

St. Johns Lutheran School COVID-19 Mitigation Plan



2020-2021

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If new information or guidelines suggest changes to these existing protocols, St. Johns School reserves the right to deviate from this plan as warranted. Current recommendations and/or health directives will supersede this plan.

Introduction

Protocols and procedures outlined in this Mitigation Plan are based on the recommendations and guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)), the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)), the American Academy of Pediatrics ([AAP](#)), and the Minnesota Department of Health ([MDH](#)) as of August 18, 2020.

The purpose of this COVID-19 Mitigation Plan is to institute best health practices to help protect against potential exposure and reduce the impact of COVID-19 to St. Johns students, faculty, and staff. While this plan takes its shape from public health officials and organizations, it is not possible to completely prevent against the potential of COVID-19, no matter how many precautions are in place. This plan reflects our best attempt to integrate and maintain practices which best promote student learning and social, emotional, and spiritual development in the safest manner possible, given the current situation.

If new information or guidelines suggest changes to these existing protocols, St. Johns Lutheran School reserves the right to deviate from this plan as warranted. Current recommendations and/or health directives will supersede this plan.

In Person Learning-School Days and Hours

It is St. John's plan to operate following the 2020-2021 school calendar. To the maximum extent possible, learning will occur at the school. Safety precautions, as detailed in this document, will be implemented.

***Monday:** K-8 in-person class 8:00 am -1:45 pm; Preschool in-person class 8:00-11:00 am

Tuesday: K-8 in-person class 8:00-1:45 pm

Wednesday: no in-person class; work from home

Thursday: K-8 in-person class 8:00-1:45 pm; Preschool in-person class 8:00-11:00 am

Friday: K-8 in-person class 8:00-1:45 pm; Preschool in-person class 8:00-11:00 am

It is not our intention to move to full distance learning, but we are prepared for this possibility if it is necessitated by school community incidences of COVID-19, or mandated by state or community regulations.

Transportation

Bussing will be available to all students Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from Kingsland to ride the transfer bus. The transfer bus will leave Kingsland at 7:45 am. The transfer bus will arrive back at Kingsland at 2:00 pm.

Chapel

Chapel will be held on Thursday afternoon starting at 1:00 pm. Social distancing will be observed. Masks will be worn. Chapel families will not be observed until further notice. Adults attending chapel will be asked to sit in the back and observe social distancing with masks worn.

Family Members and Guests

Family members and/or other guests are not allowed in the school building except under extenuating circumstances determined by the school office.

Music

No all-school choir will be held this year until further notice. The amount of singing in each classroom will be limited and the students will be required to social distance and masks will be worn.

Morning School Arrival

- Students are to arrive at school between 7:50 am and 8:00 am
- Students are to wear masks upon arrival
- Only students may enter the school building
- Students will place personal supplies in designated areas and then go directly to their classroom

Afternoon School Departure

Those picking up students at the end of the school day may not enter the building to meet their student(s). Please wait in your car in the parking lot or outside practicing social distancing.

Classroom Considerations

Physical distancing is another important practice that helps mitigate transmission of the virus. The CDC and the WHO advocate that physical distancing of three to six feet or more leads to

reduced transmission. Therefore, in classrooms, to the extent possible, desks will be spaced 3-6 feet apart.

Supply Use

- Areas used by multiple students will be sanitized between each group of students.
- In classrooms, students will use individual supplies and teachers will avoid the use of community supplies as much as possible. Students will be taught not to share supplies without proper sanitation.

Hand Washing

- Proper hand washing techniques will be reviewed with all students
 - Wet hands
 - Apply soap
 - Scrub for 20 seconds
 - Highlight most frequently missed locations
 - Rinse and dry
 - If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content will be used
 - Hand sanitizer will be in every learning space
 - Hand washing will occur
 - Upon morning arrival
 - Before and after eating snacks or meals
 - Before and after being on the playground
 - After blowing nose, coughing, or sneezing

Masks/Face Coverings

As the primary route of transmission for COVID-19 is respiratory, masks or face coverings are the most critical component of risk mitigation.

- Face coverings must be worn by all students and staff. Face coverings may be cloth, disposable, or a transparent facial shield. Exceptions to this requirement may be made for those who cannot wear a face covering due to medical conditions. In that case, a formal documentation from a child's primary medical provider must be submitted to the office.
- Face coverings will not be required in some contexts at St. Johns. These include:
 - Lunch
 - Snack time
 - When drinking water

- Masks will be worn for all transitions, even en route to areas where masks are not required
- St. John's school supply list includes masks. An emergency supply of masks will be available if faculty, staff, or students forget a mask.
- Students will be taught the correct method for removing masks (pulling from the sides, not the center), and lanyards are recommended for students to use for face mask management.
- Face masks will be sent home at the end of each week. Families are asked to launder and return masks with students at the beginning of the next school week.

Sanitizing

The following high touch areas will be cleaned with disinfectant as needed throughout the day and at the end of each day.

- Tables, desks, chairs
- Doorknobs
- Light switches
- Drinking fountain (these will only be used to fill water bottles)
- Sink faucets
- Cabinet handles
- Microwave handles and buttons
- Copy machine
- Keyboards and mice
- Toilet seats and handles

Soft Surface Items

- Most soft surface items will be removed from classrooms
- Remaining soft surface items should be able to be run through a washer with disinfectant cleaner on a regular basis or able to be sprayed with disinfectant fabric spray

Classroom Items and Supplies

- Toys and learning aids will not be shared with other classrooms unless they are sanitized before being moved
- Books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfecting procedures.

Library

- School library books will be available for check-out. Returned library books will be isolated for 72 hours before they are returned to circulation.

Personal Items

- Students will not drink from water fountains. Instead, they **must** bring personal water bottles to refill at the water filling station
- Students are discouraged from bringing unnecessary personal items to school

Screening

- Parents are asked to check their child(ren) for symptoms each morning before bringing them to school. **This is St. Johns primary screening mechanism and is a critical practice for preventing the spread of COVID-19.**
- Each student/parent, faculty, and staff member shall be personally responsible to complete the [Minnesota Department of Health's self-screening tool](#) each day before leaving home for school. This screening test is posted in the school entry and on the school's website. Families are encouraged to download and post their own copy of the screening tool.

COVID-19 Response Procedures

Illness or COVID-19 Symptoms at School

If a student, faculty, or staff member attends school and thereafter appears to be showing signs of illness—elevated temperature, coughing, sneezing, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell—they shall be quarantined in a designated area in the school until a parent or guardian can pick the student up. Faculty and staff will be sent home immediately. Once the student or employee is removed from the school environment, they will be permitted to return if they satisfy the following guidelines, as outlined by the [Minnesota Department of Health](#).

Returning After Exhibiting Symptoms

- If an **ill student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19**, they may return to school if:

- They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours without the use of medication to reduce fever **and**
 - Other symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath have improved **and**
 - At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - In some cases of severe illness, it is advised to isolate for longer. An ill student or staff member is asked to consult with their physician in this case.
- If an **ill student or staff member tests negative for COVID-19**, they may return to school if:
 - They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours without the use of medication to reduce fever **and**
 - Other symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath have improved.
- If an **ill student or staff member does not get tested for COVID-19**, they may return to school if:
 - They have not had a fever for at least 72 hours without the use of medication to reduce fever **and**
 - Other symptoms such as coughing or shortness of breath have improved **and**
 - At least 10 calendar days have passed since symptoms first appeared

School Response to Confirmed Cases

After it is confirmed that a person infected with COVID-19 was on the school grounds, the following steps will be taken:

- Notification to the Fillmore County Public Health Department
- Notification to the Minnesota Department of Health
- Implementation of sanitation efforts in areas where the infected person was engaged on school grounds.
- As appropriate for the protection of the school community and upon the recommendation of the Minnesota Department of Health, the administration may shut down a classroom(s) or the building.
- In the event that a staff member or child in attendance tests positive for COVID-19, letters home and/or email notifications will be used to share information with parents, guardians, staff. Notifications will be made in accordance with HIPPA privacy and confidentiality guidelines and according to the Public Health Department's recommendations after they have completed contact tracing.

Potential Exposure to COVID-19

The school office is to be notified immediately if a student, faculty, or staff member has been exposed to COVID-19. Per the [Minnesota Department of Health guidelines for exposure](#), the following will be required before a student can return to school:

- A negative COVID-19 test result **and**
- Absence of all symptoms **and**
- Student is required to stay home from school for 14 days

Typical examples that would require notification of potential exposure include:

- Student visited/was in a business, public location, church, etc. that have had a confirmed COVID-19 case, **and**
- your family has received guidance to isolate and/or be tested due to potentially being in contact with COVID-19.
- Student was in **direct contact** with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19

School Closure Decisions

- St. John's Lutheran School will refer to the School Decision Tree for guidance
- St. John's Lutheran School will comply with any direction provided by the county/state health department regarding recommended or required closure
- If school is closed, St. Johns will implement a full Distance Learning plan with digital platforms already familiar to students. Class times and expectations will be detailed for each grade level

Communication with School Community

Communication regarding closure or other important health updates will be provided through:

- All-school email
- Fast-direct

Agreement

Families will receive a COVID-19 family/student agreement to sign and return to the school. This agreement will be requested to confirm enrollment for the 2020-21 school year and will signify students' and a family's agreement to comply with St. Johns Lutheran School's COVID-19 Mitigation Plan.

This plan has been approved by the Board of Education.

Jon Eickhoff

Brenda Kunene

Sarah Burmeister

Questions may be directed to Gregory Brand, Principal.

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Signature Page

I acknowledge that my family has received the St Johns Lutheran School COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and have read and understand the contents. This agreement signifies students' and a family's agreement to comply with St. Johns Lutheran School's COVID-19 Mitigation Plan.

Parent's
Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Student's
Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Student's
Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Student's
Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____