meetings, and spirit nights, as possible.

The school will pursue options to convene sporting events and participation in sports activities in ways that minimize the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to players, families, coaches, and communities.

Use of school facilities for non-school purposes (community meetings or events, on-site clinic visits by people who are neither students nor staff, etc.) is not permitted.

Employee screenings are conducted before employees may enter the workspace. Checks must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever or chills and if the employee has had contact with a person known to be infected COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

Recognize Signs and Symptoms

The school will conduct daily health checks (e.g., temperature screening and/or symptom checking) of staff and students.

Health checks will be conducted safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations.

Students who screen positive at entry or who report symptoms at any point during the school day are given a surgical mask and accompanied to a preselected isolation space where they can remain while arrangements are made for their return home.

These checks will be done in person upon the employees' arrival.

Visitors are not permitted to come in contact with other students or parts of the school. Visitors are only permitted in the school office.

Face Mask Covering

The use of cloth face coverings and shields will be an important measure in helping to keep students and staff safe while on campus. Our staff will take time to educate students on the appropriateness of face coverings, but the need for reinforcement at home is crucial to our success. As parents/guardians are the primary educators of their children, we want to ensure that we are in this partnership together. Additionally, because of the personal nature of face coverings, each family is responsible for procuring face coverings for their child(ren), and for making sure the face covering is cleaned regularly. Extra face masks are available in our health room as needed. Students in grades TK-8 must wear a mask. Face Shields are optional to wear on top of the face mask. The CDC does not currently recommend use of face shields as a substitute for masks.

Mask Covering Protocols

The teachers and staff have developed procedures to help support the proper wearing of face coverings and hygienic storage during snack and lunch.

Staff and students must always wear cloth face coverings while on the school grounds. Face shields may be worn in addition to the cloth face covering.

Those wearing the cloth face covering must refrain from touching the face covering and must wash their hands frequently.

Employees are instructed to wash or replace their face coverings daily. Parents are instructed to ensure that children have clean face coverings.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) states that face coverings are required for all persons on campus, within reason.

Age	Face Covering Requirement	
Under two years old	No	
Two years old – 2 nd grade	Strongly Encouraged <i>Face coverings are strongly encouraged if they can be worn properly. A face shield is an acceptable alternative for children in this cohort who cannot wear them properly.</i>	For LA County – Yes, unless exempt <i>All students over age two are required to wear cloth face coverings while on school property except while eating, drinking, or carrying out other activities that preclude the use of face coverings.</i>
3 rd grade – High School	Yes, unless exempt	

Links below for:

- [proper use of face coverings](#)
- [removal of face coverings](#)
- [washing of cloth face coverings](#)
- [Learn about symptoms and what to do if you are sick](#)

- Guidance for care of children with symptoms of Covid-19

Hand Hygiene

Staff and students must wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds throughout the day. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and children who can safely use hand sanitizer). [Promoting Hygiene at school Link](#)

Frequently scheduled mandatory hand washing breaks or opportunities (especially for younger students) will occur at minimum:

- before and after eating
- after using the restroom
- after outdoor play
- before and after any group activity.

Students and staff have been trained to frequently wash their hands, practice proper hygiene, and keep social distancing. The school has installed hand washing stations throughout the school.

With hand washing the preferred method for maintaining proper hygiene and safety, staff will model and monitor hand washing and social distancing protocol.

Hand sanitizer effective against COVID-19 is available to students, staff, and visitors.

Hand Sanitizer stations and/or bottles will be at the following locations:

- Front office
- All classrooms
- Hand washing stations
- Faculty Room
- Library, Auditorium, Daycare Room
- Building entrance/s, exit/s
- Available outside in designated areas

Respiratory Etiquette

Staff and students must practice safe coughing and sneezing etiquette. Students and staff should sneeze or cough into their elbow to prevent spread. Students and staff can also cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Layouts and Student Spacing

- The school will space seating/desks at least 3 feet up to 6 feet apart.
- The desks will be turned to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), or we will have students sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart.

Physical Barriers and Guides

St. Emydius Catholic School made alterations to classrooms, hallways, restrooms, and other shared

spaces to maintain six feet between students and staff whenever possible. Classrooms will keep with windows and doors open to allow for fresh air circulation. Also, teachers will utilize outdoor spaces whenever possible. St. Emydius Catholic School will have students remain in their grade level with the same teacher for grades TK to 5 throughout the school day to reduce infection possibilities. In grades 6-8, the teachers will rotate or teach from their classrooms using a video conferencing app, such as Zoom or Google Meet and the students will remain in their classrooms. Teacher will make sure students' desk and materials are disinfected daily. Desks are facing one direction and six feet apart. Students will use their backpacks/crate to store books and supplies. The school purchased portable desk shields for added protection for teachers and students.

Teachers will also have students clean their desk shields at school to make sure thorough cleaning was done of barriers.

Students will engage in physical activity three to six feet apart, and they will share equipment in their designated areas during recess and lunch. Equipment will be disinfected after use. Teachers with the same lunch and recess will give each other breaks. During recess and lunch, activities that provide for physical distancing are encouraged. However, the use of playground equipment will be limited. The school will provide physical distancing guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and children remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times (e.g. guides for creating "one way routes" in hallways).

- Establish one-way circulation in hallways, classrooms, and school facilities.
- Assign staff to monitor that physical distancing is observed during school arrival and departure and among students during breaks.

Adequate Supplies

The school will provide adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, no-touch infrared thermometers, and no-touch trash cans. Each employee is assigned their own tools, supplies, equipment, and defined workspace such as their classroom. Support staff will also have designated workspaces.

Shared Objects

Use of shared objects (e.g., physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) will be limited when possible, or cleaned between use.

- The school will discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
- We will keep each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
- The school will ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assigning each student their own art supplies, equipment) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between use.

- The school will avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids as much as possible.
- Whenever possible, the school will try to be “paperless” and submit assignments and work digitally to reduce contact exposure.

Extra-Curricular Activities

As of now they are limiting after school activities. The school will follow the protocols for these activities. For example, Student Council, Choir, Clubs and Sports.

Common Sense and Adaptability

The guidelines found in the COVID-19 Protocols are intended for the sole purpose of keeping our students, staff, and families as safe as possible during the year. The school is more likely to provide uninterrupted face-to-face instruction, if together, we can provide and maintain a safe school environment. This means home and school working together.

Any of the above is subject to change depending upon increased infections in the broader community, and the recommendations from public health officials and the ADLA. The hope, of course, is to be less restrictive over time, when the public health situation improves.

Communication Plans

The COVID-19 Task Force/Principal will communicate using the template letter for the Los Angeles Department of Public Health. We will communicate with the cohort/school community depending on the scenario if there has been a positive case among staff, students, or one of their household members.

Public Health Department Contacts

Los Angeles Public Health Department: (213) 240-8117 Center for Disease Control (CDC): (800) 232-4636 COVID-19 Call Center: 211

For schools and childcare centers

see: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/schoolchildcare.htm>. Guidance for all locations is available from county health departments: [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#)

Copies of this Protocol have been distributed to all employees and community members through the school website.