

# St. Mary School

## COVID-19 Protocols / Policy

### Addendum to the Family Handbook 2021-2022

Dear Parents,

The health and safety of our school community continues to be a high priority for the upcoming school year. As a school / child care community, we all have a responsibility to maintain the well-being of our students, teachers, staff, and families.

Therefore, our school plan for the 2021-2022 school year is responsible and responsive, although less restrictive than the previous school year. These crucial concepts guide our plan:

- A commitment by parents to continue to actively monitor their child's health and keep their child home if he / she is not feeling well or has been exposed to a family member who has tested positive for the virus.
- Honest and transparent communication between parents and the school.

Over the past months, we have continued to analyze data and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), the Dodge County Department of Public Health (DPHD), and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Equipped with this information, these are the guiding principles:

- It is our responsibility to balance the health and well-being of our school community with the academic and social-emotional needs of our students.
- Our school is committed to keeping our students in school for in-person instruction.
- There is no "one size fits all" mitigation plan.

#### **MASK POLICY:**

Face masks will remain the choice of parents unless a mandate from the CDC is implemented.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS ON THE EXPOSURE / POSITIVE TEST RESULTS:**

School-wide communications will be sent when a student, teacher, or staff member tests positive for COVID when exposure is a contributing factor. All families at the school will receive an email notification. Affected classrooms will receive an additional email if there is a direct exposure.

#### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON OR GRADE IS EXPOSED TO COVID-19?**

School exposure to a positive case of COVID-19

Note: Exposure in a school setting is when an individual tests positive for COVID and was in school 48 hours prior to testing (asymptomatic) or 48 hours prior to symptom onset (symptomatic).

- 1 positive case at grade level:
  - The entire school community receives an email notification of the positive exposure.
  - The grade level receives an email notification of the exhibit. At this time, it is recommended that students and teachers wear a mask indoors for the next 10 days and monitor for symptoms.
  - 3. Parents have the option to quarantine their child. Virtual school is not provided. Homework arrangements made with grade level teacher.
- 2 grade-level positive cases (when 2nd positive case is within 10 days of initial positive test)
  - The entire school community receives an email notification of the positive exposure.
  - The entire grade level receives an email notification of the second exposure.
  - It is recommended that students and teachers wear a mask indoors for the next 10 days and should continue to monitor for symptoms.

- Parents have the option to quarantine their child. Virtual school is not provided. Homework arrangements made with a grade level teacher.
- Grade level quarantine:
- We are committed to keeping our students in school. Therefore, any required grade level quarantine is determined at the discretion of the Administrative Team and Father Tom.
  - If a grade level quarantine is deemed necessary, a virtual school is provided for the entire grade.
  - If a grade level is quarantined, all students must participate in virtual learning at home, regardless of vaccination status or positive COVID test in the past 90 days.

### **HOUSEHOLD AND SOCIAL EXPOSURE TO A POSITIVE COVID CASE:**

Home exposure is when a family member, who lives in the same residence, tests positive for COVID. Exposure in a social setting is when a student is considered to be a close contact of a COVID case outside of our school community (i.e. soccer practice, birthday party, etc.). In these situations, the CDC defines "close contact" as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, either 48 hours prior to testing ( asymptomatic) or 48 hours before the onset of symptoms (symptomatic).

***It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school immediately upon learning of a family or social exposure.***

- Students / teachers / staff:
- Required to be quarantined.
  - You may return to school on Day 7 of Quarantine with a negative COVID test taken no earlier than Day 6 of Quarantine. The individual must be free of symptoms.
  - You can return to class on the 10th day of quarantine without a negative COVID test. The individual must be free of symptoms.

### **WHEN A CHILD / TEACHER / STAFF MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID**

Students / teachers / staff who test positive for COVID should follow CDC guidelines regarding the quarantine and isolation process. During the quarantine period, no virtual school is provided. Homework arrangements made with grade level teacher.

**Symptomatic persons are allowed to return to school after:**

- 10 days after symptoms first appeared and
- 24 hours without fever without the use of fever reducing medications and
- Other COVID symptoms are improving

Asymptomatic individuals are allowed to return to school after 10 days have passed since testing positive for COVID.

### **OTHER MITIGATION PROTOCOLS**

Much of our school's success in mitigating COVID-19 during the 2020-2021 school year was due to our school community's vigilant monitoring of student health. It is imperative that all students, parents, teachers, and staff continue to monitor their health.

**Those who are experiencing COVID symptoms should stay home and call the child's healthcare provider to discuss whether the child needs to be evaluated and to determine options for getting tested for COVID.**

**Symptoms of COVID-19:**

- Cough (new onset or worsening of chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing
- Fever

- Shaking chills
- Throat pain
- Runny nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Not all people with COVID have these symptoms. For many, the symptoms are mild, without a fever. Some people may also experience fatigue or gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain.

**DROP OFF AND PICK UP TIMES:**

The drop-off and pick-up routine will remain the same as for the 2020-2021 school year. The principal, administrative assistant, or a teacher will meet parents and children at the front door. Parents will say goodbye and leave their child outside and we will take the students to the building.

When picking up your child, the principal, administrative assistant, or teacher will walk the children outside and dismiss them one at a time to their parents or the person picking them up.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK:**

By signing this COVID-19 Pandemic: Student / Family Statement of Operations, Understanding and Consent for the 2021-2022 School Year, I / we acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19, that my / our child (ren) and I / we may be exposed to those infected with COVID-19 by attending and / or working and / or volunteering at school and / or participating in school activities, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability and death.

Furthermore, I / we hereby agree on behalf of myself / ourselves, my / our child (student) named in this document, and my / our heirs, successors and assigns, to release, defend, indemnify and hold harmless the named school, parishes associates and school systems, principals, teachers, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, its directors, officers, employees, attorneys, agents, representatives, and third party insurers / administrators (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Indemnified Parties") of any claim or cause of actions in any way related to COVID-19, brought by any person or entity, including, but not limited to, all claims and causes of action based on the alleged negligence of the Indemnified Parties, other third parties.