

St Mary's Catholic School

2021-2022 Covid-19 Policy and Procedure Handbook

The following guidance has been developed from information available through multiple local, state, and national organizations including the CDC, Wyoming Department of Health, and American Academy of Pediatrics. This is the most current plan and is intended to be modified and updated as necessary when new information becomes available.

The goal of St. Mary's School is to remain open for the duration of the 2021-2022 school with as few interruptions of student learning as possible, while protecting the health and safety of all of our students, families, faculty and staff. Our hope is to return to a more typical school environment as soon as safely possible.

As we come together as a school community for the upcoming school year, it remains important to foster an environment within St. Mary's Catholic School that supports the health and safety of our students and staff as well as their families. It is important that all individuals read and understand the following policies. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to the school administration to clarify. We will be relying on one another to adhere to these guidelines in order to keep our school community safe.

****Please sign and return the acknowledgement at the end of this packet****

St. Mary's Catholic School Covid-19 Policy

Any student, faculty or staff member exhibiting the following symptoms will not be allowed to enter the building of St. Mary's Catholic School until symptoms have resolved for 24 hours or they are cleared for return by a healthcare provider:

- *Fever greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- *New or worsening shortness of breath
- *New or worsening cough or difficulty breathing
- *New or worsening muscle or body aches
 - *New or worsening fatigue
 - *Sore Throat
 - *Congestion or runny nose
- * New or worsening headache
 - *Loss of Smell or Taste
 - *Diarrhea
 - *Nausea or Vomiting
- *Close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with Covid positive individual in the last 10 days, including members of the same household.

Face coverings must cover the nose and mouth, remaining secured without frequent adjustment. Cloth or disposable options are acceptable

- If at any point an individual is tested for Covid-19, they must notify St. Mary's School and remain out of the building until the results of a state test return. (Rapid test result is insufficient)

- Any student, faculty or staff member who tests positive for Covid-19 will be required to notify St. Mary's Catholic School and remain out of the building for 10 days after positive result or until cleared by the Wyoming Department of Health.
- If an individual is in close contact, without masks, for more than 15 minutes with another individual who has tested positive for Covid-19 including family members they will be required to remain out of the building for 10 days after last known exposure. If during isolation the individual develops symptoms, they may choose to contact a healthcare provider for further guidance or perform self-care. If the family opts to self-care the ill individual may not return to school until he/she is 24 hours fever-free without the use of medications, his/her symptoms have improved, AND it has been 10 days since symptoms first appeared.
- Students will be dropped off at the front of the school using the car lane. Parents and caregivers will not be allowed to accompany children into the building. If you feel that you must accompany your child to class arrangements must be made with school administration.
- At the end of each day, parents may enter the building to pick up their children. All parents and visitors are required to wear face coverings while in the building. Alternatively, parents may utilize the car lane to pick up students.
- Before and after school care will be available. Face coverings will be worn by students and staff in after care unless outside.
- If an individual develops symptoms while in the building of St. Mary's they will be sent home immediately, and required to contact a healthcare provider to determine the next appropriate action, up to and including Covid-19 testing. Individuals should not return until symptoms have improved and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication. There will be no exemptions from this rule to include notes from medical professionals.
- Students sent home due to illness are not permitted to return to school the next day.
- All students, faculty, staff will be required to wear face coverings in all public areas of the school including the office, atrium, MPR, CLS, library, hallways, and cafeteria lines. Students and staff will not be required to wear face coverings when in their classroom cohort and 3 feet of physical distancing can be maintained. Face coverings will also not be required during PE or at recess, or other times of physical activity. An individual may choose to wear their face coverings more often if it makes them more comfortable.
- Desks and other seating will be separated by 3 feet. Shared tables are permitted as long as seating is separated by 3 feet.
- Visitors will be required to wear masks the entire time they are in the building, with frequent hand hygiene is encouraged.
- Students, faculty and staff will be required to sanitize or wash their hands before and after meals, after using the bathroom, after using the playground, after sharing equipment or using electronic devices, or any other time their hands may become dirty.
- Musical instruments that touch the mouth will not be shared between students.

- For lunch students will be kept in their cohort while eating in the cafeteria. Seats will be spaced 3 feet apart and staggered. Students will be required to wear masks in and out of the lunch room, but will remove masks for eating. Students eating hot lunch will be required to wear masks through the line. Students with food allergies at risk for exposure to allergens will be provided a safe place within the eating area and will be allowed to eat with a buddy with an allergen-free lunch. Other accommodations can be made if necessary.
- Parents will not be allowed to eat with students in an indoor setting.
- Absolutely no sharing or trading of food or drinks will be permitted.
- Students will be required to bring their own water bottle each day. Water fountains will not be available for use. Water bottles may be filled in the sink and should be taken home to be washed each day.
- For classrooms utilizing nap mats, nap mats will be provided by each household, the nap mats will be kept separated when not in use. Nap mats and blankets will sent home to be cleaned at regular intervals or when visibly soiled.
- When more than one classroom cohort is utilizing a space at one time, face coverings will be required to be worn.
- Students, faculty, and staff will be required to keep their face coverings within reach in case there is an urgent need to exit the room quickly such as a fire drill or other evacuation.
- Families will be required to provide their own face coverings for students. If the face covering is reusable or cloth it is to be taken home daily to be cleaned or exchanged for a new one. Face coverings must be replaced when they show signs of damage or visible soiling. Disposable face coverings should be replaced at least daily.
- Any individual refusing to adhere to the requirement of wearing a face covering will not be permitted into the school, this includes students and visitors.
- In addition to all required immunizations St. Mary's School, with recommendations from local, state, and national organizations, strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to obtain the seasonal flu vaccine as soon as possible in Fall 2021 as well as the COVID-19 vaccine when applicable.
- In the event that 2 or more students within a cohort test positive, the cohort will be required to isolate at home and convert to remote learning. Parents will be immediately notified of the exposure and possible spread. It is expected that students will be picked up no later than 60 minutes after notification. If the responsible party is unable to arrive within 60 minutes, they must notify the staff immediately and give an estimated arrival time. Upon arrival at the school, parents may enter the building to pick up children. Students will be sent home with all personal items such as backpacks, lunch boxes, and nap mats and we ask that these items are cleaned during the quarantine period. Upon leaving the school the exposed individuals will not return for 10 days after the last contact with the ill individual.

- Siblings or family members of an **exposed** individual will not be required to quarantine unless the exposed individual develops symptoms. **If symptoms develop**, the other members of the household are not permitted to return to school, are required to notify the school and contact a healthcare provider if needed to provide next steps. If no symptoms develop the exposed individuals may return after the 10 day period. **If any member of a household tests positive for COVID-19, no member of that household is permitted to attend school or enter the building until quarantine is completed.**
- Teachers will be responsible for all instruction in case of student absence, classroom quarantine, or school closure. Education will be switched to virtual learning with teacher instruction immediately, as long as the health of the teacher and students permit. If an individual student is absent, the teacher will make individual arrangements to complete the instruction.
- Students will not be punished for absences due to illness or possible illness. It is the view of St. Mary's that if you think your child is ill, it is important to keep them home. Keeping your child home, even for a mild stomach ache or low-grade fever will help the school achieve our goal to remain open for this academic year with as much in person education as possible
- St Mary's has updated the Illness at School Policy to support these policies and guidelines.
- Parents or caregivers will be provided a note from St. Mary's School informing employers of the requirement for students to be kept home upon parent request. Parental work or other obligation are not considered an exemption from this policy and parents are responsible to make all necessary arrangements in case students need to be kept home from school including the 10 day quarantine period.
- It is important to acknowledge the mental health effects the Covid-19 has had on every individual. The return to school can cause a great deal of anxiety as we prepare for a new phase in dealing with this illness and how it may affect our families. If you are concerned about your child returning to school, or notice that they are struggling with the return to school it is imperative that you reach out to a healthcare professional to ensure your child has the necessary resources to support them. Please also reach out to your child's teacher or other staff member so we can help support your child during this transition. We have attached information for some local resources.
- While we hope to avoid closure of the entire school, during the 2021-2022 school year we will close the entire school under the following circumstance 1) if required by government authorities 2) More than 3 classrooms are quarantined at one time 3) 25% percent or more of the school is absent for illness 4) any other requirement set forth by local, state, or national authorities. We hope to minimize the length of closure of the building, but will adhere to the health and safety requirements. In the event of an entire school closure the same procedure for isolation, student pick up, and transition to virtual learning will be followed school-wide.

References

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

[wdh-K12-isolation-graphic-9-2020.pdf \(wyo.gov\)](#)

Important Information Regarding Updated COVID-19 Policies 2021-2022

Please refer to the complete COVID-19 policy for additional information.

- Daily screening and temperature checks will NOT be required before students enter the building.
- Parents and visitors will be allowed in the building for pick-up and during the school day. Masks are required for ALL visitors at all times. Drop-off will continue to be done through car lane ONLY (with the exception of the first day of school).
- Students will NOT be required to wear masks when socially distanced and seated at desks, when outside, while eating lunch, or during physical activity.
- School assemblies, prayer services, Mass, bake sales, sporting events, and performances will be permitted school-wide and with spectators and volunteers. Masks are required for all attendees.
- Field trips will be permitted with student, staff, and volunteer mask use required indoors and in vehicles.
- Preschool parents will fill out a weekly selection of hot or cold lunch for their students.
- Students may return to school after symptoms of illnesses have been RESOLVED for 24 hours.
- Masks will be required throughout morning and after care unless students are outside and students will not be separated by cohort in these programs or in extracurricular activities.

****Please remember prevention begins with keeping students home when they are showing any signs of illness. If your child has had known exposure to COVID-19 they must quarantine for a MINIMUM of 10 days from last exposure. If your child has been tested for COVID-19 they are not permitted to return to school until they have a negative STATE test (rapid test result is insufficient)****

By working together, we can make this another successful school year for the entire St. Mary's School family!



ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Mary's Catholic School

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Acknowledgement of Covid-19 Policy 2021-2022

I, _____, parent or guardian of:

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Acknowledge that I have read and understand the 2021-2022 Covid-19 Policy for St. Mary's Catholic School and hereby agree to follow all guidelines set forth within it. I understand if these guidelines are not followed the child(ren) will not be permitted in the St. Mary's school building until all requirements are met.

Signature: _____

Date: _____