DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG / YORK CATHOLIC MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL
COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY PLAN 2021-2022
October 8, 2021

School Name: York Catholic Middle & High School	**School Location: York PA**
Principal: Mrs. Katie Seufert	**Date of Reopening: August 23, 2021**
Type of Reopening: Total Reopening for all students and staff.	The Diocese will continually review this plan in light of CDC and Department of Health guidelines and in collaboration with school principals.
Health & Safety Team These individuals play a role in drafting the school plan and in responding to Covid-related matters during the school year.	
Individuals	**Stakeholder Group Represented**
Mrs. Katie Seufert, Principal Mrs. Kathy Hand, Director of Studies Mr. Kevin Bankos, Director of Operations Ms. Lori Keith, Director of Communications Mrs. Sarah DeLuca, School Nurse	Students, Parents, Faculty, Staff, Administration

DIOCESAN GUIDELINES	LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
Acknowledgement Forms: All parents will be required to sign an updated "acknowledgements and notices" form before the start of the 2021-22 school year. These will be similar to the forms signed before the 2020-21 school year.	**Acknowledgement Forms:** The Diocese of Harrisburg COVID-19 Acknowledgement and Notices form will be shared with families on the first day of school.
Weekly Data Collection: Schools will continue to complete the weekly survey from the Office of Catholic Schools on Covid-related matters until further notice in order to ensure consistent data collection efforts. The Diocesan re-opening committee will review the data weekly and will consider adjusted mitigation strategies, if necessary, for the following school week for each school.	**Weekly Data Collection:** Data will be supplied to the Diocese.
Virtual Learning - Individual Request: Permission must be given for children to attend our Catholic schools virtually in the 2021-22 school year. We believe it is best to have our students in person in our schools, whenever possible. Parents may make an application to the re-opening committee (not to the building principal) for consideration for virtual education. The application includes completion of a Google Form and an email including the needed medical documentation. Only medically-documented reasons will be considered. When the re-opening committee receives the application, the committee will consult with the building principal on the matter. The application, pertinent dates and email link can be found here.	**Virtual Learning - Individual Request:** Permission must be granted by the Diocese of Harrisburg for children to attend York Catholic Middle and High School virtually in the 2021-22 school year. We believe it is best to have our students in person in our schools, whenever possible. Parents may make an application to the Diocese re-opening committee (not to the York Catholic principal) for consideration for virtual education. The application includes completion of a Google Form and an email including the needed medical documentation. Only medically-documented reasons will be considered. When the Diocese re-opening committee receives the application, the committee will consult with the York Catholic principal on the matter. The application, pertinent dates, and email link can be found here.

Virtual Learning - Response to Exposure: If quarantine is needed for a group of students, the school will strive to accommodate that group through a combination of virtual and traditional learning methods. Schools need to be prepared to offer virtual instruction in case an entire class needs to be quarantined.	**Virtual Learning - Response to Exposure:** If quarantine is needed for a group of students, York Catholic will strive to accommodate that group through a combination of virtual and traditional learning methods. York Catholic is prepared to offer virtual instruction in case an entire class needs to be quarantined.
Temperature & Symptom Checks: Temperature checks will not be done on a daily basis; rather, they will be reserved for screening potentially ill students or faculty and staff. ● Parents will be asked to be vigilant in checking students for symptoms of illness and to keep students home when ill. ● As details of specific symptoms of concern are known, the school will advise parents of any symptoms that require students to remain at home. ● Faculty and staff are asked to do a daily self-check for symptoms.	**Temperature & Symptom Checks:** Temperature checks will not be done on a daily basis; rather, they will be reserved for screening potentially ill students or faculty and staff. ● Parents are asked to be vigilant in checking students for symptoms of illness and to keep students home when ill. ● As details of specific symptoms of concern are known, the school will advise parents of any symptoms that require students to remain at home. ● Faculty and staff are asked to do a daily self-check for symptoms.
Social Distancing: Students are expected to be three feet apart in the classroom, to the extent feasible.	**Social Distancing:** Students and teachers are expected to be three feet apart in the classroom, to the extent feasible.

Masks: As of September 7, 2021, masks are required in our schools for faculty, staff, students, and guests, regardless of vaccination status. Face masks are not required when: ● Wearing a mask would cause a medical condition or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues, mental health conditions or a disability. In these cases, a face shield is recommended to be worn. ● Engaging in an activity that cannot be performed while masked, like eating and drinking or playing a musical instrument. ● Participating in physical education classes and athletic practices or events, whether indoor or outdoor. ● The individual is under two (2) years of age. Students will follow the rules of their school district re: masks when utilizing district transportation.	**Masks:** Masks are required at York Catholic Middle & High School for faculty, staff, students, and guests, regardless of vaccination status. Face masks are not required when: ● Wearing a mask would cause a medical condition or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues, mental health conditions or a disability. In these cases, a face shield is recommended to be worn. ● Engaging in an activity that cannot be performed while masked, like eating and drinking or playing a musical instrument. ● Participating in physical education classes and athletic practices or events, whether indoor or outdoor. ● The individual is under two (2) years of age. Students will follow the rules of their school district re: masks when utilizing district transportation. Consistent with the recommendation by the Department of Education of the Diocese of Harrisburg, writing of any kind is prohibited on face masks. Political statements, statements contrary to the Catholic faith, and any offensive statements are prohibited by the dress code guidelines of York Catholic, which are applicable to face masks. Only the following face covering styles will be permitted: ● solid green masks or gaiters ● solid gold/yellow masks or gaiters ● solid navy blue masks or gaiters ● solid black masks or gaiters

	● solid white masks or gaiters ● solid gray masks or gaiters ● disposable masks in a solid color (green, gold/yellow, blue, black, white, gray) ● masks or gaiters available through the school spirit store
Vaccines: Vaccines will not be required for anyone. ● Those vaccinated will not be required to quarantine if exposed to Covid.	**Vaccines:** Vaccines will not be required for anyone. ● Those vaccinated will not be required to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19.
Record of Vaccines: Principals will need to know the vaccination status of the people in the buildings in order to be aware of the overall health situation in the schools and to be able to make quarantine decisions, if needed. ● Faculty and staff in our schools will inform the principal about their vaccination status at the proper time and through the proper channels. ● Parents of students are encouraged to let principals know, in the manner the school establishes, if children have been vaccinated. ● In all cases, the school will take every reasonable precaution to safeguard the privacy and dignity of all students, faculty and staff regarding vaccination status.	**Record of Vaccines:** Principals will need to know the vaccination status of the people in the buildings in order to be aware of the overall health situation in the schools and to be able to make quarantine decisions, if needed. ● Faculty and staff at York Catholic will inform the school nurse about their vaccination status. ● If a student is vaccinated, parents are encouraged to email the vaccination card to the school nurse at sdeluca@yorkcatholic.org. Copies of the vaccine cards will be kept on file to assist in close contact and/or quarantine notifications. Those with vaccination cards on file will not need to quarantine. ● In all cases, York Catholic will take every reasonable precaution to safeguard the privacy and dignity of all students, faculty, and staff regarding vaccination status.

Pending Test Results: If a household member of a student or school employee, or the student or employee themselves have been tested and are waiting for COVID-19 test results, the student or school employee must follow the quarantine protocol applicable to their vaccination status: ***Not Vaccinated*** The student or school employee may not come to school until the test is confirmed negative and the school nurse has granted permission to return. If the result of the immediate household member's test is positive, please see the next section titled Positive Test Results. ***Vaccinated*** The student or school employee may come to school wearing a mask. If the result of the immediate household member's test is positive, please see the next section titled Positive Test Results.	**Pending Test Results:** If a household member of a student or school employee, or the student or employee themselves have been tested and are waiting for COVID-19 test results, the student or school employee must follow the quarantine protocol applicable to their vaccination status: ***Not Vaccinated*** The student or school employee may not come to school until the test is confirmed negative and the school nurse has granted permission to return. If the result of the immediate household member's test is positive, please see the next section titled Positive Test Results. ***Vaccinated*** The student or school employee may come to school wearing a mask. If the result of the immediate household member's test is positive, please see the next section titled Positive Test Results.
Positive Test Results: If a student, school employee, or household member tests positive for COVID-19, families are obligated to inform the school for the health and safety of the entire school community. This applies even when we are not in person or in session. Please follow the protocol detailed in the section titled Quarantine.	**Positive Test Results:** If a student, school employee, or household member tests positive for COVID-19, families are obligated to inform the school for the health and safety of the entire school community. This applies even when we are not in person or in session. Please follow the protocol detailed in the section titled Quarantine.

Quarantines: Unvaccinated faculty, staff or students who are exposed to a Covid-positive person will need to quarantine based on time frames established by the CDC (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html) and adopted by the PA Department of Health. Fully vaccinated faculty, staff and students will not need to quarantine. Clearly, any student or faculty or staff member who tests positive for Covid must quarantine, with the length of the quarantine to be determined by the PA Department of Health. Close contact to a COVID positive individual is defined as someone unmasked within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more.	**Quarantines:** **Close Contacts** Close contact to a COVID positive individual is defined as someone unmasked within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more. ***Not Vaccinated*** Non-vaccinated individuals identified as close contacts to someone who tests positive must quarantine for 10 days and are not permitted to enter school grounds or participate in school extra-curricular activities. The non-vaccinated individual does not need to be tested for COVID-19 unless they become symptomatic. Non-vaccinated individuals have the option of getting a COVID test on day 7 after exposure and they may return to school and activities IF there is a negative result on that test. Proof of the result must be sent to the school nurse at sdeluca@yorkcatholic.org. Please note that the test date cannot be earlier than 7 days after exposure. If the non-vaccinated individual becomes symptomatic, they are required to get a COVID test. If the test is positive on day 7 of quarantine or as a result of being tested due to symptoms, the Non-vaccinated individual will follow the instructions below under “Positive Test Results.” ***Vaccinated*** Vaccinated Individuals are considered fully vaccinated if it is: ● 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series,

	such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or ● 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine Vaccinated individuals do not have to quarantine if identified as a close contact. **Positive Test Results** Individuals with COVID positive test results will quarantine 10 days past the onset of symptoms or positive test results (whichever occurs first) regardless of vaccination status and are not permitted to enter school grounds or participate in school extra-curricular activities. Positive individuals have the option of getting a COVID test on day 7 after the start of their quarantine period and they may return to school and activities IF there is a negative result on that test. Proof of the result must be sent to the school nurse at sdeluca@yorkcatholic.org. If the test is still positive, the individual will complete the 10-day quarantine.
Notifications: Names of anyone who tests positive will not be provided and medical information, other than the positive result, will not be shared. In all cases, every reasonable precaution will be taken to safeguard the privacy and dignity of all students, faculty, and staff regarding quarantine status.	**Notifications:** Any time York Catholic is notified of a positive case of COVID-19 among our students or staff, all parents will be notified via email, regardless of a student's vaccine status. York Catholic will also notify parents of those students identified as close contacts, regardless of a student's vaccine status. Names of anyone who tests positive will not be provided and medical information, other than the positive result, will not be shared. In all cases, York Catholic will take every reasonable precaution to safeguard the privacy and dignity of all students, faculty, and staff regarding quarantine status.

Reporting: With any cases of pending test results, positive test results, or quarantine, please notify the school.	**Reporting:** With any cases of pending test results, positive test results, or quarantine, please notify the following: School Nurse: sdeluca@yorkcatholic.org Attendance Office: attendance@yorkcatholic.org
Parents, visitors and volunteers: Parents, volunteers and other visitors will be allowed in schools. ● Masks are required regardless of vaccination status. ● Signage will be posted prominently in the lobby/office indicating that parents, visitors, and volunteers must wear masks while in the school regardless of vaccination status. ● When signing in, parents, visitors, and volunteers will sign that they understand and will comply with the request to mask regardless of their vaccination status. No one will be asked for proof of vaccination when signing in.	**Parents, visitors, and volunteers:** Parents, volunteers, and other visitors will be allowed in schools. ● Masks are required regardless of vaccination status. ● Signage will be posted prominently in the lobby/office indicating that parents, visitors, and volunteers must wear masks while in the school regardless of vaccination status. ● When signing in, parents, visitors, and volunteers will sign that they understand and will comply with the request to mask regardless of their vaccination status. No one will be asked for proof of vaccination when signing in.
Cleaning: Areas in schools for common use -- that is, used regularly by multiple groups within the school -- need to be cleaned regularly. ● Locker rooms, gyms, band and chorus areas, and any other spaces used by multiple school groups are to be cleaned in the middle of the week, ideally, but at least once a week.	**Cleaning:** Areas in York Catholic for common use -- that is, used regularly by multiple groups within the school -- will be cleaned regularly. ● Locker rooms, gyms, band, and chorus areas, and any other spaces used by multiple school groups will be cleaned in the middle of the week, ideally, but at least once a week.

● Lunchroom surfaces need to be sanitized between lunch shifts. ● Classroom desks and high-traffic areas should be cleaned daily at the end of the school day.	● Lunchroom surfaces will be sanitized between lunch shifts. ● Classroom desks and high-traffic areas will be cleaned daily at the end of the school day.
Ventilation: Schools will make every effort to provide as much ventilation as possible in each classroom, as we did in 2020-21. Leaving windows and doors open in an appropriate manner is the simplest approach.	**Ventilation:** York Catholic will make every effort to provide as much ventilation as possible in each classroom, as we did in 2020-21. Windows and doors will be left open in an appropriate manner.
Handwashing and hygiene: Students will be asked to wash/sanitize hands at sensible times, as always: at start and end of the school day, before and after lunch, when they have sneezed or used the restroom, and as needed. Water fountains may not be used. Schools may ask students to bring water bottles to school.	**Handwashing and hygiene:** Students will be asked to wash/sanitize hands at sensible times, as always: at start and end of the school day, before and after lunch, when they have sneezed or used the restroom, and as needed. Students and staff are encouraged to bring individual water bottles that can be refilled using sinks or bottle fillers. Water drinking fountains will be turned off; water bottle refill stations will remain accessible. Students are permitted to carry clear water bottles during school hours. Students may use an original water bottle (Deer Park, Poland Springs, etc.) or a York Catholic reusable bottle available online through the Spirit Store. It's a clear 22 oz. sports bottle with a straw and spill-proof lid. Students can write their name on the bottle and add a sticker (for identification purposes) as long as it doesn't cover the YC logo on the bottle. Students are not permitted to bring drinks into the building other than water in the approved water bottles detailed above.

Field trips: Reasonable field trips can be taken in the local area and that decision resides with the school. Proposed trips beyond the local area are to be brought to the Secretary for Education for discussion. However, the responsibility to vet the locations and situations encountered on these trips resides with the school. Schools will need to do homework and be sure of the situation students will encounter during the field trip: crowded areas, etc. -- and will prepare appropriately. High schools will be able to offer overnight retreats, as long as there is a thorough, written health and safety plan in place.	**Field trips:** Reasonable field trips can be taken in the local area and will be evaluated and approved by the York Catholic administration. Proposed trips beyond the local area will be taken to the Diocesan Secretary for Education for discussion. York Catholic will research the situation students will encounter during the field trip: crowded areas, etc. -- and will prepare appropriately. When indoors or in a transportation vehicle, masks will be worn regardless of vaccination status.
Social, emotional and spiritual care for students: We need to make sure, in each school, that we are carefully monitoring student learning and providing all possible resources to meet individual learning needs and to provide the best resources for social, emotional and spiritual growth for our students. As we did last year, we will take a team approach in our schools: school nurses, counselors, social workers (if available) and priests will bring powerful resources to benefit our students. That team will need close collaboration with parents and with teachers, who know the needs of their students well.	**Social, emotional and spiritual care for students:** York Catholic will carefully monitor student learning and provide all possible resources to meet individual learning needs and to provide the best resources for social, emotional, and spiritual growth for our students. As we did last year, our team of school counselors, school nurse, social workers (if available), chaplain, parish priests, administration, and teachers will partner with families to bring powerful resources to benefit our students.

Groupings: Cohorts, Small group work While we will not start the year with the strict cohorting system we used last year, each school is asked to plan the daily interaction of student groups. Each school will determine the range of those groups. In the end, if there is a potential exposure to Covid, we need to know how to proceed. Schools may have small groups work together within the classroom. Maintain the three-foot distance, to the extent feasible.	**Groupings: Cohorts, Small group work** York Catholic will continue to operate as a Middle School and High School with students sharing limited common space. Teachers may utilize small group work within the classroom provided a three-foot social distance can be maintained, to the extent feasible.
Groupings - Cafeteria: The cafeteria may be used. To the extent feasible, students should be three feet apart in the cafeteria. Commonly-used surfaces in the cafeteria must be cleaned between lunch shifts. A clean and simple approach for the school is to make the groups mentioned above the same as the lunch groups that share the cafeteria.	**Groupings - Cafeteria:** Lunch periods will continue to be separated by Middle School and High School in the cafeteria. To the extent feasible, students will be three feet apart. As always, commonly-used surfaces in the cafeteria will be cleaned between lunch periods.
Groupings - Assemblies: Schools may have assemblies, as needed. As assemblies will bring together more than one school group, schools are encouraged to start with a small number of assemblies in the first quarter of the school year, until we see the overall impact.	**Groupings - Assemblies:** York Catholic assemblies will use every other seat to the extent feasible to accommodate a 3-foot social distance.
Groupings - Mass: School Masses will continue, as per Diocese of Harrisburg guidelines for Mass.	**Groupings - Mass:** School Masses will continue, as per Diocese of Harrisburg guidelines for Mass.

Groupings - Extracurricular Activities: Extra-curricular activities may resume with clubs and groups observing the 3-foot social distance.	**Groupings - Extracurricular Activities:** Extra-curricular activities will resume with clubs and groups observing the 3-foot social distance.
Groupings - Athletics We expect the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association will issue guidance for athletics. Teams will follow school guidelines above until directives are received from the PIAA.	**Groupings - Athletics** We expect the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association will issue guidance for athletics. Teams will follow the guidelines above until directives are received from the PIAA.
Communications Parents will be notified of changes to the Reopening Health & Safety Plan through the means determined by the school.	**Communications** Should our Return to Learn Plan need to be amended, we are prepared to do so swiftly if required. Families will be notified of any changes through York Catholic's weekly *Irish Eye* e-newsletter.