



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

Updated: January 7, 2022

If my child/I (staff)...	And is/am...	Then he/she/I should...
Tests positive for COVID-19 (ISOLATION)	Vaccinated or unvaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolate at home for 5 days from symptom onset, or if no symptoms, from the date tested.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day 0 is the first day of symptoms</li> <li>Day 1 is the first full day after symptoms develop</li> <li>Isolation MUST be 5 full days</li> </ul> </li> <li>Return to school on day 6 IF fever-free for 24 hours AND symptoms have largely resolved. If symptoms continue after 5 days of isolation, continue to isolate until fever-free for 24 hours and symptoms have largely resolved.</li> <li>Wear a well-fitted mask while at school for an additional 5 days after the end of the 5-day isolation. If unable to wear a mask when around others, continue to isolate for a full 10 days.</li> </ul>
Is a close contact to a positive case in their household (QUARANTINE)	Vaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No quarantine required. We ask that vaccinated close contacts wear a mask while at school for 10 days following the household case's positive test result.</li> <li>If symptoms develop, isolate and get tested.</li> </ul>
Is a close contact to a positive case in their household (QUARANTINE)	Unvaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remain home while positive person is in isolation (5 days)</li> <li>Once positive case ends day 5 of their isolation OR once able to isolate from the positive case, individual must begin a 10-day quarantine.</li> <li>If symptom free, and with a negative test collected on day 5, may return to school on day 6.</li> <li>If returning to school on day 6, wear a well-fitted mask while at school for an additional 5 days. If unable to wear a mask when around others, continue to isolate for a full 10 days.</li> </ul>
Has COVID-19 symptoms and/or pending a COVID-19 test	Vaccinated or unvaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COVID-19 test is required</li> <li>Return to school with proof of a negative test result</li> <li>Begin isolation with positive test result</li> <li>Individuals and other unvaccinated students/staff members living in the same home may not attend school while awaiting test results.</li> </ul>

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

- Major Symptoms (Students and staff are required to 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 and staff are required to 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, chill

## **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**

Masks are strongly encouraged for 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.

Individuals will also be required to wear masks following isolation and quarantine.

Masking and other COVID protocols will be continually monitored. 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 required to test for COVID-19 when symptoms are present. Unvaccinated students are required to test for COVID-19 when they are deemed a close contact to a positive case. COVID-19 tests are most effective five 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 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 are 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 on page 1 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.