

Saint Joseph School Policy reopening school during the COVID-19 pandemic
Kindergarten through 8th grade Policy

Please note as conditions change so do the following policies. All items below are subject to change.

Before School:

- Any child with **one** of the following symptoms should not be sent to school
 - Fever of 100.0 or higher
 - Shortness of breath
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Chills
 - Diarrhea
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
- Any child with **a combination** of the following should not be sent to school
 - Cough
 - Fatigue
 - Muscleaches
 - Headache
 - Sore Throat
 - Runny Nose
- Students will need to wear a clean face mask provided by the parents. The student will always have the mask on their person throughout the day. If a child comes to school without a mask, we will provide one in the homeroom. Our masks are blue and white disposable masks.
 - Masks can be cloth, medical, gator neck sleeves, or any material which covers the nose and mouth
- All facemasks will return home at the end of the day and a new/clean mask will be necessary for the next school day
- Saint Joseph School will follow the public school's policies and procedures when it comes to riding the public school bus.
- Students who are dropped off
 - Students will be dropped off at the wheel chair ramp in the back parking lot and use the alley to walk to door #6 to enter the building
 - Students will have their temperature taken as they enter the building
 - If a student has a temperature above 100.0 degrees they will be seated in the gym
 - All students with a scanned temperature of 100.00 or higher will then have their temperature verified orally

- Oral temperatures above 100.00 will be sent to the isolation room to be picked up by a parent or guardian
- Students in the isolation room will be monitored from the nurse's office in the room next to the isolation room
- Parents picking up their child will have to enter through door #1
- Parents will not be allowed in the school during drop off (this is a change to our normal practice, but we will reevaluate this policy at the end of first quarter)
- Bus riders
 - All bus riders will enter the building through door #4
 - Please follow the procedures of the public school's transportation department when it comes to riding the bus

At school:

- Student desks will be placed six feet apart in the classroom.
- While at their desks, students will be on a mask break
- Students will be required to wear masks at large group gatherings (ie gym, recess and all school mass)
- All rooms will have hand sanitizers by the doors
- Teachers will wipe down desks, chairs, and door knobs when students transition to another room
- All teachers and staff will be required to wear a face shield.
- All students will wash hands before and after a transition (ie gym, lunch and recess)
- Cafeteria chairs will be six feet apart
- Parent access to the interior of the school will be limited to emergencies (ie no parent visitors at lunch)
- All school masses will be divided up to allow the students enough room to distance
- We would ask parents and grandparents who attended all school mass to allow their students to sit with their class
- Dismissal on the back steps will be spread out. We ask parents to not come up to the alley but remain in the parking lot.
- School might have to close for a cleaning day and these will be treated like a snow day

Sickness at school

- Any child who is found to have the symptoms listed above will be evaluated by the school nurse or administration.

- If a determination is made that a student should be sent home they will be isolated in the Saint Joseph room by door #1 with the school nurse or office personnel monitoring them from the nurse's office in the room next to the St. Joseph room via closed circuit video system
- If more than one student is in the isolation room they will be at least six feet apart
- We ask parents to please be prompt in picking up their child. Parents, please call the office and tell us to use your emergency contact for pick up if you will be delayed.
- Students who have an illness other than COVID 19 verified by their doctor (i.e. strep throat) will follow the normal return to school protocol. (fever free for 24 hours)
- If a student tests positive for COVID 19 and was at school with symptoms.
 - Parents must notify the school of a positive result (This is a legal requirement of FERPA)
 - Any student who was in contact with a positive test result student for over 15 minutes within six will have to quarantine for 14 days
 - Students who are ill with COVID or an undiagnosed sickness with symptoms specific to Covid may return to school
 - 10 days after the first onset of symptoms
 - **and** are fever free for 24 hours
 - **and** have an improvement in symptoms
- Parents, this is what we at Saint Joseph are trying to prevent. We ask you to please never send a child to school who is sick. Please do not give them a fever reducer (Advil/Tylenol) and send them to school. This will expose everyone in their grade. We want students to be in school and not to distant learn.
- Any grade level with at least 20% of the students with diagnosed or undiagnosed (with Covid like symptoms) sickness will have to distantly learn until the grade can return to school with at least 80% of the class in attendance

Exposure away from school

- Any student who has been exposed away from school
 - Parents must notify the school office
 - That student must stay home for 14 days before returning to school
 - If it can be verified that a symptom free positive student did not come into close contact with any one, their grade will not have to distant learn
 - CLOSE contact is defined as
 - within 6 feet of someone who has Covid for at least 15 minutes
 - OR direct physical contact (hugging, touching, kissing)
 - OR sharing eating or drinking utensils

- OR they sneezed, coughed, got respiratory droplets on you
- Siblings of a potentially exposed student may continue to come to school as long as:
 - The exposed student has not been confirmed positive
 - The exposed student has not developed any symptoms consistent with Covid
- Positive Covid but no symptoms:
 - Stay home for 10 days since positive test and stay away from others as much as possible
- Student is sick but **tests negative** for Covid (this does not include someone who has had a known exposure!)
 - Stay home until feeling better and have been fever free for 24hrs without fever reducing medication
 - If they go to MD and are found to have Strep, Ear infection, etc...they **MUST** follow MD requirements for exclusion requirements .In other words, they must be fever free for 24hrs and have a doctors note verifying a strep diagnosis

Changes at school

- Drinking fountains will be turned off and/or replaced with touch free bottle filling stations
- Desks will be spaced apart in the classroom
- All rooms will have hand sanitizer in the room
- All rooms will be sanitized during the school day
- They will be deep cleaned on a rotating schedule after school.
- The cafeteria is cleaned in between lunch periods
- All restrooms will have visual reminder to wash hands for 20 seconds
- Students will be dropped off at the wheel chair ramp in the back parking lot and use the alley to walk to door #6 to enter the building
- Parents will not be allowed in the building during the school day
- All faculty and staff will be wearing face shields and/or masks throughout the day
- We are going from three lunch periods to four lunch periods
 - Kindergarten and 1st grade
 - 2nd grade and 3rd grade
 - 4th grade and 5th grade
 - Prep (6th - 8th grade)
- All School Mass will still be on Thursday but students will attend on the following schedule
 - Prep will go to the first week All School Mass
 - 2nd -5th grade will go the second week

- Kindergarten and 1st grade will start after the 1st quarter
- Students who do not attend the mass in person will have it streamed to their classroom and make a communion affirmation
- We are asking parents and grandparents not to attend mass with their children (we will reexamine this after the 1st quarter).
- Recess will still be outside when possible
- There will be no indoor recess in the gym instead the students will stay in the Community Center and watch some short cartoons when it is raining
- Classes will be broadcast via google meets for any student who is out sick
- Distant learning schedules will be similar to school schedules with teacher hosting class time via google meets
- All teachers will be google level one certified
- All worksheets will be loaded to Gradelink for students to download and print at home.
- Parents need to pick up any sick student in a timely fashion or have a designated person pick them up
- The nurse's office will be across from the school office
- We can no longer use a nebulizer for breathing treatments in the school. We will be able to administer inhalers with or without a spacer.
- The Saint Joseph room inside door number 1 will be used as an isolation room for sick students.
- We will still have before and after care
- As of right now, all events which happen during school (i.e. Grandparents day) are postponed until further notice.

Parents,

We appreciate your patience and understanding at this time. All policies will be reviewed frequently and changes will be made as long as we can keep the environment as safe as possible. Nurse Mary will be sending home guidance which can give more clarification on when children should stay home or be sent to school. Any questions can be sent to Nurse Mary or to the school office.

In Christ,
Dave Nichols