



St. Mary Catholic Schools 2021-22 School Year COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

Updated: September 15, 2021

SMCS Mission

Preparing and inspiring students to lead meaningful lives, rooted in the teachings of Christ in our Catholic tradition.

SMCS Vision

To be celebrated as the school system where students discover and develop their God-given talents and experience success through learning, faith, and service.

SMCS COVID-19 Policies and Procedures

The St. Mary Catholic Schools (SMCS) COVID-19 policies and procedures provide support and guidance to the SMCS community and school leaders to ensure the health of our students and staff members as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves.

SMCS continues to value the **health** of our students, staff, and families. Plans for the 2021-22 school year have taken into consideration the variety of health needs within our buildings and reflect input and guidance from the Winnebago County Health Department, the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), and Diocese of Green Bay.

We understand the 2020-21 school year presented unique challenges for our students and staff. As a result, the overall **emotional health and well-being** of our students and staff will remain at the forefront of all planning efforts.

SMCS will be in-person for the 2021-22 school year. With that in mind, we understand the importance of flexibility in being able to shift our plans and methods of instruction, should the need arise.

Masking

Effective September 13, 2021, masks are strongly encouraged for all SMCS students, staff, and visitors while indoors at SMCS campuses.

At this time, masks will be required for middle school and high school students, staff, and visitors for Mass and liturgical celebrations (commonly held in the Jane Bergstrom Fine Arts Education Center.) Masking during elementary school Masses and liturgical celebrations will follow parish guidelines.

Masking and other COVID protocols will be continually monitored, and these policies will be reevaluated September 24, 2021. Updates to the protocols will be communicated to SMCS families and staff.

All students and staff should bring a mask to school with them every day.

COVID-19 Testing

SMCS students and staff are strongly encouraged to test for COVID-19 when symptoms are present. Unvaccinated students are strongly encouraged to test for COVID-19 when they are deemed a close contact to a positive case. COVID-19 tests are most effective 5-7 days after the most recent contact with a positive case. SMCS *may* require testing in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 in classroom spaces. An outbreak of COVID-19 is defined as two or more positive cases in a single classroom. Unvaccinated students and staff refusing a test in the event of an outbreak will be required to quarantine for 10 days consistent with state and local health department guidelines.

SMCS students and staff may not attend school if they have a household member waiting for COVID-19 test results.

Vaccinations

SMCS strongly encourages all eligible students and staff to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Keeping our schools open at full capacity is aided by high rates of vaccination. The highest priority is for our students and staff to remain in school. Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine is an effective way for staff and students to do so. At this time, SMCS does not require students, staff, or visitors to be vaccinated. Vaccinated students deemed a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case will not require quarantine, provided they remain symptom free, and the community and school prevalence remain low. SMCS may ask for proof of vaccination in order to confirm excusal from quarantine.

Visitors

SMCS welcomes visitors into our schools. Visitors are required to follow the protocols of the building(s) they are visiting. SMCS may make changes throughout the course of the year depending upon the prevalence or incidence of COVID-19 in a classroom(s) and school(s).

Lunch

Lunch will be served in cafeterias or normal dining spaces. SMCS may shift lunch and other procedures if COVID-19 prevalence is high.

Busing

Students and staff will be required to wear masks while riding buses. Students will not be assigned seats but are encouraged to sit in the same seat as household members when possible. This may change based upon school prevalence of COVID-19.

Co-Curricular Activities

SMCS will broadly follow WIAA guidelines for co-curricular events and participation. See additional details [here from the WIAA](#).

General Operations and Health Precautions

- Hand sanitizer will be in classroom and office spaces to ensure adequate sanitizing.
- Physical distancing will be observed where possible to ensure the health of students and staff.

- SMCS will continue to adhere to regular cleaning and sanitizing protocols.
- Fans will be permitted in classrooms or spaces that are able to bring outside air into them.
- Outside agencies will be permitted to use SMCS facilities provided a formal agreement for facility use has been established between the agency and SMCS.

In-Person Learning

SMCS will fully utilize our facilities to promote student learning. This means students will move freely to physical education, music, art, and other spaces throughout the building without restriction. Teachers will use all necessary instructional approaches to promote learning for all students including small group instruction and individual student conferences.

Transition to Virtual Learning

The decision to transition to virtual learning, if necessary, will be done in conjunction with local health officials.

Absences

Students who are absent from school will work with their teachers and building principal to determine how learning will continue during quarantine, isolation, etc. Middle school and high school students will have access to learning materials via Google Classroom and/or Microsoft Teams. Elementary students will have access to learning materials via Seesaw (grades K-2) and Google Classroom (grades 3-5).

Staff are to report absences to their supervisor and/or HR.

Daily Monitoring

Please screen at home for the following symptoms daily:

- fever greater than 100.4
- sore throat
- headache
- body aches
- fatigue
- runny nose
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- a change to your ability to taste or smell
- cough and shortness of breath
- chest pain, bluish lips or face, or new-onset mental confusion (Emergent care is needed if you experience these symptoms.)

If students are experiencing symptoms of mild or severe COVID-19 illness, as outlined above, they should not report to school, but rather **stay at home. See the chart below to help determine next steps, and please call your school office with any absences.**

Please visit <https://smcatholicschools.org/covid19-resources/> to view the daily COVID-19 dashboard and other COVID-19 resources and updates.



St. Mary Catholic Schools

Grades P3-12

A Community Inspiring Success

Updated: September 15, 2021

If my child/I (staff)...	And is/am...	Then he/she/I should...
Tests positive for COVID-19	Vaccinated or unvaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolate for 10 days from symptom onset or positive test result
Has COVID-19 symptoms	Vaccinated or unvaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be tested for COVID-19 with a PCR test Return to school with negative PCR test results Begin 10-day isolation with positive PCR test results
Is a close contact to a positive case at school	Vaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain in school and monitor for symptoms Consider being tested on day 3, 4 or 5 after exposure
Is a close contact to a positive case at school	Unvaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May remain in school Take a PCR test on day 3, 4 or 5, or after their last contact to a positive case Remain in school if results are negative Begin 10-day isolation if results are positive
Is a close contact to a positive case in their household	Vaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain in school and monitor for symptoms
Is a close contact to a positive case in their household	Unvaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine for 14 days after last contact with the positive case in the household; students are not permitted to return before the end of the 14-day quarantine, even with a negative COVID-19 test result Begin 10-day isolation if tested and results are positive
Has symptoms and pending COVID-19 test	Vaccinated or unvaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual and all unvaccinated household members should stay home until test results are in

When monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms, parents, students, and staff should look for:

- Major Symptoms (Students should take a COVID-19 test if *one* symptom from this list is present.)**
 Fever (above 100.4), cough, new loss of taste/smell, trouble breathing/shortness of breath
- Minor Symptoms (Students should take a COVID-19 test if *two* symptoms from this list are present.)**
 Sore throat, unusual fatigue, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, congestion/runny nose, headache, body aches, chills