

Frequently Asked Questions regarding Return to In-Person Faith Formation

1. Are younger students to wear face coverings?

Yes. The current guidance from the State of Ohio now requires facial masks for all children and young people in grades K - 12. It continues to be a good practice to have young people ages 2+ wear a facial mask. Considerations should keep in mind developmental and special needs of the individuals.

2. Children are naturally attracted to one another, should we avoid small group work?

The more physical distancing we can implement the better. It is recommended to limit group activities.

3. Any comment on face shields?

Some educational communities are also encouraging face shields in combination with facial masks. Additional barriers may assist in the spread of the virus.

4. What guidance or protocol can you give us for when (if) we have a positive or potential case of COVID? What re-entry policy should be in place in these situations?

Contact your local county Board of Health and follow their guidance.

Ashland County Board of Health <https://www.ashlandhealth.com/for-individuals-and-families/personal-health/covid-19-coronavirus>

Cuyahoga County Board of Health <https://www.ccbh.net/coronavirus/>

Lake County Board of Health <https://www.lcghd.org/2019-novel-coronavirus-ncov/>

Lorain County Board of Health https://www.loraincountyhealth.com/coronavirus?gtm_cardu=urgentcard

Geauga County Board of Health <http://gphohio.org/>

Medina County Board of Health <https://medinahealth.org/community/current-outbreaks/>

Summit County Board of Health <https://www.scph.org/covid>

Wayne County Board of Health <https://www.wayne-health.org/>

Persons who are cleared by their medical professional for re-entry into school and/or work may be able to return to parish-based activities.

5. Does anyone have specific suggestions about how to maintain connections with PSR families while they are teaching at home? Are there other parishes considering home school only or does it seem that everyone is looking to return in person this fall?

The diocesan office is contacting parish communities on current plans for faith formation including Parish School of Religion. We are also developing best practices to highlight connection with parish families and providing for authentic Catholic community. Parishes have been providing a variety of options for families to choose from during this time. Family catechesis in the home, sometimes known as home-schooling, is the second most utilized model of faith formation used within the diocese of Cleveland. Connection with families in this model of faith formation is essential. This may be done with the inclusion of parent meetings and sessions that coach families in the use of formation materials. Emerging best practices seem to indicate that catechists who are assigned a group of families are a vital connection to the parish community and can help the family system.

Keep personalized messages through email, third-party texting and phone as a standard communication with families.

6. What technology platform did you use to create the prayer wall?
The Office of Catechetical Formation has developed a wall for prayer and inspiration.
This prayer wall may be found: <https://padlet.com/abreedden1/ddfut91u0n99i3i0>

7. **Perhaps revisiting the possible virtual platforms and how to use them might be good now that we are moving forward more with the need for virtual options. Some options are better for certain types of groups than others. Could this be done in more detail than it was before?**

We will look to collaborate with the Office of Catholic Education to highlight training in a variety of virtual platforms. It is not clear when we will be able to do in-person trainings. However, we are researching possibilities.

Many of the Catholic publishers on the conformity list have been providing learning opportunities on how to use their materials with a virtual platform (Google classroom, Flipgrid, etc.) The most prevalent publishers in the Diocese of Cleveland are Loyola, Our Sunday Visitor, RCL Benziger, Sadlier, and Pflaum.

8. **Do we need to have a parental consent form to attend PSR during the coronavirus pandemic?**

No. Parish faith formation activities are like attending Mass. The diocesan legal office is not currently recommending that parishes have a written consent form. Your faith formation registration can include the plan to follow public health mandates and guidance.

While parishes follow the current guidance from public health officials and provide for a clean and safe environment, there is no guarantee that a virus could not be shared. All of the precautions taken are to mitigate the contagion.

9. **If our local school district or districts are doing complete remote learning, can PSR continue to meet?**

Faith formation sessions may gather as long as the parish is following all of the current mandates and guidance given by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Ohio State Department of Health and your local Departments of Health.

See the General Safety Guidelines as your plan for Faith Formation. (Cleaning and sanitizing of the facilities, wearing of facial masks, use of physical or social distancing, washing of hands and hand sanitizers at the entrances and in the room where the activity is being held, and vigilant health assessments)