



# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Building Wisdom and Faith Through Service to God

## Medical or Health Related Questions

What is the plan if someone (parent, nanny, guardian ) tests positive

The student/staff member of the person who tested positive, will be asked to stay home quarantine for as long the person who tested positive is sick and for 14 days after the sick person is out of isolation/or is well; the student/staff member during the quarantine will be required to take their temperature daily 2x/day, monitor for symptoms and contact their Health Care Provider.

Can we expect children to wear masks all day? It seems like that is the safest practice yet it will be difficult.

Children are expected to wear a mask on entering and leaving the school, in the hallways, bathroom and at anytime they are not able to stay 6 feet apart and at the discretion of the teacher. When 6 ft distance is maintained, they may slide down their face covering, and of course, while eating.

Will masks be required at all times?

Yes, when 6ft distance cannot be maintained

What protective measures are being taken to keep things clean throughout the day?

Frequent handwashing will continue to be practiced. A staff member will be cleaning the high touch surfaces frequently through the day

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, will the entire class be required to quarantine?

When a student/staff tests positive, we are required to contact our local Health Department both to notify them as well as to get directives from them on what the next step will be. We will not automatically quarantine the entire class, it will be based on the HD assessment & investigation, every case & scenario is different so we will quarantine if they advise us to do so

What level of PPE will Students and Teachers be wearing in the following locations:

Outside facilities engaged in physical activity, socially distanced-if outside & 6ft social distance is maintained, it is not necessary to wear a face covering; depending on what their activity is gloves may be needed (routine use of gloves is not recommended) however, it will be up to the teacher based on what is going on and how frequently he/she may be suddenly approached by a student to decide if it is more prudent for he/she to keep their PPE on throughout their stay outside

Outside facilities closely comingled, less than 6 feet distance between participants-All participants must wear a face covering

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Outside the building during student drop-off/pickup-A face covering must be worn at all times since it is uncertain if a 6ft distance can be consistently maintained

Inside building corridors- All participants must wear a face covering since 6ft distance cannot be guaranteed at all times

Inside classrooms- If a 6ft distance is maintained there is no need to wear a face covering unless advised by the teacher. A face covering must be worn when a 3ft or <6ft distance is maintained

Inside Teacher breakrooms- If a 6ft distance is maintained there is no need to wear a face covering but if it is not possible to keep the 6ft distance, a mask must be worn

Inside Administrative Office Areas- If a 6ft distance is maintained there is no need to wear a face covering but if it is not possible to keep the 6ft distance, a mask must be worn

Given that wearing a mask in indoor settings is the CDC recommendation, wearing one all day is fatiguing, what considerations have been made to create safe environments where Students and Teachers can appropriately doff their PPE to take a break-

Both teachers/students may take a break from wearing their face covering anytime a 6ft distance is maintained for example, in the classroom while 6ft distance is maintained the students may pull down their face covering & the teachers can pull down their face covering in the teacher work room when 6ft distance is maintained, or when they are alone

What provisions will the school make for stockpiling cloth or surgical masks for Teachers and students that may need replacement gear during the day.

The clinic will have some extra masks for when a replacement gear is needed by student/teacher.

Parents, Students, and Staff have an obligation to vigilantly assess their own state of wellness and pragmatically isolate themselves if they feel or become ill. We will rely on parents as the first line of evaluation. Many people infected with COVID-19 will not present with an elevated body temperature until several days into the illness. Usually, if a COVID-19 patient presents with a fever, they will manifest other outwardly detectable symptoms. Teachers and staff will be able to observe students and their fellow colleagues for symptoms. Please describe the formal procedure for gracefully identifying, triaging, and managing individuals on campus that have been discerned to be suspiciously symptomatic. What are we doing to train Teachers, Staff, Parents, and Students so we are all on the same procedural page?

Once a student/staff is suspected of having symptoms similar to covid-19 symptoms or just does not feel well, the nurse will be notified by email/phone that the student/staff is being sent down to the nurse for evaluation (this allows the nurse to prepare the isolation room & put on appropriate PPE). The student/staff must will be wearing their face covering before heading down to the clinic. If the student/staff is unable to walk down to the nurse alone, the nurse will go to the classroom to accompany

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the individual to the “isolation room” to be assessed. Based on the assessment, a family member will be contacted to pick up the individual and it is expected that the family member arrives within 1 hour of contact, if not, 911 will be called and the individual will be taken to the hospital. In order to make this process smooth for your sick student, please make sure you have a quick & reliable back up to pick your child when they are sick. We plan to provide an online training to staff/parents & students prior to school reopening so that we are all on the same page plus teachers will reinforce this training to the students the first week of school. Informal training will be ongoing as we continue to remind both staff/students to practice the necessary safety precautions through the day

Contact tracing for infected individuals is highly problematic. The school is not a position to release private medial information. With that said, aside from notifications from a Virginia Department of Health Contact Tracer, how will the Administration share risk information with Students, Parents, Teachers, and Staff. Will the Administration notify us if our Student has had contact with or exposure to someone in our Community that is presumably or definitively infected with COVID-19.

Per the HD notification on a confirmed positive test will only be made to the school community if the person was in the school during their infectious period (which is 2 days before the started to exhibit symptoms). After consultation with the local health department, the diocesan nurse and the school administrators, teachers, staff & parents will be notified of a confirmed “positive” case of covid-19 with guidelines on what actions has & will be taken, the privacy of the individual will be maintained at all times, but we will not notify anyone of a presumed case since notification will be based only on an assumption. It is best practice especially during this pandemic to treat everyone as contagious since not every sick person will show symptoms.

What circumstances will trigger the isolation of a Student, Teacher, or Staff member?

If they appear sick with or without symptoms or report to the nurse themselves with covid-19 like symptoms

What circumstances will trigger the notification of a class cohort of a sick peer or colleague?

Increased number of reported illness amongst classmates and colleagues especially if symptoms are respiratory related symptoms. Per the HD, no information is available regarding a percentage/number to trigger a notification.

What documentation will be required from Students, Teachers, and Staff in order to return to the in-person school environment following an absence due to sickness?

If an individual was out due to a COVID- 19 illness, while the CDC & FFX county Health Department at this time does not require a negative test to return to work, SJS under guidance from the diocesan plan at this time requires that the student/staff return to school/work with a note of clearance from their Health Care Provider. For other non- covid -19 illness, the student/staff may return to school per our school policy

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(fever free for 24 hours w/o medication, no nausea or vomiting for 24 hours w/o medication, if student is assessed by a physician, please return with a doctor's note of clearance)

Are parents required to report Covid related symptoms to the school?

Yes, under these circumstances if they are a) sick with Covid-19 related symptoms, b) tested positive, are being tested for covid-19 or c) have a COVID-positive person in their house hold or d) some other known exposure and **have been instructed to quarantine**. We require all staff/students to prescreen themselves daily & if anyone answers "Yes" to any of the questions on the screening tool, they should stay home, monitor symptoms & if fever free, nausea/vomiting free for 24 hours w/o medication, they may return to school. If individual is still not feeling well after 24 hours w/o medication, please stay home and follow up with the Health Care Provider.

How will teachers' physical, emotional, and mental health be supported during what may prove to be extremely stressful with a new teaching model being implemented while working in a high- risk environment?

The nurse is available for anyone who needs to speak with her. However, we have two school counselors on campus

Can you guarantee prompt communication of outbreaks?

We will communicate any outbreaks as soon as we are able to report them following appropriate guidelines

When SJS families or family members travel, are they required to quarantine before sending kids back to school?

Please follow CDC/local HD guidelines regarding whether to quarantine after returning from a trip

What are the self-reporting requirements for SJS families

All staff/student are required to complete a daily health self -screening tool before coming to school, all will sign an agreement prior to return to school that they will be compliant in completing this daily screening and will not come to school if they answer a "Yes" to any question

If a child falls ill, cold, flu, etc, will they be able to access classes online?

Yes

If a teacher becomes sick with COVID, will the entire class have to quarantine for 2 weeks as well?

Quarantine will be based on the advice of the local Health Department per their assessment of the situation

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And what about siblings of those students in the affected class - they'll have been exposed as well so do they have to quarantine too?

Quarantine will be based on the advice of the local HD per their assessment of the situation

If someone shows symptoms or tests positive, will the entire class need to self-quarantine?

If someone shows symptoms, the whole class will not be quarantined unless the person tests positive and at that time, the Health Department will advise whether quarantine is appropriate in that situation

If one or more students or staff or teacher become ill with COVID-19, would the school shut down for 14 days and do online learning in the meantime?

The health department will advise us on whether our school should shut down based on their investigation and the current supporting data of the community spread at that time. Per guidelines, initial shut down is usually between 2-5 days if recommended for initial cleaning & contact tracing but this is not set in stone every case is different

Will all staff wear masks?

Yes

Will SJS solely rely on parental temperature of students or do a quick temperature check in home room? I can unfortunately foresee inaccurate temperature reporting

Parents/Staff are required to complete a self-health screening prior to coming to school

Will school have masks available if kids soil theirs?

Yes, but we have a very limited number of pediatric masks so I suggest you put an extra face covering for your child in their backpack

I read the mitigation plan but still imagine if people have cold ones they will be treated as if they have the coronavirus and asked to isolate at home. Will siblings classrooms be notified if a classroom has coronavirus? As the children would obviously bring it home to their siblings and it would spread.

Yes, we will notify as directed based on the investigation of the Health Department and circumstances surrounding each case.

Are students going to be forced to wear masks all day or is it a choice? When outside will they be able to take masks off?

All students are required to wear a mask when 6ft distance cannot be maintained or at the directive of the teacher

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What is the procedure if a student or teacher tests positive for Covid?

The student or staff is required to notify the school. The local Health Department will be notified, based on their investigation, we will be directed on whether to quarantine the whole class or a few students, and throughout communication will be sent to the affected population. Cleaning protocols will be followed per CDC guidelines

Many viruses can have similar symptoms to Covid. How do we avoid an overreaction or panic if a person becomes ill?

If you answer “yes” to a question on the health screening tool, you are asked to stay home & monitor your symptoms, if you feel well within 24 hours w/o medication, you may return to school but if you do not feel well after 24 hours, you are required to stay home until your symptoms are resolved w/o medication or if you feel this a chronic issue/allergy related/other non -covid related illness, please contact your Health Care Provider for confirmation & evaluation after which you may return to school with a note of clearance from your Health Care Provider including your diagnosis & treatment plan. Remember, your child has the option of online school while home sick if they are up to it. There is no need to expose others to an illness that is life threatening and that could have been prevented. We need to think about others here and exercise prudence & charity

Can a teacher make my son wear a mask?

Yes, all students are required to wear a mask

Will someone be helping the nurse since she has a lot more on her hands (as does everyone) and a larger surface area to cover. What does the screening process look like?

Screening will be done prior to coming to school -we will have a health screening tool for you to use prior to coming to school

What will happen when a student or teacher has symptoms of Covid? Will the entire class and their families have to quarantine?

No, unless it is a confirmed case of Covid-at that time we will follow the directives of the local HD on whether quarantine is necessary based on their investigation

Will students with allergies be placed in the same teaching group? Will some foods be banned from classrooms with students with allergies?

All classrooms, the clinic & counselor’s offices are “nut -free” no exception especially since all children will be eating in the classrooms. Please go to the nurse’s page & read the allergy plan, sign & return your acknowledgement form to the clinic/office. If your child has allergies to other foods apart from nuts please

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let the classroom teacher/nurse know so that the teacher can have them seat next to a “safe friend” who is aware of the student’s allergies & will bring foods that are safe for that student

Will the daily health report be online or paper?

Paper-the plan is to have access to a printable version on the nurse’s page for easy access

Is my child allowed to wear a face shield?

Yes, however, there is a better barrier & protection if a face shield is worn with a mask vs alone

Will kids have to wear gloves?

No

Is SJS going to sell masks?

No

With kids returning to the building 100% of the time, I do not understand why students are not wearing masks as much as possible (with time built in each day when students don’t have to wear them). This was the #1 recommendation in Harvard School of Public Health tips for healthy classrooms.

Students will wear masks. If they are 6ft away, they may choose to pull down their face covering or keep it on

How much of the day will the kids be wearing their masks for?

All day except for when they are able to maintain 6ft distance (at this time they may choose to keep their face covering on or pull it down)

It is unclear from the document if masks will be required while seated in the classroom. It mentions arrival and dismissal and at other times where social distancing is difficult to maintain, or at the direction of the teacher. Does this mean they will not wear masks when seated 6 feet apart?

Yes, unless they choose to keep it on

The current plan does not say that a student with COVID symptoms needs to be tested prior to returning to school. It says that they may discontinue isolation when at least 3 days have passed since recovery of fever without the use of fever reducing medications. This is of extreme concern if a child with COVID symptoms is not required to produce a negative COVID test prior to returning to school. Will this document be clarified on Page 12 to state that students sent home with COVID like symptoms need to be COVID tested before being allowed back into school?

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On pg. 13, the document states that a note of clearance from the Health Care Provider is required. Please be aware that the health authorities do not require a negative covid test at this time to return to work/school-SJS w/diocese decided to go a step further & require the doctor's clearance note which could be a negative test or simply a note from the Health Care Provider stating that based on their assessment & treatment the patient is Covid free & is cleared to return to work, the judgement is up to the Health Care Provider. We will require this until it is mandated that we stop requiring it.

Will students be moved to online learning during their quarantined period?

Yes, if they are up to it

Will daily temperatures be taken by the school/teacher upon arrival as in the case of other schools, or are we relying on the parents who have a desire to go to work to monitor their child's temperatures?

No, routine daily temperatures of all student population & staff will not be taken at school. Parents/staff will sign an attestation to be complaint with the health screening & accept the consequences of their action if not complaint

And how will the school find out (self report?)-

The student/staff is required to notify the school but once the HD is notified of your test results, they will be contacting the school also?

Will adults be required to wear masks or only face shields?

Both

If a student cannot use hand sanitizer because of sensitive skin to alcohol, will they have more opportunities to wash hands with soap and water?

Yes

Why isn't the school taking temperatures daily? How can we trust other parents?

Even though many places are doing daily temperature checks, we have chosen not to, based on our conversations with other health authorities which have shown that while this process brings some comfort, it tends to give a "false sense of security" that everything is "fine" and hence a subconscious relaxation of safety precautions. In addition, some people who have had covid did not have a fever. It is also evident that the same parents who have pre-medicated their child prior to sending them to school will still pre-medicate them & those who will be responsible in keeping their children home when sick will still do that regardless, so in the end, we have not really achieved much. I would prefer that we used our resources and put our emphasis on re-training our minds to follow the strict measures of wearing a mask, staying 6ft distance & frequent washing of our hands-this is what will keep us safe

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Many children have seasonal allergies that cause runny nose- does that mean those children will be required to stay home because there's no way to tell the difference between that and possible COVID infection?

If you answer "yes" to a question on the health screening tool, you are asked to stay home & monitor your symptoms, if you feel well within 24 hours w/o medication, you may return to school but if you do not feel well after 24 hours, you are required to stay home until your symptoms are resolved w/o medication or if you feel this a chronic issue/allergy related/other non -covid related illness, please contact your Health Care Provider for confirmation & evaluation after which you may return to school with a note of clearance from your Health Care Provider including your diagnosis & treatment plan. Remember, your child has the option of online school while home sick if they are up to it. There is no need to expose others to an illness that is life threatening and that could have been prevented. We need to think about others here and exercise prudence & charity

With the VA Dept of Health still saying kids 10 and under do not need masks, will you be making sure kids in lower grades are generally mask free to avoid issues of distraction and difficulty in speaking and reading without properly watching mouth movement and hearing clearly?

The Virginia Department of Health is silent with respect to masks for children ages 2-9, in a school setting. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends masks for all teachers, staff, and students as feasible. SJS students will wear masks, for the safety of all, and mask breaks will be provided throughout the day.

Can an on-site temperature check be added each morning?

Not at this time, even though many places are doing daily temperature checks, we have chosen based on our conversations with other health authorities which have shown that while this process brings some comfort, it tends to give a "false sense of security" that everything is "fine" and hence a subconscious relaxation of safety precautions. In addition, some people who have had Covid did not have a fever. It is also evident that the same parents who have pre-medicated their child prior to sending them to school will still pre-medicate them & those who will be responsible in keeping their children home when sick will still do that regardless, so in the end, we have not really achieved much. I would prefer that we used our resources and put our emphasis on re-training our minds to follow the strict measures of wearing a mask, staying 6ft distance & frequent washing of our hands-this is what will keep us safe.

What is the threshold for "large increases in student and staff absenteeism" to notify the health department?

Waiting to hear back from the Health Department with regards to exact number/percentage

"St. Joseph Catholic School requires clearance from healthcare providers to return to school" - Please elaborate on this statement. What exactly constitutes "clearance from healthcare provider"?

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Please be aware that the health authorities do not require a negative Covid test at this time to return to work/school-SJS w/diocese decided to go a step further & require the doctor's clearance note which could be a negative test or simply a note from the Health Care Provider stating that based on their assessment & treatment the patient is Covid free & is cleared to return to work, the judgement is up to the Health Care Provider.

Will students who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 be required to be tested prior to their return to in-person learning?

We cannot force anyone to be tested, however, for the health & wellbeing of that individual, their family & classmates it would be prudent to be tested if feasible

Will COVID testing be required prior to the start of school for those who choose in-person learning?

No, it is not required, however, you may get one if you choose

If a parent is under isolation for closure at work will the children need to stay home?

The parent when notified by the employer or the Health Department about the need to stay home should clarify with their HR or health department or the contact tracer that they speak to whether members of their household need to be quarantined as well. Quarantine is on a case by case basis so please make sure to get clarification from the appropriate authority at your office

What type of screening will be conducted on teachers and children who have been sick or traveling?

For travelers, please follow the CDC guidelines for travelers upon return, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> quarantine depends on what country you travelled to, how long you were there, what your exposure was etc

How are teachers and staff feeling about returning to school? Do they feel comfortable?

The nurse feels comfortable as long as all safety precautions are maintained as best as humanly possible. Only God can guarantee anything but we can practice the safety precautions – some of my colleagues have been working with Covid patients & are yet to contract the illness and they attribute it to strictly following safety guidelines -wearing appropriate PPE, keeping safe distance of 6ft when feasible & frequent infection control measures such as frequent hand washing. I am optimistic that if we **ALL** follow these guidelines and stay home/keep our children home when sick, we have a very high chance of being successful.

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