

COVID-19 (and its variants) hereafter referred to as COVID-19

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 September 2, 2021

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 the potential of COVID-19 and its variants, 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 2021-2022 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 -2:50 pm; Preschool in-person class 8:00 am -11:00 am

Tuesday: K-8 in-person class 8:00-2:50 pm

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

Thursday: K-8 in-person class 8:00-2:50 pm

Friday: K-8 in-person class 8:00-2:50 pm; Preschool in-person class 8:00 am -11:00 am

*We are prepared for the possibility of distance learning if it is necessitated by school community incidences of COVID-19, or mandated by state or community regulations.

Vaccines

Good News! Vaccines have been available for at least 6 months. We encourage all those eligible to receive the vaccine to please do so. Vaccinations, while not completely capable of protection against COVID-19, greatly reduces the symptoms and severity of the virus. Vaccinations are available at HyVee Health Market in Spring Valley and Preston, Olmsted Medical Center in Rochester, Mayo Clinic, and Fillmore County Public Health in Preston.

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. Masks, while not required at this time, may be worn if a student or staff member chooses to do so, and no negative repercussions will be held against them. Bullying or teasing will not be allowed against students or staff members choosing to wear a mask or shield. This is an individual and family decision.

Transportation

Busing will be available to all students Monday through 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 3:00 pm. **Masks will be required during transportation.**

Chapel

Chapel will be held on Wednesday afternoon starting at 1:00 pm. Social distancing will be practiced. Adults attending chapel will be asked to sit in the back and practice social distancing.

Family Members and Guests

Family members and/or other guests are kindly discouraged from entering the school. We understand parents want to talk to the teacher(s), please make an appointment before or after school to discuss any concerns.

Music

As of September 2, 2021, All-School choir is planned and will be taught Friday afternoon.

Morning School Arrival

- Students are to arrive at school between 7:50 am and 8:00 am
- Students utilizing Kingsland Transportation may need to wear a mask
- Only students may enter the school building, parents can walk students to the front door

- 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.

Hand Washing

- **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

Sanitizing

Since COVID-19 is primarily spread via respiratory droplets, sanitizing will be done as a precautionary measure as part of routine cleaning.

Classroom Items and Supplies

- 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 as usual. No quarantine of items will be needed.

Personal items

- Students will be discouraged from bringing personal items to school.
- Students will need to bring a personal water bottle to refill at the water filling station.

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:

- 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
- 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

Based on the Minnesota Department of Health on Close Contacts and Tracing.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/close.html>

If you are fully vaccinated (it has been two weeks since your last dose of vaccine):

- Get tested three to five days after exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- Wear a mask in public, indoor settings for 14 days following exposure or until your test result is negative.

If you are **not fully vaccinated**

- If test results are positive or if you start to feel sick, follow recommendations if you are sick and test positive
- Follow recommendations for wearing masks
- Wash your hands
- Clean surfaces you touch

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
- Students will be given login and username information on the first day of school. This login/password combination will be unique to each student and will transfer with the student as they progress through grade levels.

Notification

- All-school email
- Fast-direct

This plan has been approved by the Board of Education.

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Questions may be directed to Mickey Angerman, Principal.

Plan updated September 2, 2021