

# AQUINAS ACADEMY PLAN FOR REOPENING

July 22, 2020

Dear Aquinas Families:

We thank each of you who responded to our reopening survey with many thoughtful comments and concerns as we face the unprecedented challenge of operating Aquinas as safely as possible during this public health crisis. Like all of you, we wish that we could return to school without the many now-legally mandated restrictions required to permit the in-person instruction we know is best for our students -- but that is both impossible and imprudent at this time.

Over the past 3 months, the Aquinas Reopening Task Force has sought to develop a reopening plan that not only incorporates the best health and safety practices, but also the best practices to preserve the dignity and respect of each member of our school community. As our patron St. Thomas Aquinas urged, we must operate for the good of one another – for the common good – and that must be our plan’s ultimate goal.

With those principles in mind, the Reopening Task Force has developed the following health and safety plan for the return of our students and faculty to the campus on August 27, 2020 (August 24 for high school). The plan that follows reflects the legally required COVID protocols regarding masking currently applicable to all brick and mortar schools in Pennsylvania – including public, charter, private, and parochial schools. The plan also incorporates certain best practices recommended by the physician-members of our Task Force, who include the physicians involved in establishing the COVID protocols for the AHN and UPMC health networks.

***We will continue to monitor and evaluate the best public health guidance regarding COVID-19 protections in the school setting, and may alter certain aspects of this plan as circumstances change.***

We will promptly notify you of any such changes, and otherwise keep you informed regarding our implementation of the reopening plan, which will be posted on the school website. In addition, we will be sending information to you regarding several virtual town hall meetings we intend to hold by school division before our reopening to address any questions and concerns about the plan.

We thank you for recognizing with us that the success of the school year will require flexibility and magnanimity as we work together to overcome these challenges and serve the best interests of all members of our school community.

Sincerely,

Aquinas Reopening Task Force

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# MODELS BASED ON COMMUNITY SPREAD

The Aquinas Administration and Faculty are prepared to be flexible in the 2020-2021 school year. We look forward to the return of students to the classroom. We also realize that there may be short periods of disruption for a particular grade or class; or even a longer period of disruption should there be substantial spread of COVID-19 within the school community. The following table indicates those possible scenarios, all of which the Faculty is prepared to accommodate.

<b><i>Level of COVID-19 Spread</i></b>	<b>Substantial Spread</b>	<b>Moderate/Low Spread</b>
<b><i>Response</i></b>	<div data-bbox="534 800 889 905" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Short-Term Closure</b>                      Close for facility-wide                      Deep cleaning                 </div> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <div data-bbox="534 1010 889 1115" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Extended Closure</b>                      Close building for                      at least 14 days                 </div>	<div data-bbox="984 800 1471 898" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Campus Open</b>                      Implement strategies in Reopening Plan                 </div> <p style="text-align: center;">OR (in case of COVID-19 positive case or exposure)</p> <div data-bbox="984 989 1471 1115" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Restricted Classroom Use or Short-Term Classroom Closure</b>                      Isolate and Disinfect Affected Areas                 </div>
<b><i>Mode of Instruction</i></b>	<div data-bbox="509 1283 930 1381" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Aquinas School-at-Home, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition</b> </div>	<div data-bbox="984 1209 1471 1272" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>On-Campus Instruction</b> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <div data-bbox="984 1388 1471 1486" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Aquinas School-at-Home, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.</b>                      For affected classes                 </div>

## COMMUNICATIONS

- The Aquinas Academy Reopening plan will be posted on the Aquinas website.
- The Administration, guided by the Task-Force, will provide regular updates to families via email and text messages, with updates also posted to the website and social media.
- The school nurse will be the contact person in the event of COVID positive cases or exposures in communication with the health department who will handle notifications required for contact tracing.
- In order to provide continuity of education in the event of illness or extended absences in the event of required quarantine, classroom assignments and school work will be posted in each teacher's Google Classroom. All parents will be requested to opt-in to their children's Google Classrooms, and will be provided with instruction and/or instructional videos on how to navigate the Google Classroom for access to student assignments in the event of absence or short-term school-at-home event.
- All students will be trained in the use of the Google Classroom in the first few weeks of school.
- If students in a class have an extended absence for health-related reasons or a quarantine, at the discretion of the teacher, classes could be live-streamed to such students while the class is in session using Google Meet through the Google Classroom. This accommodation will be offered on a limited basis only and is not meant to be a substitute for regular in-class instruction. These classes, however, cannot be recorded due to privacy issues. Students will learn more from the teachers in the first weeks of school about how this could be of aid to them during a health-related absence.
- Signage will be posted in visible locations throughout the buildings to promote and remind students about practices of good hygiene to help prevent spread – hand-washing, sanitizing, covering your cough/sneeze, and social distancing.
- All Aquinas Academy staff and students will be instructed on social distancing guidelines and safety protocols in place within the school and included in the reopening plan.

## FACULTY TRAINING

- All faculty will receive training in August from the physicians on the Task-Force regarding symptoms of COVID and the matrix determining the length of time that students or staff should be excluded from school following a positive case or exposure (matrix included in this document).
- All faculty will receive training in August regarding sanitizing protocols to be completed within the classroom and common areas during the normal school day.
- Faculty will receive instruction during the August in-service days on the use of the Google Classroom, as well as guidelines and expectations for disseminating schoolwork and notes for student absences.
- Faculty will participate in instructional sessions through Robert Morris University on best practices regarding instructional methods for any periods of remote learning.

# DAILY HEALTH AND HYGIENE

- A nurse will be present in the school daily from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- All Aquinas Academy students and staff must do a self-assessment for fever and/or symptoms at home immediately before leaving for school. Students and staff should monitor for:
  - Signs of illness:
    - Fever of 100.0 or higher
    - Cough
    - Shortness of breath
    - Difficulty breathing
    - Or any of the following symptoms
      - Lack of smell or taste (without congestion)
      - Sore throat
      - Chills
      - Muscle Pain
      - Headache
      - Congestion, Runny nose
      - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
      - Abdominal pain

With any of these signs of illness present, students or staff should stay home from school. (See flowchart next page)

- If students or staff develop any of these symptoms in the course of the school day, they will be sent to the nurse's room, and will be separated from any other ill persons as they await the nurse's assessment and potential departure from school.
- Parents should inform their family physician if there are symptoms of COVID-19 and follow their recommendation on testing.
- Hand-sanitizing stations are located throughout the buildings and in all lower and middle school classrooms. There are three stations per floor in the high school, and a station in the chapel. Students will be reminded to wash and/or sanitize their hands frequently, and especially when moving to a different space.
- As water fountains have been turned off to help prevent any potential spread of illness, all students should bring a filled and labeled water bottle to school daily. They will be permitted to keep their water bottle with them throughout the day. Each building now has high-faucet sinks or touchless bottle-filling stations to refill their water bottle during the day.
- Aquinas staff will monitor hygiene supplies such as soap, tissues, hand sanitizer, and paper towels to ensure adequate inventory in classrooms, restrooms, and other spaces on campus. Parents may be asked periodically to help replenish our supply of tissues, as usual!

# Flowchart to Identify COVID-19 Symptoms and Next Actions:

**Daily Health Assessment**

Do you have any of the following symptoms:

- Fever or Chills, Temperature > 100 F
- Cough, Shortness of Breath, Difficulty Breathing
- Congestion, Runny Nose, Sore Throat
- Headache, Body Aches, Fatigue
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea or Abdominal pain

Yes

No

Have you been exposed to a confirmed COVID case?

Contact your healthcare provider (HCP) for further evaluation, notify school, and do not return to school until cleared

Yes

No

Further action provided by HCP

No

Yes

Follow recommended action immediately and notify school

Cleared by HCP and school nurse to return to school campus

Cleared by HCP and school nurse to return to school campus

Cleared to come on school campus

# SOCIAL DISTANCING

- All classrooms will be arranged in a manner to maximize the distance between student desks.
- All two-seater desks in the high school have been stored and temporarily replaced with single-student desks. (Note that there is a delay on shipment and those desks will arrive the first week of September. Until that time, we will use alternate seating in those classrooms affected.)
- Lower school students will spend the majority of the day in their own classroom with their own cohort to limit exposure. In grades K – 5, students will leave the classroom for Art, Phys Ed, Mass (see below), Lunch, Recess times, and the Restroom. In grades 4 and 5, students will also go to the computer room. In all of these cases, any other teachers will come to the classroom rather than students travelling to the teacher. In particular, this will be true for Science and Music classes.
- Middle School classes are being scheduled in such a way as to reduce the change of classroom by half.
- Middle and High School students will be permitted to carry a backpack in order to reduce the amount of time they need to spend at their lockers. Locker assignments will be made with more spacing between the various grades so that with staggered times for locker visits, students will not be shoulder to shoulder with their next-door neighbor.
- Adults and students will be reminded to maintain a 6-foot social distance as much as possible in the course of the school day.
- In each and every class at every level, there will be a seating chart, and students will be expected to sit in the same spot each day, once assigned or chosen. This is for purposes of contact tracing, should it become necessary to know who was within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes during any given day. Attendance will be taken in each class at both the middle and high school level, in addition to daily attendance in the morning at each level.
- Larger spaces such as the cafeteria and the gym (when not in use), as well as outdoor spaces such as the outdoor classroom or the field under a tent, may be used as classroom space to allow for larger groups of students or more space when needed.
- Restroom occupancy will be limited, and students will follow social distancing when transitioning to the restroom.
- No full-school gatherings will be held (other than Mass outdoors, when possible). Any large group gatherings necessary for Middle or High School will occur in the gym where students can maintain appropriate distance between them.
- Aquinas Academy will evaluate the possibilities for field trips during the 2020-2021 school year based on regulations and community spread. Should trips be or become feasible, preference will be given to outdoor types of field trips.

# MASKS AND FACE COVERINGS

- As PER THE [Secretary of the PA Department of Health's order on July 1, 2020](#), and with clarification for schools from the Department of Education, and until further notice:
  - All adults are required to wear a face covering while on the Aquinas Academy campus.
  - Subject to the bulleted exceptions permitted by the state below, all students/children (over the age of 2) are required to wear a face covering while on the Aquinas Academy campus (and as practicable for the very youngest students.)
  - Students will have face covering breaks throughout the day and should maintain a distance of at least 6 feet during these face covering breaks. Teachers may allow students to remove face coverings when students are:
    - Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart;
    - Seated at desks or assigned workspaces at least 6 feet apart;
    - Engaged in any activity at least 6 feet apart (e.g., face covering breaks, recess, etc.); or
    - When wearing a face covering creates an unsafe condition in which to operate equipment or execute a task.
  - Face Coverings may either be a mask (cloth or similar material) or a plastic face shield that extends to cover the mouth and nose.
  - An exception may be made for any student who cannot wear a mask or face shield due to a medical condition, including those with respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition, or disability, and students who would be unable to remove a mask without assistance are not required to wear face coverings. Exceptions will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
- The school has purchased a sufficient number of face shields for any students who prefer the clear shield to the wearing of a mask. Shields come in both adult and pediatric sizes. One face shield will be provided for any student who requests one, and the student's name should be applied to his/her mask in permanent marker. If lost or cracked, additional shields will be available at \$2.00 each.
- Education will be provided to staff and students on the proper use of face coverings to cover the nose and mouth, how to maintain hand hygiene when removing face coverings when working at desks that are spaced by 6 feet, for meals and snacks, and for physical activity, and for replacing and maintaining (washing regularly) face coverings.

# CLEANING, DISINFECTION, AND VENTILATION

- Aquinas Academy maintenance staff has cleaned and disinfected the entire campus over the summer of 2020 while it was unoccupied.
- Aquinas Academy facilities staff and faculty will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects within the school on a regularly scheduled basis throughout the day. This includes door and sink handles, desktops between student groups, railings, etc. These CDC approved disinfectants will be applied via spray bottle.
- Aquinas Academy will make every effort to limit the amount of touching of shared equipment. When there are shared surfaces, such as keyboards and devices, students will wash hands prior to and after use, and the keyboards/mouse will be disinfected between users.
- Individual classrooms, offices, and communal spaces will be cleaned at the end of every day.
- [Should it be the case that a student tests positive for COVID-19 or a physician determines that the student is a presumed positive, then the classroom\(s\) in which that student was present will be put out of use until it is thoroughly sanitized.](#)
- Ensuring proper ventilation is important in reducing spread of coronavirus. Most Aquinas Academy classrooms receive outside air circulated by an air handling system. The lower school classrooms have working windows, and additionally, individual A/C units that draw fresh air in. The lower school also has large ventilating fans in the hallway ceiling that draw air out of the building. Where and when possible, classroom doors will remain open to allow maximum air exchange. HEPA filtering units will be placed in the lower school as needed.



## PHYSICAL MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

- All students' belongings such as backpacks, jackets, lunchboxes, will be separated from others' belongings and will be kept in their own lockers, cubbies, or on the backs of their chairs. Families are asked to limit sending unnecessary personal belongings to school with their children.
- On days that students have Phys Ed class, they will dress in their gym uniform, and remain in that uniform for the duration of the school day so that they do not have clothing items laying in a common area. This applies to Middle and High School as well. It is therefore imperative that students wear only approved gym uniform: Aquinas Academy gym shorts and an Aquinas Academy tee shirt. In colder weather, Aquinas OR plain dark sweatpants may be worn with an Aquinas tee-shirt or Aquinas long-sleeve or sweatshirt.
- Students will be asked to bring their own supplies such as crayons, markers, scissors, colored pencils, etc. so that those materials are not shared. When there is a need to share equipment such as in a science lab, or reference books, the materials will be cleaned and/or disinfected between uses.
- All students will be required to bring a beach towel to school each day that will be used during outdoor events which may include Mass, lunch on the field, and outdoor classes. The towel should go home for cleaning regularly.
- Aquinas Academy has purchased additional electronic devices which may be checked out to families who require additional resources in the event that we go to remote instruction.

## COMMUNAL SPACES

- Mass will be held outdoors in the front parking lot on good-weather days. Students will bring their towels to sit/kneel on. When weather is inclement, two classes will attend Mass together, maintaining the Diocesan requirement of social distancing between students. There are six student groupings who will take turns attending Mass when we cannot be outdoors. Parents will be welcome to join us – but only when Mass is outdoors.
- Lunch routines will vary based on weather as well. When the field is dry, we will have lunch on the lawn, again using beach towels. Lower school will eat in cohorts, while the others have recess, then switch. Middle and High School will also have lunch on the lawn. There are several large canopy tents that have been purchased for the field in order to provide shade at lunch time. When the field is wet, students will eat lunch in small groups in the cafeteria. Middle and High School students will alternate weeks of eating in their classrooms whenever lunch cannot be eaten outdoors. In every case, the students will spread out the length of the cafeteria with no more than 5 students at a 10-foot table. Between groups, the tables (and chair surfaces) will be both cleaned and disinfected.
- Lunch service will still be available; however, all meals and snacks will be served and sold from behind the plexiglass divider at the serving window. Food First, our lunch provider, is working with us to provide options that are boxed or brown-bag meals. If lunch is outdoors or in the classroom, it will be easy and efficient to carry the lunch without spilling/dropping. Students should be sure to pack a beverage or bring their water bottle to lunch as the water fountains will not be serviceable. Bottle fillers are located just outside the cafeteria door.
- Students will be expected to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer both before and after eating.
- The lower school library will not be made available to students for the first semester, at which time book-lending will be reevaluated based on conditions.
- [The After-Day program will still be available in the Early Years Building.](#) All snacks will be pre-packaged, and students will be expected to social distance and/or wear face coverings. The ability to maintain social distance will depend on the number of students each day and the same health and safety precautions that are in effect during the school day will be in place for the After-Day Program. All students should be sure to have a face covering with them for after-day.

## ESSENTIAL AND NON-ESSENTIAL VISITORS

- Until further notice, and to limit contact with outside cohorts of visitors, there will be no parents, guardians, or other guests permitted inside the school buildings. All meetings with teachers or administrators should be done by phone or remotely and by appointment.
- Our Lunch and Recess Supervisors have arranged for sufficient and consistent help, and we will not utilize parent volunteers for lunch and recess supervision at this time. Those who will be working lunch and recess will follow the full set of safety standards for the school.
- When a parent needs to drop off an item for a student, it should be labeled and left in the vestibule of the High School.
- If a parent comes to school to pick up their child for an appointment, they should come to the front lobby of the high school, sign their child out, and take their child to the car.
- All essential services provided by outside agencies including maintenance, deliveries, etc. will be held to the safety protocols in place at the time. These persons will check in at the office, wear face coverings, and avoid prolonged contact with any staff members or students.

## ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL AND TRANSPORTATION

- Aquinas Academy relies on public school districts for bus transportation. As such, our plans for arrival and dismissal of busses for bus riders are on hold until we have more information from those districts.
- Arrival is between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. daily for K – 12; and between 8:05 and 8:15 or 12:00 and 12:15 for Preschool. (Note that for Preschool 3 and 4-year-olds, the times must change to accommodate other adjustments for this year. Morning times will be 8:15 to 10:45, and afternoon is 12:15 to 2:45.)
- Parents will be asked to drop car-riders at the curb on the south side of campus near the island, or down by the chapel for middle school. Kindergarten and Preschool may walk their child to the building door but may not enter the building. Please say your goodbyes outdoors and send your child into the building where he or she will be greeted by the teacher.
- In order to accommodate an expected larger number of car-riders at dismissal, all bus riders and busses will be dismissed no later than 3:15. Parents who are picking up students must not arrive at the parking lot prior to 3:17 to prevent back-up of traffic onto West Hardies. The line of cars will be directed to pull up in front of the main building and will form rows. Parents may get out of their car and remain next to it so that students may find their parents. Please load your passengers, and wait for the signal that all is safe to begin moving through the parking lot. This procedure is subject to change if after-school transportation is more manageable than anticipated.
- If you need to pick up your child for an appointment that requires dismissal from the lot earlier than 3:20, please write a note for an early dismissal at 2:45 and sign your child out at the main office.

# TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS

Recognizing that some families travel during the summer and possibly even right up to the start of the school year, as well as during the school year, there are some factors that can help to mitigate the risk to others upon your return. Prudence is the key factor – where you go, how you get there, and what you do there. The Aquinas school community will rely on the good judgment of each of its members to keep the students healthy should your family have the need to travel. The following questions are important to determine whether self-quarantine is required after travel.

If your family is **planning to travel or has traveled at all**, and especially if you have traveled **via airplane or other forms of public transportation** (i.e., you're not traveling in your personal vehicle) **to a location designated as a "hot spot" by the PA Department of Health (<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>)** ask yourself the following four questions **upon your return home**.

1. **Did you practice essential health and safety protocols while traveling?** Specifically, were you wearing a mask in public places, practicing social distancing, and frequently hand washing/sanitizing while avoiding touching your face?
2. **While travelling, did you avoid large groups (>25 individuals)** and/or if you were around larger groups, did you practice essential health and safety protocols including wearing a mask, frequent hand washing/sanitizing, and social distancing?
3. **Are you free of COVID-19-like symptoms** including a cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell, and body aches?
4. **While traveling, did you avoid exposure/contact with any individual that was exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms or that is positive or suspected for COVID-19?** Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of someone for 15 minutes or more without protective equipment (e.g., no mask).

**If your answer to each question is "Yes," then students can attend school upon their return.** Be sure to monitor your family members for COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days from the date of your return and be diligent about wearing face coverings consistently during those 14 days.

**If your answer to any of the above questions is "No," then please call the school office to speak with the nurse for a verbal assessment upon your return.** Your student may be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

If you have any questions or are unsure about your family's exposure during travel, we encourage you to contact the school nurse to review your situation.

## ATHLETICS

Athletic practices and events for the 2020-2021 school year are subject to the guidance from the PIAA and WPIAL, and always with regard to the health and safety of the athletes.

- Please see the separate document on reopening of athletics
- Note that, due to social distancing requirements and the capacity of school vehicles (bus and van) there may be circumstances where parents need to transport students to practices or contests.
- Location of practices and contests may vary based on availability of regularly used off-campus facilities. Some of our regular facilities (the Wildwood Bubble) remain closed for student use at this time.
- Attendance of spectators at sporting events will be subject to the local permissions during any particular season and parents will be informed of those guidelines.

## HEAD OF SCHOOL DESIGNATION

The Head of School may decide to move to alternate hybrid instruction or full remote instruction for reasons such as (but not limited to):

- Community spread of the illness in classrooms, individual school buildings, and across the Aquinas Academy community
- Lack of bus drivers in the local school districts to cover necessary runs to get students to and from school for the day
- The number of teachers absent leading to the inability to cover classrooms in a manner that ensures the safety and welfare of students
- Lack of custodial staff to be able to clean buildings nightly

## STUDENT/STAFF HEALTH PROTOCOLS

Because there is a collective responsibility between staff, students, and families to do our best to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus, there is an expectation that all will follow the guidelines for self-monitoring. There will be no perfect attendance awards given this year because that is not in the best interest of the school. If a student is ill, it is expected that the student will stay home. There is sometimes a temptation to give Tylenol and send kids, hoping they feel better. While that is never a good protocol, it is an especially *inappropriate* protocol this year. As a community, each family is trusting that the others are doing their best to keep *everyone* healthy.

That having been said, kids will become sick at school. It may be a stomach bug, or coughing for allergies, or a fever. These may or may not be COVID related – but we will be erring on the side of caution. We have a nursing staff in place to manage children who show symptoms at school. Teachers will defer to the nurse to make decisions on whether a child is to go home – and that will be the most frequent decision. Please be prepared for that possible phone call to pick your child up. **In order to mitigate potential transmission siblings of sick individuals should stay home until the sick individual is deemed not to be suspect for COVID-19.**

While a child is awaiting pick-up, he or she will be separated from other students until the parent can arrive. The nurse may recommend that the child see a physician, who is the one responsible for determining if testing is necessary. A family must inform us of any positive test results. The Health Department will then collect information on possible exposures, and we will work in conjunction with the Health Department to provide information and inform families of possible exposure and the action required.

Note that there are a couple of situations that will disrupt in-person learning. Some of those are

- scenarios where a classroom must sit for 24 hours before being deep-cleaned in the case of a COVID-positive student who was present in the classroom for the 48 hours before symptoms and/or diagnosis
- scenarios where the health department recommends that an entire class and its teacher quarantine for a period of 10 to 14 days because of potential spread.

In each of these situations, learning would be remote during the time that the class and teacher are out. We certainly hope those situations are few and far between, but we are prepared nevertheless.

Below are the guidelines that have been developed by our team for “What to do when...”, from a medical perspective. The chart follows some basic, important definitions.

## Definitions

**Close contact prolonged exposure** — Distance within 6 feet for a duration of 15 minutes or greater.

**Not considered close contact** — Individual who walks by another individual or who has no direct contact with the COVID positive person or with their secretions/excretions. Being in the same indoor environment as an infected source for short periods of time (e.g. walking by the person in the hall or being briefly in the same room).

**Exposure** is defined as having prolonged direct close contact (less than 6 feet for 15 minutes) 48 hours before symptom onset of a person who is COVID positive or who is later identified as COVID positive person (tested and resulted later).

**Social Distancing** — remaining out of congregate settings (settings such as shopping centers, movie theaters, stadiums, workplaces, and schools and other classroom settings), avoiding local public transportation (e.g., bus, subway, taxi, ride share), and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others, as recommended by the CDC.

**Self-monitoring** — individual should monitor themselves for fever by taking their temperature twice a day (**measured temperature  $\geq 100.0^{\circ}\text{F}$  is fever**) and remain alert for respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, sore throat). Anyone self-monitoring should contact **their health care provider** if they develop fever or respiratory symptoms during the self-monitoring period.

**Self-isolation** — isolate themselves from others. In a room by themselves would be best or if in a household separated off.

**Quarantine** - keep someone who was in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 away from others.

## Aquinas Academy COVID 19 Exposure Situation Recommendations Guide

**\*\* Please note that all bolded terms in the below chart are explicitly defined in the definitions directly above.**

If an Aquinas Academy employee or student	Recommendations
<p>Was notified by a state or local health department or health care provider to quarantine/<b>self-isolate</b>, or</p> <p>Had <b>exposure</b> to a positive COVID-19 case in the community or at school.</p>	<p>Must notify school administration and <b>quarantine/social distance/self-isolate</b> for 14 days.</p> <p>Even if individual subsequently has a negative COVID 19 test, must <b>quarantine/social distance/self-isolate</b> for 14 days.</p>
<p>Has someone living in their household who has tested positive for COVID-19.</p>	<p>Must notify school administration.</p> <p>Stay home/quarantine and <b>social distance</b> for 14 days from after their <b>last household exposure</b> (the day the COVID-19 patient was released from isolation).</p> <p><b>If multiple family members develop COVID-19, release from isolation is 14 days from last exposure unless the individual develops the disease and then discharge from isolation would be that of a COVID-positive person (See chart on next page).</b></p>
<p>Had contact with someone who was an asymptomatic contact of a positive COVID-19 person (contact of a contact). No direct contact with COVID positive individual.</p>	<p>No restrictions – <b>self-monitor</b></p>
<p><b>Exposed</b> to individual that is symptomatic and deemed highly suspect for COVID-19 by health care provider and/or test result is pending. Health Care Provider has recommended COVID-19 testing or has recommended individual is highly suspect and should <b>quarantine</b> at home.</p>	<p>Must notify school administration.</p> <p>Those with <b>exposure</b> to a suspect COVID 19 person will need to stay home/<b>quarantine and social distance</b> until test result is known. Final status will be determined after test result. If negative result and no new symptoms, exposed person can return to school with no restrictions. If positive result, <b>exposed person will need to quarantine/ social distance</b> for 14 days from date of last exposure.</p>



<p><b>Exposed</b> to someone 48 hours before the person became symptomatic and the individual later tested positive for COVID-19 or was advised by their health care provider to quarantine at home.</p>	<p>Must notify school administration.</p> <p>Transmission of illness may occur up to 48 hours before symptoms are present. Those with <b>exposure</b> to an individual during that timeframe <b>should stay home/quarantine/social distance and self-isolate</b> for 14 days. Family members living with a positive COVID 19 individual are considered household contacts and will need to quarantine. See above for recommendations for household contacts.</p>
<p>Individual who walks by a COVID positive person and who has no direct contact with the COVID positive person or their secretions/excretions (not sneezed or coughed on or secretions in eyes, face or mouth).</p> <p>Being in the same indoor environment as an infected source for short periods of time; less than 15 minutes (e.g. walking by the person in the hall or being briefly in the same room).</p>	<p>No action needed.</p>

## Recommendations to Return to Campus for a Sick or COVID-19 Positive Tested Individual

If an Aquinas Academy Student or Employee	Recommendation
<p>Is symptomatic, not suspected of COVID infection (other viral illness, no testing recommended by health care provider or negative COVID-19 testing, <b>no quarantine recommended by health care provider</b> and no known exposure to COVID-19 positive person).</p> <p><b>Family members of sick individuals should stay home until sick individual is deemed not to be suspect for COVID-19.</b></p>	<p>Must be fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) and clearance from physician in order to return. Individual should not be coming to school with a fever, sneezing or coughing.</p>

<p>COVID-19 positive, or high likelihood of COVID19 without test individual</p>	<p>Individual with COVID-19 in quarantine/<b>self-isolation</b> maybe released if <u>without fever for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) <b>and</b> after a minimum of 10 days isolation after symptom onset, <b>and</b> resolution of symptoms.</u></p> <p>In addition, for individuals with <u>severe illness</u>, duration of isolation up to 20 days may be warranted. Consultation with health care provider may be indicated.</p>
<p>Has a positive COVID-19 test but has not had any symptoms (asymptomatic) and was not <b>exposed</b> to a COVID positive person. Was tested for other reasons.</p>	<p>Individual with <u>laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who did not have any symptoms</u>, should <b>quarantine/self-isolate</b> at least 10 days since the <u>date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.</u></p>
<p>Was COVID-19 tested, due to symptoms after an <b>exposure</b>, test result was negative.</p>	<p>Individual should stay home and <b>social distance</b> for 14 days from date of last exposure even if has a negative test at a point in time.</p>

**AQUINAS ACADEMY COVID-19 PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The effective reopening of Aquinas Academy is dependent upon the best efforts of all constituents of the Aquinas Academy Community to follow the protocols stated in the reopening plan in order to most effectively maintain the health and safety of the students, faculty, and all families. While the plan is subject to amendment as knowledge and conditions continue to change, at this time we acknowledge and consent to adhere to the plan as written, to ensure daily monitoring of symptoms as indicated on the flowchart, and to continue to reinforce at home the expected protocols for face coverings and good hygiene by each child enrolled in school. If it is necessary to come to campus to pick up a child for any reason, parents or family members will also be expected to wear face coverings and use hand sanitizer upon entry.

We understand that COVID-19/Coronavirus poses inherent risks that cannot be fully eliminated regardless of the care and precautions taken. Even with the mitigation steps taken by Aquinas Academy and our compliance with its protocols, on behalf of ourselves and our child, we acknowledge that Aquinas Academy cannot prevent the risks of exposure to COVID-19 that may result from our child’s attendance at Aquinas or participating in its activities, and we knowingly and voluntarily assume any and all risks related thereto.

We certify that we have read, understand, and agree to comply with the above terms and the terms of the Aquinas Academy Reopening Plan as may be amended from time to time.

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Print Names: \_

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Children’s Names: \_\_\_\_\_

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