

Saint Isidore School

HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN YEAR 2-Revision #4



2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

INTRODUCTION:

Saint Isidore School responded heroically to the challenge of Covid-19, keeping students on campus while taking significant steps to mitigate the disease's spread. This updated document aims to create an expectation of what the remaining school year holds. While we embrace a less restrictive environment, the safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our top priority as well as continuing to educate our students in school.

Our priorities remain:

- **Safety:** Our overall risk has been reduced because adults and students 5 and older have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. We will continue to manage our risk.
- **Hygiene:** We will continue to emphasize robust hygienic practice.
- **Presence:** We plan to keep our school open daily. We understand the importance of our students being in school five days a week.
- **Growth:** Despite limitations, we want our children to continue their academic progress at grade level in their faith and all core academic standards. We have written this document specifically for our school environment, and we expect it to evolve as the public health situation changes. Our team will continue to share any updated documents on the school website and through My Students Progress.

Health and Safety Plan Team Consultants

- David C. Damsker, MD, MPH, Bucks County Department of Health
- Dr. Andrew McLaughlin, Secretary for Catholic Education for Archdiocese of Philadelphia

COVID-19 PREVENTION PROGRAM (SI YR 2)

Infection Mitigation Strategies

For the past year, we have used a variety of mitigation strategies in order to reduce the risk of exposure and transmission of Covid-19 on campus. Following the guidance of our local health department, we effectively applied all recommended strategies at our school this past year. Because of the cooperation of our students and parents, along with the tremendous efforts of our faculty and staff, SI was able to operate as normally as possible during the Covid-19 pandemic. We anticipate that the same cooperation will allow us to continue to operate safely and normally this year in spite of the continuing health crisis in our world.

Daily Screenings

It is the responsibility of every parent/guardian to daily monitor the health of their child/ren before they leave the house for school. This should be done within 60 minutes

of arriving at school. It is most important that a child not be given Tylenol and sent to school during this period of the pandemic. Masked symptoms will help no one. If a child exhibits the symptoms below, do not send your child to school. Children who arrive at school with these symptoms will be sent home as we do not have a full time nurse for evaluation, thus you will be required to pick your child up.

Daily Health Checklist

- Temperature 100.4 or higher
- Cough
- Muscle or body aches
- Fatigue
- Headaches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath/fast breathing
- Shaking and chills
- Nausea or vomiting

We recommend that all families have a plan in place should a child need to go home. Please make sure all contact information is up-to-date and accurate at the start of the school year, especially in case of an emergency. Please note that a child must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication before returning to school. Please remember that the first line of defense is YOUR HOME; we are dependent on your cooperation in monitoring your child/s health. By following this protocol, each family is doing their part to protect our SI Family.

Cafeteria Services

Students in grades K-8 will eat lunch in the cafeteria using a staggered seating plan in order to maximize physical distancing. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals. Students are still expected to bring a cloth in which to eat from. Given the very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals. We anticipate our lunch service to begin in October as usual.

Recess/Breaks

Recess will take place outdoors, weather permitting, and students will not be required to wear a mask as has been our practice. Recess equipment will not be limited, each grade level has equipment. In addition, our faculty are well versed in time and duration of mask wearing ensuring that students have ample opportunities to safely remove their masks for breaks.

Social Distancing

Classroom configurations will promote learning and maximize physical distancing where feasible. Desks will be spaced three feet or more from center of desk to center of desk. In our PreK and Kindergarten programs where tables are used for seating, trifold barriers will be utilized. Outdoor learning will be employed as much as possible, and PE classes will continue to be held outside, weather permitting. Although students may be social distanced, they are not socially secluded from each other, there are many opportunities for students to continue to socialize.

Travel Within the Building

Students will once again travel to art, physical education, library and computer. Older students will move among the classrooms as dictated by grade level. For example, students in grades 6-8 will travel to each of the content area classrooms.

Ventilation, Sanitizing and Cleaning Routines

Windows will be cracked opened for proper ventilation and all air conditioners and/or fans will remain on during the school day when needed. Hand sanitizer will be provided upon arrival and used as students enter the classrooms. Faculty will continue to promote good hand hygiene with frequent hand-washing throughout the school day. There will be no use of water fountains except to use the touchless feature to fill water bottles.

High-touch surfaces will be cleaned frequently throughout the school day along with classroom equipment and desks. Maintenance personnel will conduct a mid-day cleaning of bathrooms, handrails and high-touch surfaces in the hallways. Our cleaning crew will continue to thoroughly clean our classrooms and the entire building will be disinfected each evening.

Amendment to masking 8/23/2021: Until directed otherwise by the Bucks County Health Department and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, all students, faculty, staff and visitors to SI School will be required to wear face coverings. When this requirement is lifted, we will return to the mask optional plan listed below. In an effort to replicate the success of last year's mitigation efforts, we intend to continue to follow the protocols that we have put in place. As of the Jan. 2022 update, we will continue to wear masks in classrooms and throughout the building except during breaks and while eating or drinking.

Masks/Face Coverings (not applicable at this time - See Above)

Mask wearing will be optional during the 2021-22 school year. Anyone is welcome to wear a mask at any time. It is important to note St. Isidore School reserves the right to change our optional mask policy to a mandatory one. Such a decision will be dependent on the incidence rate in Bucks County or particular situations at SI and will be applicable for an individual child, groups of children, or the entire school. We will monitor all

information provided to us from local and state health officials on a consistent basis in order to determine the most appropriate approach to masking (mandatory/optional).

Covid-19 Response-Updated 1/19/22

In the event of a positive Covid-19 case, the principal of SI School will report the case to the following: Archdiocese of Phila., State Department of Health and the local Bucks County Department of Health and the parents of students within that classroom will be notified if their child/children are considered close contacts to an individual who tested positive for Covid-19.

Isolation/Quarantine-Updated 1/19/22

1. Isolation for Individuals who test positive for COVID
 - All individuals who test positive for COVID must remain isolated at home for a minimum of five (5) days from onset.
 - If symptoms are resolving, including being fever free for at least 24 hours, individuals may return to school/work on day 6.
 - Individuals must remain home until symptoms are resolving and they are symptom free for at least 24 hours without medication.
2. Procedures for those exposed to individuals who have tested positive for COVID
 - Individuals who are asymptomatic and were exposed to a positive household member must remain isolated at home for a minimum of five (5) days from onset for the individual who tested positive in the household.
 - If symptom free, the individual who was exposed may return to school/work on the 6th day.
 - Individuals should consult their medical provider if symptoms develop or continue.
 - Individuals who are exposed to a positive household member and have symptoms (or symptoms develop) must remain home a minimum of five (5) days from onset of symptoms.
 - If symptoms are resolving and they are fever free for at least 24 hours, individuals may return to school/work.
 - If symptoms continue, individuals must remain home until they are symptom free for at least 24 hours without medication.

These changes have been made with the input of faculty and staff. Like many other mitigation strategies, we rely heavily on the honest reporting from individual families. The school will continue to prioritize in-person education and requests that all individuals stay home if they are not feeling well.

Should we experience a staffing shortage, individual classes may need to be closed and become virtual. In addition, classes that experience 3 positive cases within a 5 day period will be quarantined for 5 days and become virtual.

Reporting Requirements

The following information should be reported to the principal in a timely manner.

- If anyone in your family has been diagnosed with Covid-19.
- If your SI School student has been diagnosed with Covid-19.
- If your child is a close contact of a person diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Illness of child (include symptoms on the attendance line).

Faculty/Staff Information (not applicable at this time. Amended 8/23/21 - See Above)

Based on recommendations from OCE and the BCHD, mask wearing will be optional for vaccinated faculty and staff during the 2021-22 school year. Unvaccinated faculty and staff members must wear a face covering when in the building. Staff members are expected to self-affirm that they are symptom-free and fever-free without medication.

Visitor & Volunteer Protocols

At this time, we are allowing limited visitors and volunteers into the school building. Volunteers must obtain all necessary clearances prior to offering service to our school.

Vaccination

SI School strongly recommends that all persons eligible to receive Covid-19 vaccines receive them at the first opportunity. This guidance corresponds to direction provided by public health agencies, the Bucks County Health Department (BCHD), and Catholic leadership. In addition to vaccines required for school entry, SI strongly recommends that all students and staff be immunized each autumn against influenza unless contraindicated by personal medical conditions, to help:

- Protect the school community
- Reduce demands on health care facilities
- Decrease illnesses that cannot be readily distinguished from Covid-19 and would therefore trigger a response from the school and public health authorities.

Virtual Learning

We will offer in-person instruction to our students throughout the year. When or if a student is absent, the work missed will be documented and sent home as stated in our Handbook. In the event there is a statewide shelter-in-place order or SI School is not able to provide in-person instruction, we will implement a school-wide or classroom identified virtual learning platform that will enable us to continue to provide meaningful and robust instruction to our students, IE weather days. Only students that are required to quarantine will be provided limited virtual instructional time.

Right to Amend

SI School reserves the right to amend this list of guidelines as needed throughout the year, given guidance from the BCHD and/or the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

