

Saint Isidore School

HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN YEAR 3-Revision #7



2022-2023 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 going forward 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 have 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:** 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 3)

Infection Mitigation Strategies

For the past two years, we have used a variety of mitigation strategies in order to reduce the risk of exposure and transmission of Covid-19 and other contagious diseases on campus. Following the guidance of our local health department, we effectively applied all recommended strategies at our school these past two years. Because of the cooperation of our students and parents, along with the tremendous efforts of our faculty and staff, SI continues to operate normally. 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. 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.

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
- diarrhea

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/rens health. By following this protocol, each family is doing their part to protect our SI Family.

Cafeteria Services

Students in grades K-8 eat lunch in the cafeteria. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be sanitized before and after meals. Students are still expected to bring a cloth in which to eat from. We anticipate our lunch service to begin in October as usual.

Recess/Breaks

Recess will take place outdoors, weather permitting. Recess equipment will not be limited, each grade level has equipment.

Social Distancing

Social Distancing is no longer the practice. At the teacher's discretion students may return to pairs, small group seating or a room configuration that is suitable to the teaching and learning environment established by the individual teacher.

Travel Within the Building

Students will 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 open for proper ventilation and all air conditioners and/or fans will remain on during the school day when needed. Each classroom is equipped with a room purifier. Hand sanitizer will continue to be available in the classroom and set locations around the buildings. Faculty will continue to promote good hand hygiene with frequent hand-washing throughout the school day. We continue to suggest using the touchless feature to fill personal 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 continue to be disinfected each evening.

Masks/Face Coverings

Mask wearing continues to be optional. 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 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, however what is taking place within our own building will take precedence in the decision to determine the most appropriate approach to masking (mandatory/optional).

Covid-19 Response-In accordance to the most recent health advisory dated 5/12/2022

“COVID infections should be handled similarly to other conditions in existing school nursing policies. For instance, once a student has resolving symptoms and has been fever-free for 24 hours without medication, they should be able to return to school. Asymptomatic students, regardless of exposure, should not be sent home to quarantine... **In most situations, school and classroom notifications will not be necessary.**

Isolation/Quarantine-Updated 5/13/2022

1. Isolation for Individuals who test positive for COVID
 - All individuals who test positive for COVID must remain at home until symptoms are resolving, including being fever free for at least 24 hours without medication.

2. Procedures for those exposed to individuals who have tested positive for COVID
 - Individuals who were exposed to a positive household member are no longer required to isolate unless the individual themselves experience symptoms.

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.

Reporting Requirements

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

- If your SI School student has been diagnosed with Covid-19.
- Illness of child (include symptoms on the attendance line).
- Absence notes are required to be filled out and signed by parents and returned to school when the student returns to school.

Faculty/Staff Information (Amended 2/2022)

Based on recommendations from OCE and the BCHD, mask wearing will be optional for faculty and staff. Staff members are expected to self-affirm that they are symptom-free and fever-free without medication.

Visitor & Volunteer Protocols

Volunteers must obtain all necessary clearances prior to offering service to our school. Masking is optional for volunteers.

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 -Will only take place during a school wide closure.

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.

We will no longer provide virtual learning for students; students will receive work as they would normally with any other absence.

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.

07/14/2022