



## RE & YM Social Distancing Guidelines for the Diocese of Green Bay

March 1, 2022

These are the guidelines for Religious Education and Youth Ministry events in our diocese.

- Students
- Catechists
- Catechetical Leaders
- Volunteers
- Youth Ministers
- Chaperones
- Any other adults involved in RE, Confirmation, or YM-related activities

Please follow all federal, state, county and local mandates related to safety and to the mitigation of the COVID-19 pandemic as these will supersede our diocesan guidelines. The ability of RE and Confirmation preparation and of youth ministry events to be held in person will be subject to any appropriate and applicable mandates from federal, state, county, and local health authorities. If there are subsequent waves or variants of COVID-19 that are resistant to vaccines or other approved therapies, we may need to revise these guidelines significantly and with little notice.

We encourage all RE classes, Confirmation classes and Youth Ministry programs to meet in person but to do so with all due prudence in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and its variants, with the following considerations:

- Social distancing of a minimum of 3 feet is encouraged.
- Sanitizers and disinfectant wipes in all classrooms, meeting rooms and common areas are encouraged.
- Whenever possible, meet in larger spaces like gyms or the nave of the church or, as weather permits, outdoors.

### **Recommendations and best practices for RE, Confirmation Prep and YM**

For parish staff, students, volunteers, and visitors: masks indoors are strongly encouraged for all. In Christian charity, the rights of health, freedom, and conscience are to be respected by all. These guidelines are to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and will continue to be measured, monitored, and adjusted as needed. For Volunteers, while indoors, masking is encouraged but they may be required to wear a mask at the pastor/pastoral leader's direction depending on their role.

There should be no expectation for the following to wear a face covering/mask:

- Children under the age of 2
- Individuals who have trouble breathing.
- Individuals with medical conditions, intellectual or developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, or other sensory sensitivities that prevent the individual from wearing a face covering/mask.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

### **Other recommendations and best practices:**

1. Masks/face coverings are still optional for outdoor activities and athletics.
2. Whenever possible, hold ice breakers or games outside.
3. Students will wash or sanitize hands before and after any meal or snack.
  - Serving food by one or two designated individuals is strongly recommended.
  - Wearing a mask/face coverings and gloves is strongly recommended for food service.

4. For best practices regarding travel:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>
5. If you or someone in your immediate household has tested positive or has come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 please follow CDC guidelines:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>
6. Make sure that permission forms and waivers are up to date- consider having parents sign new ones designed for the specific event or activity. A “per-event” liability form has been adjusted with COVID-19 wording and can be found at [https://www.gbresources.org/uploads/8/4/5/8/8458656/liability\\_form\\_event\\_covid\\_final.docx](https://www.gbresources.org/uploads/8/4/5/8/8458656/liability_form_event_covid_final.docx)
7. Out of state trips, out of state mission trips and out of state service trips: The Diocese is not hosting any out of state trips in 2022, but if you are planning such a trip, check with your parish’s insurer to make sure that there is liability coverage for your specific trip and please pay close attention to the COVID-19 numbers in the area you are going to and in any county in which you plan to stop on the way there and back.
8. Regarding bus trips (includes vans or other vehicles):
  - Everyone is strongly encouraged to wear a mask/face covering while on the bus.
  - Try to keep people from the same family/household seated together if possible.
  - Use of hand sanitizer, washing of hands, for 20 seconds, and sanitizing frequently touched surfaces are all still strongly encouraged.
  - Require parents to make sure that their children have no COVID symptoms before leaving home. The same goes for volunteers – anyone with COVID-like symptoms should stay home.
  - Please follow all federal, state and local (including transportation provider) mandates regarding COVID-safe transportation.
9. If, during RE, Confirmation prep or a YM event a student appears to have an illness, the catechetical leader or other appropriate parish staff will help the student and proceed with a standard medical response like taking the student’s temperature. Any student who seems ill, for any reason, will be placed in a separate area (be sure to be safe environment compliant) and parents immediately notified. Also see:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

### **Conclusion**

To monitor COVID-19 numbers in your own county please see our diocesan COVID-19 Dashboard at:

<https://www.gbdioc.org/covid19/dashboard>

For any questions or clarification please contact the Child and Youth Faith Formation Director Maximus Cabey ([mcabey@gbdioc.org](mailto:mcabey@gbdioc.org), or 920-272-8288) or Assistant Director Tommy Nelson ([tnelson@gbdioc.org](mailto:tnelson@gbdioc.org) or 920-272-8285).