



Mater Dei Catholic COVID-19 Safety Plan 2021-2022 School Year

Please note that these policies and procedures are based on guidance from the San Diego County Office of Education, the California Department of Public Health, the Center for Disease Control, the San Diego County Public Health Order, and the Diocese of San Diego. The following is considered a living document that will be updated according to the latest government and health guidance.

This document is organized according to the [San Diego County of Education's \(SDCOE\) COVID-19 Safety Plan Checklist](#), which is modeled on the [California Department of Public Health's \(CDPH\) COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#).

This plan describes the measures that Mater Dei Catholic High School (MDCHS) and Mater Dei Juan Diego Academy (MDJDA) will follow as precautions against COVID-19.

Each of the following tables is labeled with the topic addressed in this guidance. An excerpt from the guidance provided for each topic is included under the heading K-12 Guidance.

Additional information from the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (Cal/OSHA) Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and "additional considerations" are also provided by the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) for many of the topics.

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Masks

1. K-12 students are required to wear a mask indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Adults in K-12 school settings are required to wear a mask when sharing indoor spaces with students. Masks will also be *required* outdoors while entering or leaving the campus, while changing classes, and while waiting on the café line. Masks are *optional* outdoors, but *strongly encouraged* when students are in close proximity.
2. Each student is responsible for bringing their own face covering each day. Students will not be permitted to enter campus without their cloth face covering. If a student loses or damages their face covering throughout the school day, Mater Dei Catholic will provide a disposable face covering for the remainder of the day. MDCHS student face coverings should be solid in color and should not have any logos, designs or words other than Mater Dei Catholic issued masks (high school only). MDJDA student face coverings can include designs, characters, etc. but must be appropriate for school.
 - a. Student masks are checked at the entrance gate by administration each morning before entering the campus
 - b. Employee masks are checked by a designee each morning before entering the campus
3. Persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it. Exemption requests will be directed to the school nurse, who will make the final decision on whether or not Mater Dei Catholic will grant the exemption.
4. In order to comply with this guidance, MDCHS and MDJDA will exclude students from campus if they are not exempt from wearing a face covering under CDPH guidelines and refuse to wear one provided by the school. The school will first discuss the scenario with the student, and then with the parent to ensure all policies are clear. If the student or family is not willing to comply, MDCHS will be forced to remove the student.
 - a. There is no Distance Learning option for students at Mater Dei Catholic High School, so the student would not be able to return.
 - b. MDJDA offers a Distance Learning option, so the student would be allowed to remain at MDJDA in Distance Learning.
5. All mask policies have been distributed through our school newsletters and websites. This COVID-19 Safety Plan is also posted on both websites.
 - a. Mask policies were discussed with all students at orientations.
 - b. Mask policies were also disseminated to parents through summer and weekly communications, as well as in the [Parent Orientation Video](#).

Physical Distancing

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely without minimum physical distancing requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., masking) are implemented. This is consistent with [CDC K-12 School Guidance](#).

1. Students at MDCHS and MDJDA will be seated 3 feet apart in classes. Spaces between student desks/tables have been measured and marked. Additional tables/chairs have been purchased to accommodate these needs.
 - a. Masks are required at all times when there is more than 1 person in the room.
2. Teacher desks/workspaces are 6 feet apart from student desks.
3. Students and employees are encouraged to keep as much space between themselves at all times, whenever possible.

Ventilation

For indoor spaces, ventilation should be optimized, which can be done by following [CDPH Guidance on Ventilation of Indoor Environments and Ventilation and Filtration to Reduce Long-Range Airborne Transmission of COVID-19 and Other Respiratory Infections: Considerations for Reopened Schools](#).

Mater Dei Catholic is fortunate to have a long-standing partnership with Aramark who is responsible for the custodial, maintenance and food service on campus. Aramark is one of the top providers for K-12, Colleges and Universities throughout the country. Locally, they are responsible for managing the custodial maintenance needs for PETCO Park and San Diego State University. For Aramark's COVID-19 Pandemic Response, follow this [link](#).

1. In June, 2020, Aramark installed UVC lights in all roof-mounted HVAC units throughout the Mater Dei Catholic campus.
 - a. The school has retro-fitted all other HVAC units throughout the campus with UVC lights.
2. In June, 2020, Aramark installed MERV-13 filters in all roof-mounted HVAC units throughout the Mater Dei Catholic campus.
 - a. Filters are examined and changed regularly

Staying Home When Sick

Students and employees should always remain home when feeling sick, and follow the strategy for [Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested](#) from the CDC. Please contact our nurse, Lisa McDonald at lmcdonald@mdchs.net if you have any questions.

Students or employees with symptoms of COVID-19 infection should not return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:

- a. At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and
- b. Other symptoms have improved; and
- c. They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a health care provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a health care provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., streptococcal pharyngitis, coxsackie virus), OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

Mater Dei Catholic will continue to use the most current [SDCOE Decision Tree](#) to guide decisions on when students or employees can return to in-person instruction.

1. Students and employees have been instructed to monitor themselves for any symptoms, and remain home when not feeling well.
2. The school nurse reviews all related cases and re-admits students or employees based on the above criteria.
3. MDCHS records all students who are quarantined due to a positive COVID-19 case or close contact in Aeries, the school SIS. MDJDA maintains its own records on a master document.
 - a. All students who are quarantined due to a positive COVID-19 case or close contact can log into class virtually through Zoom
 - i. Zoom links for all classes are posted on Schoology for MDCHS
 - ii. Families will be notified of class Zoom links individually at MDJDA
 - b. For MDCHS, students who were not cleared to resume in-person schooling are marked in Aeries, the school SIS. Teachers have been instructed to send these students to the school nurse immediately, escorted by Campus Supervisors. For MDJDA, teachers are notified individually of the return date of the student. If they were to happen to return before this date, they would be sent to the school nurse immediately, escorted by an instructional aide or administrator.
4. Students and employees will be screened for body temperature before entering any indoor spaces to begin the day. Any student or employee with a body temperature of 100.0F or higher will be sent to the external isolation room to be examined by the nurse.
 - a. All employees will have temperatures taken as they enter the building in the

morning.

- b. All MDCHS students will have temperatures taken as they enter their first class of the day.
- c. All MDJDA students will have temperatures taken at the gate, as they enter the campus.
- d. Any late students will have their temperatures taken at the front office, as they enter the building.

Testing

Mater Dei Catholic currently has on-site Antigen and PCR testing capacity for individuals who begin feeling unwell while on campus.

On August 11, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a [Public Health Order](#) for all workers in public and private schools serving students in transitional kindergarten through grade 12, requiring that all workers be vaccinated or undergo routine diagnostic screening testing at least once weekly. Schools must be in full compliance with the order by October 15, 2021.

1. Mater Dei Catholic communicated with all employees about this mandate on August 16, 2021.
2. Mater Dei Catholic began collecting and verifying vaccine information on August 16, 2021. The school will be in full compliance before October 15, 2021.
3. Mater Dei Catholic will require unvaccinated employees to be tested once weekly on Thursdays or Fridays, with results sent to the school nurse before returning to in-person schooling on the following Monday.
 - a. Aramark, BrightView, PS121 employees and other routine vendors will also be required to adhere to these requirements when working on the MD campus.

Mater Dei Catholic continues to explore relationships with multiple companies for routine screening of students and employees.

Case Reporting, Contact Tracing and Investigation

Per Assembly Bill 86 (2021) and California Code Title 17, section 2500, schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.

1. The school nurse is the designated liaison who assists the local health department with contact tracing and investigation. MDCHS and MDJDA administration also assist the nurse with these protocols and notifications.
2. In the event that a student or employee becomes a confirmed positive COVID-19 case, the school nurse and appropriate administration collectively contact trace to identify close contacts and notify them to begin quarantining immediately if they do not have vaccine verification. When these steps have been completed, we properly report the event to public health and notify the community.
 - a. The school nurse discusses the case with the student and his/her family to determine any close contacts.
 - b. Administration discusses cases anonymously with teachers and verifies seating charts for all classes/teams/activities in which the student/employee may have participated.
 - c. All close contacts and parents are notified via email .
 - d. The community is notified by the school.
 - e. All spaces are disinfected at the end of the day.
 - f. All forms and documentation are completed by the school nurse and sent to the local health department.
3. All classes are required to have accurate seating charts
 - a. Teachers have seating charts for all classes wherever possible .
 - i. It may not be possible for classes such as PE or sports teams to have seating charts each day, though most activities are performed in small groups.
 - ii. If no seating chart is available, the entire class may need to be quarantined.
 - b. Teachers track all group meetings and times that students are not in their assigned seats.
 - c. Clubs and other activities all have seating charts.
 - d. Seating charts are used on busses/vans and other modes of transportation for school events.
 - e. The seating charts and the arrangements of the classroom determine who is a close contact.

Quarantine (Asymptomatic Close Contacts)

Mater Dei Catholic will strictly follow all CDPH guidelines for quarantining close contacts.

1. The San Diego County Office of Education has created a [Decision Tree](#) to determine close contacts and the length of quarantine. Mater Dei Catholic will follow his guidance to determine all close contacts and the length of quarantines and isolations.
2. PLEASE NOTE: When there are options for quarantine and/or isolation, Mater Dei Catholic will always implement the **safest** option in order to protect the health of our community. Specifically, students who are not fully vaccinated and are determined to be close contacts will need to quarantine for 10 days.

Isolation

Mater Dei Catholic will follow the CDPH [Isolation Guidance](#) for both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons for those diagnosed with COVID-19.

1. If a student or employee becomes sick at school,
 - a. The person will be sent to the external isolation room while on campus. Individuals will be isolated until they can safely be transported home or to a healthcare facility.
 - b. While in isolation, individuals must wear an approved face covering.
 - c. Aramark will thoroughly clean and disinfect all surfaces and equipment used in isolation before it may be used again.
 - d. The isolation room will be cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines for sick students.
2. Any student or employee with a body temperature of 100.0F or higher will be sent to the external isolation room to be examined by the nurse.
3. Students or employees will be evaluated by the school nurse. Isolation/quarantine requirements will be implemented and return dates will be determined according to the most current [SDCOE Decision Tree](#).
4. Procedures for ensuring students do not return to school before the quarantine/isolation period is over are explained in #3 of the “Staying Home When Sick” section.

Hand Hygiene

Every student and employee will be educated on healthy hygiene practices including [washing hands](#), avoiding contact with [one's eyes, nose, and mouth](#), and [covering coughs and sneezes](#). Signage reinforcing healthy hygiene practices is posted throughout campus.

Mater Dei's plan to encourage proper hygiene practices include:

1. Ten portable hand washing stations positioned throughout campus to encourage additional handwashing without overcrowding bathrooms.
2. Twenty touchless hand sanitizing stations with at least 60% ethyl alcohol located at each building entrance and throughout the campus.
3. At least one hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethyl alcohol will be placed in each classroom.
4. Sharing of school supplies is minimized between students or teachers.
5. Water flow in all restroom sinks has been increased to flow for 20 seconds.
6. All restrooms are equipped with no-touch paper towel dispensers for increased hygiene standards.

Cleaning

In general, cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19](#) list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection. Before reading, please understand the difference between cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting from the [California Department of Pesticide Regulation](#).

California law classifies disinfecting products as pesticides and [regulates their use in schools](#). The products may be used in school (including household disinfectants) and training provided to employees on their use and necessary precautions is governed by the California Healthy Schools Act. Children are NOT permitted to use disinfectants in schools.

Mater Dei Catholic will frequently and thoroughly clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces within the school day. These high-touch surfaces, which include door handles, light switches, sink handles, bathroom surfaces will be disinfected four times per day using disinfectant solutions found on the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA)-approved list “N” and administered by trained professionals from Aramark. Students will have access to materials to [wipe](#) down personal learning spaces, chairs and plexiglass dividers with an antibacterial soap and water solution at the beginning and/or end of each class period if they choose. Mater Dei Catholic’s vans will be disinfected after every use. The facilities director from Aramark will maintain a readily accessible cleaning and disinfecting schedule to avoid both under- and over-use of cleaning products.

All drinking fountains have been disabled. Instead, students will be able to use one of five no-touch hydration stations located throughout campus. Students are encouraged to bring refillable water containers but should not share them with other students.

Food Service

Given the very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single-use items and packaged meals.

1. All snack and lunch breaks will occur outdoors whenever possible.
2. All breaks have been staggered to limit the number of students eating together at one time.
3. Students are required to wear masks when in line at the café to purchase food.
4. Multiple stations have been set up for students to purchase food.
5. Students/families are encouraged to pre-purchase food for expedited pickup.
6. MDJDA parents may pre-purchase food online and food is delivered to the students during their lunch break.

Vaccination Verification

COVID-19 vaccinations are highly encouraged for all employees and students to prevent lost school time due to contracting the virus or being quarantined due to close contact.

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 - a. Aramark, BrightView, PS121 employees and other routine vendors will also be required to adhere to these requirements when working on the MD campus.

Additional Considerations

The following areas are also a part of the [San Diego County of Education's \(SDCOE\) COVID-19 Safety Plan Checklist](#), which is modeled on the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year.

Students with Disabilities: MDCHS has two certified Special Education teachers to serve our students with Learning Differences. These teachers develop and modify Accommodation Plans for all students with documented Learning Differences. These plans were modified before the start of the 2021-2022 school year with all of the COVID-19 plans in place. These are “living plans,” and are adjusted according to students ongoing needs.

Visitors: Mater Dei Catholic will continue to limit non-essential visitors on campus in accordance with CDPH guidelines. This means that we will continue to address as many concerns as possible through email, phone or video-conference.

Physical Education: All PE classes will be held outdoors whenever possible. When the weather does not permit outdoor PE, or an indoor facility is necessary for a particular class, classes will be held inside the gym or theater as necessary. PE teachers will keep students in groups whenever possible to minimize contacts, and will space students as much as possible. However, not all activities can happen in small groups.

Athletics:

MDCHS plans to have all athletic teams practice and play. The school will follow all guidance from CIF and the Metro Conference. All coaches will follow school employee vaccination & testing requirements (Please see the “Testing” or “Vaccination Verification” sections for details on how Mater Dei Catholic will comply).

Coaches and student athletes will need to wear masks when walking to or from an athletic event, and follow all policies listed in the “Masks” section.

1. *Outdoor sports:* There are currently no limitations for visitors at outdoor sports. Food service will be limited for spectators. Guests will be encouraged to wear masks.
2. *Indoor sports:* There are currently no limitations for visitors at indoor sports. There will be no food service for spectators. Guests will be required to wear masks.

MDJDA is waiting on guidance from the San Diego Diocese regarding the Diocesan Sports League. Once clearance is provided the school will communicate guidelines and procedures with the families.

Choir: MDCHS has a Choral Music class where students are distanced as much as possible. Choral class is held outdoors whenever possible. MDJDA currently will not have its student choir meet.

Drama: MDCHS' Drama and Acting classes are held in the theater whenever possible to maximize spacing between students. MDJDA's Introduction to Theater classes will be held in the

dance room or the lecture hall to maximize spacing between students.

Plexiglass Dividers: Dividers will be optional for high school students and teachers, but required for elementary and middle school students due to the difference in vaccine eligibility in the age groups.

1. Dividers will be available in each high school classroom for students and teachers who choose to use them on their desks
2. Dividers will be mandatory in each elementary and middle school classroom for students. Plexiglass dividers have been installed in each student desk.

Staggered Dismissal: Dismissals are staggered each day to minimize students congregating in one area.

MDCHS Dismissal 2021-2022

- Drivers and siblings are released at least 5 minutes early
- Athletes are permitted to wait in the lunch area until practice begins
- There are three separate pick-up areas to facilitate dismissal

MDJDA Dismissal 2021-2022

Monday-Thursday Dismissal

TK & Kindergarten: 2:55 pm

1st and 2nd Grade: 3:00 pm

3rd – 5th Grade: 3:05 pm

6th – 8th Grade: 3:15 pm

Fridays and Other Minimum Days

TK & Kindergarten: 12:40 pm

1st and 2nd Grade: 12:45 pm

3rd – 5th Grade: 12:50 pm

6th – 8th Grade: 1:00 pm