

**Updated Criteria Proposed Based on Revised Diocesan Guidelines**

*Operational Criteria*

The State of Ohio Public Health Advisory System (OPHAS) serves as the gating criteria for the level of operation we can assume while in the Public Health Emergency related to COVID. Due to the nature of our constituencies within the school and the parish, there are some differences as to how and when we operate within OPHAS, particularly with the resumption of operations. For both the parish and school, if Hamilton County has been designated as Level 4 (purple) or higher, all operations and services are restricted with the highest protocols; classes and in-person worship would be suspended. Following the state guidelines and best practices of our local school districts, St. Thomas Nursery School would monitor OPHAS on a weekly basis (each Thursday) to determine the operational level for the following week. For the parish, once Hamilton County has been “downgraded” back to “Level 3” (red) or better, the parish itself can resume limited operations with health and safety restrictions in ten days from the “release” date. This means that the minimum number of days suspended in connection to “Level 4” (purple) would be fourteen (14) calendar days for the parish; ten (10) calendar days for the school. It is more likely than not that the school would be able to resume operations before the parish due to the nature of ministry context and resources available.

**Ohio Public Health Advisory System (OPHAS) Related to COVID-19**

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
0-1 Indicators Triggered	2-3 Indicators Triggered	4-5 Indicators Triggered	6-7 Indicators Triggered
<b>Public Emergency</b>	<b>Public Emergency</b>	<b>Public Emergency</b>	<b>Public Emergency</b>
Active exposure and spread. Follow all current health orders.	Increased exposure and spread. <i>Exercise high degree of caution.</i> Follow all current health orders.	Very high exposure and spread. <i>Limit activities as much as possible.</i> Follow all current health orders.	Severe exposure and spread. <i>Only leave home for supplies &amp; services</i> Follow all current health orders.

**Applying OPHAS Guidance to Church Operations**

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<b>OPEN - CAUTION</b>	<b>OPEN - LIMITED</b>	<b>OPEN - RESTRICTED</b>	<b>CLOSED - CRITICAL</b>
<i>Precautions &amp; Protective Health Measures</i>	<i>Limited Operations Plan</i>	<i>Restricted Operations Plan</i>	<i>Essential Services Plan</i>
In-person worship, school, church programming and operations within Diocesan and state guidelines. (low-to mid-level restrictions)	In-person worship, school, church programming and operations on limited basis, remote worksite & meeting plans following diocesan and state guidelines.	In-person Worship, school, church programming with heightened restrictions; essential and critical operations, as directed. (Limited staffing onsite)	Highest amounts of restrictions & precautions. In-person Worship, school, church programming suspended; <i>Critical Services Only</i> (Essential staff onsite only)
<b>CAUTION</b>	<b>LIMITED</b>	<b>RESTRICTED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>

*If Hamilton County is designated as “Level 4” (purple); All parish operations (outside the school) would be suspended for a period of at least 14 days; once Hamilton County has been ‘downgraded’ back to Level 3, St. Thomas Church could resume restricted operations ten days later.*

**Applying OPHAS Guidance to St. Thomas Nursery School Operational Plan**

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<b>OPEN - CAUTION</b>	<b>OPEN - LIMITED</b>	<b>OPEN - RESTRICTED</b>	<b>CLOSED - CRITICAL</b>
School operations within CDC and state guidelines. (low-to mid-level restrictions)	School operations and programs on limited basis, following CDC and state guidelines.	School Operations with higher health restrictive health & safety measures as directed, following CDC and state guidelines.	Highest amounts of restrictions & precautions Classes suspended (Essential staff onsite only).

*Following the state guidelines and best practices of our local school districts, St. Thomas Nursery School would monitor OPHAS on a weekly basis (each Thursday) to determine the operational level for the following week.*