

ST. MARY'S VISITATION

Catholic School  Elm Grove, WI

Back to School Health and Wellness Plan 2021-2022 School Year

St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School exists to direct children toward God and toward Christian service to society through Catholic religious formation, academic challenge and continuous improvement.

*St. Mary's Visitation reserves the right to amend, revise, or replace any of the contents of the Back to School Health and Wellness Plan at any time during the 2021-2022 school year.

Dear Families,

We hope you had a safe and relaxing summer. It is with great joy that we start the school year. Last year was a challenge, but together we were able to stay in school. Thank you for all your efforts. You truly were amazing!

We are ready for you to come back to school! As the new school year starts we recognize that COVID still remains a concern. We want to begin to transition back to some of our traditional activities while keeping the health and safety of our students and staff a top priority. We will continue to consult with our local health department, public school and Catholic schools, along with parish leadership and the Milwaukee Archdiocese. Many of the protocols that were in place last year have stayed in place, some are new.

We will continue our commitment to an education founded in Catholic teachings. We rely on our partnership with you, our school families, as we journey again through this unique school year. Our children will still be learning from our excellent educators who strive to engrain life-long skills and knowledge in our children.

It goes without saying that the past year has been unprecedented. In these dynamic times, we will continue to assess and adapt to our students' needs and the community at large. The only thing we can be certain of is that we are not alone. Christ is walking this journey with us. Through prayer and study, we invite students and their families to more deeply recognize and respond to the reign of God in our time. The St. Mary's Visitation Community is strong, alive, and moving forward!

Mrs. Mary Tretow, Principal

"There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us. There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered. There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us and does not bear with us."

~ Saint Pope John Paul II

INSTRUCTION

St. Mary's Visitation will be prioritizing **IN-PERSON LEARNING**.

After our experience last year, we believe that in-person learning is the most effective method for students and provides the much needed social and emotional development.

Virtual Learning will no longer be an option. We will only offer Virtual Learning in the following circumstances.

- **Classroom:** Virtual Learning may be used for a short or long term need for a classroom that may be required to stay home due to a student(s) within the classroom contacting the virus. (Classroom closure will be determined by school administration based on recommendations of the local health department or if there are other variables including lack of staffing that would require such an action.)
- **School Wide:** Virtual Learning may be used for short or long term needs should school be required to close. School wide closure will be determined by one of the following:
 - Mandates by state/local health departments or government agencies.
 - School administration based on recommendations of the local health department or if there are other variables including lack of staffing that would require such action.
 - Transmission matrix in the MASK section of the plan.

***If a classroom or school wide plan goes into effect more information will go home outlining what this would look like.**

If an individual student is required to quarantine or isolate due to Covid-19, the student will be expected to engage in asynchronous (independent) daily learning tasks. These learning tasks will be provided at the end of the day via SeeSaw/Google Classroom (online) and/or work to be picked up from school. The students will then complete the work the following day, if possible, during normal school hours. If extended absence occurs the teacher will meet via zoom with the student as a check in.

Other protocols:

- All students will resume specials (art, music, library, phyed) in their designated classrooms with appropriate cleaning protocols.
- Middle school students will continue to cohort to the extent possible.
- Distancing will occur in the classroom as space/furniture allow.

HEALTH

SYMPTOM SCREENING

The best prevention is self-screening, staying home with symptoms, and timely reporting. Please continue to:

- Monitor for Covid -19 symptoms by completing the designated Health Screening Checklist with each child before arriving at school.
- If the child is sick they should stay home. If exhibiting symptoms of Covid, as identified on the Health Screening Checklist, students **must get tested or have alternative diagnosis before returning to school. If not tested, students will be presumed positive and must be isolated at home for 10 days.**
- Non-covid related symptoms may return to school after being symptom free for 24 hours.
- If ANY individual residing in the household is sick with symptoms on the daily Health Screening Checklist that would require him/her to stay home, all children in the family that attend SMV that are not vaccinated will be required to stay home, as well, until the individual tests negative or has an alternate diagnosis.
- If your child suffers from ongoing seasonal allergies that could present as symptoms please acquire a note from your doctor informing us of the allergy and its symptoms.

MASKS

- Masks are optional for students/staff and will be left to the discretion of individual teachers and families while we are in the BLUE ZONE on the Transmission Matrix below.
- Masks will be required of all students and staff if we enter the Yellow ZONE on the Transmission Matrix shown below.
- Federal regulations mandate the use of a face mask while on a school bus.
- Students not wearing face masks and who are not vaccinated will be subject to quarantine guidelines.
- Visitors and volunteers must either wear a face mask or complete a symptom screen (including a temperature check) by school staff.

TRANSMISSION MATRIX			
	BLUE Low Transmission	YELLOW Moderate Transmission	RED High Transmission
Number of positive cases (St. Mary's Visitation students/staff during past 7 days)	≤ 5% of students/staff positive with Covid	5.1-9.9% of students/staff positive with Covid	> 10% of students/staff positive with Covid
Action	Mask OPTIONAL	Masks Required to be worn by all staff and students regardless of vaccination status.	School Closure - Virtual Learning

ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

One of the most effective measures for halting respiratory transmission in an indoor, shared space is to identify and isolate sick persons and quarantine any household contacts and close contacts who are not fully vaccinated. In the school setting, isolation and quarantine should be the primary strategy for COVID-19 outbreak mitigation.

CLOSE CONTACT

- SCHOOL SETTING:** The CDC, DHS, and Waukesha County Health Department have modified their definition of a close contact in a school setting to be within 3-6 feet of a Covid positive individual for 15 or more minutes. **The exception is if both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of a well-fitting mask and other prevention strategies were in place in school.**

- **COMMUNITY SETTING:** The CDC, DHS, and Waukesha County Health Department has defined a close contact in community/non-school setting to be within 6 feet of a Covid positive individual for 15 or more minutes.
- **HOME SETTING:** The CDC, DHS, and Waukesha County Health Department has defined a close contact in a home setting as someone who lives with or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with the person, unless strict separation was maintained. This includes no shared bathroom, bedrooms, or spaces.

Not Fully Vaccinated

- If an Individual is identified as a close contact and is displaying symptoms he/she will be required to quarantine for 14 days regardless of vaccination status.
- If a non-vaccinated asymptomatic individual is identified as a close contact and was not wearing a mask at time of exposure he/she will be required to to quarantine for 14 days.
- Quarantine may be shortened further to 7 days after the date of last exposure if a person receives a negative test result (PCR or antigen) that was collected on or after day 6 provided people still monitor for symptoms, wear a mask, and physical distance for the full 14 days.
- If a non-vaccinated individual is identified as a close contact but has had a positive Covid test within the past 90 days and remains asymptomatic, he/she does not need to be quarantined.

Fully Vaccinated

- If a Individual is identified as a close contact and is displaying symptoms he/she will be required to quarantine for 14 days regardless of vaccination status.
- If a fully vaccinated individual is identified as a close contact and remains asymptomatic he/she does not need to quarantine, but should get tested 3-5 days after an exposure and wear a mask in all public indoor settings for 14 days after exposure or until a negative test result.

These guidelines are a sampling of what isolation and quarantine could look like. They are subject to change and may vary with each individual case. We will guide you through this with the help of our local public health authority.

ARRIVAL

- Face masks are optional for students, faculty and staff.
- Students are not supervised until 7:25 when the doors open. Students will enter through assigned doorways and go directly to their classrooms.
- K3 will enter through the front doors closest to the K3 room, K3 parents may accompany their children to the entrance of the K3 classroom.
- K4 and K5 will enter the door next to the dumpster (closest to the K4 classrooms in the building). This is the same door that was used last year.
- **Grades 1-5 will enter in the main doors.**
- Grades 6-8 will enter the door closest to the Attic.
- Federal regulations mandate the use of face masks while on a school bus.
- Drop off and pick up can no longer occur in the garage/thrift shop drive. This is for the safety of the children who will be assigned to use the adjacent entrance.
- **We ask that parents do not walk their children into the building, but rather say goodbye outside. If you need to speak to someone or drop something off, please come to the office.**

COMMUNICATION OF POSITIVE CLASSROOM CASES

- We will continue to notify parents if there is a positive case of Covid in **their child's classroom** along with close contact status.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- The CDC, DHS, and the Waukesha County Health Department have modified their definition of a close contact in a school setting to be within 3ft of a Covid positive individual for 15 minutes.
- We will strive to provide the appropriate distance when classroom space/furniture allow.

ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

- If a student is sick at school, they will be assessed. If they have a fever of 100.4 or any other Covid symptoms they will be required to wear a mask. If they have 2 or more COVID symptoms they will need to be picked up. If they need to go home they will be picked up at the Senior Center entrance. All other illnesses or appointments students will leave from the office.
- In order to return to school, students must meet the protocols set forth on the Health Screening Checklist.

CLEANING

- We will continue to practice best cleaning/sanitizing practices as we have done this past year.
- Teachers will be encouraged to open classroom windows whenever possible to increase fresh air in the classroom.

LUNCH/RECESS

- Lunch will be eaten in the cafeteria with appropriate distancing.
- We will continue best practice for cleaning.
- Students will have assigned seating for the time being with their grade level peers.
- Students will only interact with their grade level peers.

VISITORS

- Non-personnel visitors and volunteers will be limited and determined on a case by case basis.
- Visitors and volunteers must either wear a face mask or a Health Screening Checklist including temperature checks by school staff.
- All Visitors must check in the office.

SCHOOL GATHERINGS

- Concerts, assemblies and other large group gatherings are tentative and subject to change pending current events at the time of the event.

BIRTHDAY TREATS

- Birthday treats are still allowed. We ask that they are pre-packaged individual sized items.

GYM UNIFORMS

- We will not be changing into gym uniforms. Students will wear their uniforms.

SCHOOL MASSES

- Students will sit with their homeroom.
- Physical distancing will occur to the extent possible.
- Parents/visitors will be asked to sit in the back.

BEFORE AND AFTER CARE

- Students of the same grade level will remain together to the extent possible.
- Physical distancing will occur to the extent possible.
- Use of outdoor space as much as possible.

