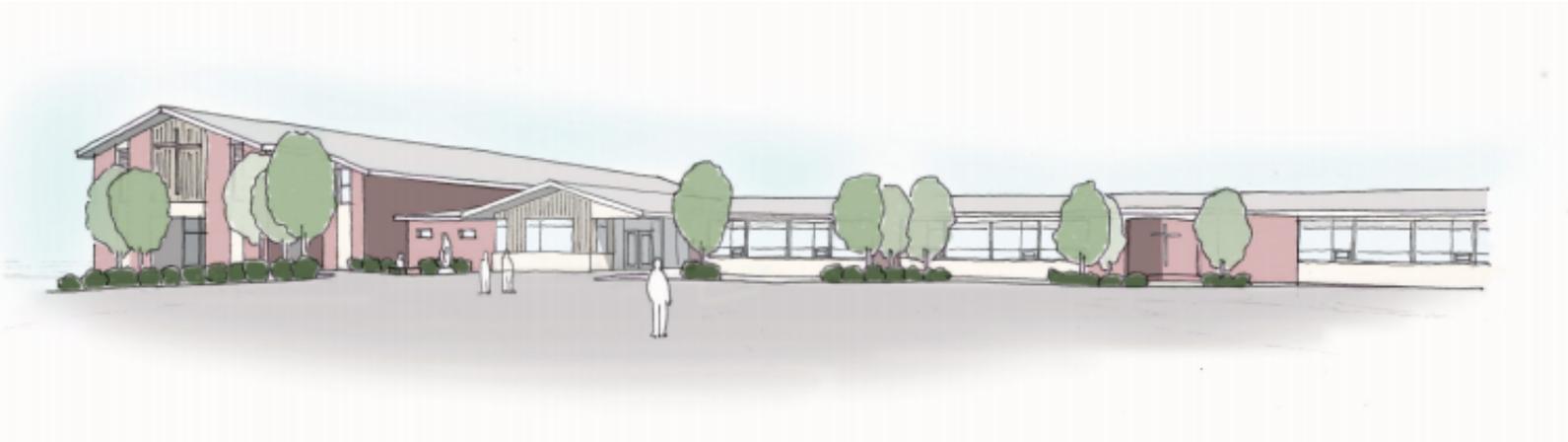


# 2021/22 Covid19 Mitigation Plan

## Saint Mary's Catholic School



**Flexible \* Supportive \* Committed**

### **Vision**

Saint Mary's Catholic School is committed to the application of Christ's teaching by instilling the value of service to others while providing our students with the necessary skills to further their educational pursuits. Our mission as a strong Catholic community is supported by high-quality educators, dedicated staff and invested families.



## Message from the Principal

Saint Mary's Families,

Upon arriving at Saint Mary's Catholic School it was most evident that this community is one that is quite special. There has been unbelievable support through gifts, prayers, time, service and words. Our community stands out as one that is **flexible**, **supportive** and **committed**. These values will serve us well as we return to campus on August 23.

The message I want to put ahead of any other message is that at **no time will I compromise or push the limit on human health**. A keen awareness of providing a healthy, safe and academically rich learning environment will serve as our focus for the 21/22 school year.

It starts at home. A leading agreement for us all must be to vow to send students to school who are healthy. If any student or family member in your household tests positive for COVID-19, is awaiting test results due to direct contact or experiencing COVID-like symptoms, they should stay home until officially cleared by a medical physician.

As you have seen, there are many layers of changes to our processes and procedures. Some changes will be evident as you arrive. You will likely face different drop-off patterns or maybe after-school care will feel a little different. In many cases these changes will be identified as semester changes. As we get further into the semester we will consult the Reopen Team for guidance and Henrico Health Department, VDH and CDC for updates on trends and make decisions to extend the changes or adjust. Circumstances change daily and this is where our flexibility as a community will work in our favor.

I enthusiastically await the start of school. We shall lead with faith and support one another as we come together on August 24. Our school staff is committed to delivering the best learning environment for each student at Saint Mary's Catholic School.

Best Regards,

Brandon



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### ***Guiding principles for reopening***

- Parents will send healthy students to school
  - Frequent temperatures checks
  - Face coverings will be worn indoors
  - Hand sanitizing at the entrance and throughout the day
  - Physical distancing will be maximized
  - Nightly disinfection in each classroom
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### ***Arrival***

- Faculty and staff will randomly take student temperatures upon entering the building. Any individual with a temperature of 100.4 or greater will be sent home immediately.
- Hand sanitizer is available at each entrance for student use.
- Pedestrian flow patterns are established for optimized directional traffic flow
- Students and staff will maintain physical distance with 3ft being the target range
- Masks will be worn anytime a student is indoors.

### ***Lunches***

- All lunches will be bagged/boxed. Our lunch provider, Morrissey's, will adhere to this update and provide ordered lunches individually packaged. Pizza on Fridays will also be boxed by the slice.
- Cafeteria occupancy will be reduced with a rotating cafeteria schedule during the week to provide a physically distanced dining environment. Additionally, classes will make use of outdoor spaces to eat lunches for the same reason.
- Hand washing/sanitizing will bookend lunches.



### ***Recess***

- Recess will be an important part of our students' days. Recess schedules are designed to lessen the number of students outside at one time, provide additional outdoor time and use new spaces to allow for distancing measures.

### **Shared Supplies**

- Sharing of supplies will be limited. Each student will maintain their own space with their own supplies. iPads and chromebooks will be cleaned before they are shared with another student.

### **Face Coverings**

- Out of an abundance of caution the following update has been made to the Face Mask Covering Policy for our Diocesan Catholic Schools. Masks are required for all faculty, staff, students, and visitors at all times when inside school buildings. Supervising teachers may permit students to remove their masks for limited periods of time, when appropriately physically distanced, students being at least 3 feet apart, is in place. Medical accommodations can be made as needed and approved by the School Principal.
- Masking indoors and on buses is subject to the exclusions and exemptions allowed by the CDC, including but not limited to when eating, drinking, exercising, and playing musical instruments.
- In keeping with our mask policy from this past school year, supervising teachers may permit students to remove their masks for limited periods of time, when appropriate physical distance, students being at least 6 feet apart, is in place.
- Bandanas and neck gaiters are not acceptable. Face shields are not an approved substitute for a face covering unless medically necessary.
- Any face covering can be any color or pattern and should remain free of any controversial text.



### **Signage**

- Directionally labeled hallways and stairwells, educational signs on proper hand washing, mask wearing, hand sanitizing etc.

### **Gatherings, Visitors and Field Trips**

- Gatherings such as assemblies will be suspended. Streamed video will be used to disseminate information that needs to be delivered en masse.
- Visitors will be limited. When arriving at school, visitors will use our buzzer system to communicate with the main office.
- Until further notice, traveling field trips will not be scheduled.
- If parents/visitors are required to enter the building, they will adhere to the same mask requirement as students and faculty/staff.
- Mass will be divided into two days. Wednesday grade 5-8; Thurs. Grade 1-4. JK and Kindergarten will not attend mass to start the school year.

### **Seating Charts**

- Assigned seating in all areas to assist in the event there is a need for contact tracing.
- Seating charts will be maintained in the event that contact tracing is necessary.

### ***Extra-curriculars***

- ASC - For the first semester, After School Care will operate for full-time and part-time users only. Saint Mary's administration and ASC staff will assess when drop-in students will be admitted. No increase in ASC rates for the 21/22 school year.
- Band - Greater School of Music will offer Band this school year. Information regarding band registration is forthcoming in the Friday Flash.
- Athletics will take place during the school year. League protocol will be followed.
- Chess - Chess will be offered this school year. Masks will be required to participate.
- Choir - Choir will be offered and will operate in a distanced manner.

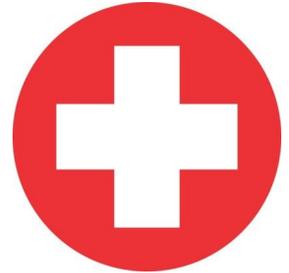
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*“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives, do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.”*  
*John 14:27*

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### ***Isolating the symptomatic***

- Students who become ill or present symptoms of a fever, shortness of breath, dry cough or other COVID-like symptoms will be isolated.
  - Those at home with symptoms -- will stay home
  - Those who arrive with symptoms -- will be sent home
  - Those at school with symptoms -- will be isolated in our 'sick clinic' and then sent home to be seen by a physician
- Any room where a symptomatic student was present will be closed off and not used until cleaned and given the ok by the health department.
- Any student/family member who becomes ill with COVID (not at school) will inform the Principal, Mr. Hess, of the situation.
- Per the Virginia Department of Health, SMCS will use the "[When it's Safe to be Around Others](#)" document to determine quarantine requirements.



### ***What if you are symptomatic?***

In the event that a student, faculty or staff member exhibits any COVID-19 symptoms or comes into close contact with an individual who is presumptive positive or who has tested positive for COVID-19, the individual should not come to campus and should consult with a health care provider. If anyone is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms on school property, he or she will be required to leave and will not be permitted to return to school property until he or she either tests negative for COVID-19 or has not experienced any COVID-19 symptoms for at least 14 days. Parents should notify the school office or school nurse about illness and absence. All employees should notify the Principal.

### ***Health & absenteeism monitoring***

- During these challenging times, the monitoring of the school community's health is vitally important. Families are asked to contact [attendance@saintmary.org](mailto:attendance@saintmary.org) to report a child's illness. If COVID-19 exposure is suspected, the parent should notify the school office or school nurse and all employees should notify the principal.
- Facts SIS will continue as our health and absenteeism tracking software.
- Parents are the primary defense in controlling the spread of COVID-19. Students should be kept home if they are ill or display any symptoms related to COVID-19. Students should remain home until they are symptom free for 24-hours, without medication.

### ***Notifying Health Officials and Close Contacts***

- In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, school administration will notify local health officials, the Office of Preparation, the Superintendent, staff, and families immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the current privacy laws.
- Inform those who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.
- Mr. Hess has worked with a school based team, Henrico Health Department and Diocesan members to create our plan to reopen and to complete our Health Mitigation Plan. If a student or staff member develops symptoms or comes into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, Saint Mary's Catholic School will follow the CDC guidelines directly and the Henrico Health Department will direct us in adhering to these protocols.

### ***People and Places***

#### **Local Health Department**

Henrico Health Department - West  
8600 Dixon Powers Drive  
Richmond, VA 23228  
804.501.4651

#### **School Contact**

Brandon J. Hess - Principal  
9501 Gayton Road  
Richmond, Va 23229  
804.740.1048  
[bhess@saintmary.org](mailto:bhess@saintmary.org)

#### **SMCS Clinic Team**

Kelley Osborne, FNP  
Kelly Jones, RN  
  
804.741.8790  
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