

Dear MOQ Families,

We hope this letter finds you and your family enjoying these beautiful summer days. As you slowly prepare to begin the school year, we know you have questions and concerns about the MOQ School COVID-19 safety protocols, especially in the midst of our community's current rising COVID-19 cases.

We have been following the information provided by the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, the Douglas County Health Department, the Nebraska Department of Education, along with the direction of the Archdiocese. Our commitment to keep our students and staff safe as we begin the year remains a top priority. Based on what we know today, with consultation with our School Board and a commitment to make in-person learning safe and possible, MOQ School students and staff will begin the year wearing masks. We know this is not how we wanted to start the school year; however, wearing masks will allow us to return to other "normal" aspects of the school day like grade level recess, eating in the cafeteria, and visitors in the school. The chart below provides a detailed list of our COVID-19 safety protocols. We will continue to monitor the situation and re-evaluate our protocols each month.

Just a few short weeks ago, we were comfortable with keeping masks optional. In light of the current outbreak, we feel masks are necessary to keep students in school for in-person learning. We plan to make masks optional for our school community as soon as possible.

We are so grateful for the ongoing partnership and support from our school families. Our progress and success thus far would not be possible without it. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Look for the first Mustang Memo of the 2021-22 school year next week. We look forward to seeing everyone at Back to School Night on August 12.

God bless,

Fr. Marc Lim                      Maureen Hoy

**With in-person instruction our primary goal, wearing masks will enable us to roll back safety protocols that were in place last year. The table below outlines the protocols and procedures for the start of the school year. These items (specifically masks) will be re-evaluated monthly.**

**Return to School (current as of 8/6/2021)**

<b>Instruction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In-person learning is the only instructional option. There is not a remote learning option for the 2021-22 school year.</li> <li>● Continued use of Google Classroom (Gr. 4-8) and SeeSaw (K-3) will support learning during extended absences.</li> <li>● Devices will be available for checkout for extended absences.</li> </ul>
<b>Masks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Masks are required for all staff and students.</li> <li>● Visitors and volunteers will wear masks when in the building or volunteering.</li> <li>● This requirement will be evaluated monthly.</li> <li>● Students and staff will not be required to wear masks when outside.</li> </ul>
<b>Hand Washing/ Hand Sanitizing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hand sanitizer will be used by students as they enter classrooms.</li> <li>● We will continue to promote frequent hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Fountains</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Water fountains will remain “closed” for drinking.</li> <li>● Students will continue to bring full water bottles to school.</li> <li>● Students will be able to refill water bottles at filling stations.</li> </ul>
<b>Social Distancing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students in classrooms, hallways, assemblies, and during Mass will socially distance themselves as much as possible.</li> <li>● Desks will be 3 ft. apart and face the front of the classroom.</li> </ul>
<b>Recess</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will not be required to wear masks or socially distance while outdoors.</li> <li>● Grade levels (not classrooms) will share recess space on the playground.</li> </ul>
<b>Lunch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria and wear masks as they move through the lunch line.</li> <li>● There will be four lunch periods in order to decrease the number of students in the cafeteria during each lunch period.</li> <li>● Volunteers will continue to provide support in our cafeteria during the lunch period. Volunteers will wear masks during food preparation and serving.</li> </ul>

<b>Sanitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cleaning practices will include focus on high-touch areas and nightly disinfecting protocols.</li> </ul>
<b>Daily Symptom Screening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff and students are encouraged to continue to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and to stay home if any are present.</li> </ul>
<b>Morning Drop Off</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students will enter school each morning at their assigned family door.</li> <li>● Students can arrive at school between 7:35 and 8:00 and wait outside the assigned entrance until doors open at 7:45. There will be door supervision from 7:35-7:45.</li> </ul>
<b>Exposure, Positive Cases and Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DCHD protocols will be followed. This includes all contact tracing, quarantine, and exclusion requirements as established by the Douglas County Health Department.</li> <li>● Douglas County Health Department currently recommends quarantining close contact with positive cases for unvaccinated and unmasked individuals. We will require everyone to follow these health department protocols should they be exposed to a positive individual.</li> <li>● Vaccinated students (12 and up) and vaccinated staff will not be required to quarantine if exposed to the COVID virus with proof of vaccination.</li> <li>● Exception: The close contact definition excludes from quarantine students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected individual if both individuals correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.</li> <li>● If a student is quarantined, he/she will not be allowed to participate in any school events or activities during the quarantine period.</li> </ul>

Resources:

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)  
[CDC Guidelines](#)  
[UNMC Guidelines](#)  
[CDC Map of Local COVID Transmission Rates](#)