

COVID-19

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 cannot come on campus, students cannot attend school. Positive persons must stay home and quarantine for a minimum of 10 days and must be symptom-free without medication for the 24 hour period before returning to campus. **If you are someone in your household, is waiting on Covid test results, please stay home until you receive the results.** If the test is positive please notify the school nurse and your healthcare provider for further instructions.

Please check with the school nurse with any questions. There will be no synchronous virtual learning at St. Francis Xavier. Students who are sick or quarantined will coordinate with teachers for learning materials and will be allowed the number of days absent to make up work. For example, if you are out 5 school days, you will have 5 school days to make up any assignments/assessments upon returning to school.

Listed below are detailed guidelines regarding COVID 19. The information below gives detailed instructions on testing procedures. Please read through.

Covid-19 virus spread

COVID-19 is classified as a respiratory virus. COVID-19 is primarily spread from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact with one another (within about 3 feet).

Preventing virus spread

There are several practical steps that can be taken to limit the spread of germs, including the COVID-19 virus. **Best practices include washing hands, physical distancing, wearing a mask, and staying home when sick.**

Home and school

Home and school share a bond. We need parents to do their part at home to keep their families healthy as we will do our part as teachers and staff to keep ourselves and our school community healthy. Be mindful of where you are going and avoid large crowds and gatherings. The CDC recommends that all persons over the age of 12 years old become vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Vaccination remains the best means for protecting yourself and others from contracting this disease. We encourage anyone with questions regarding the vaccine to speak with their trusted healthcare provider or our school nurses. The success of our school health depends on everyone doing their part to keep healthy. You can do your part by doing the following:

Parents, family members, and those who interact with our students, along with students eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, are encouraged to become fully vaccinated.

Parent(s) should conduct a health screening for each student in their household each day before the student comes to campus. [Please click here for the screening tool.](#)

If your child(ren) will be absent from school because of COVID-19 symptoms, please notify the SFX attendance line (602)266-5364. Remember to call the attendance line to report each student's absence for any reason.

EXPOSURE, CLOSE CONTACT, NO SYMPTOMS

[Click here for visual flow chart](#)

Please review the guidelines stated in the visual chart above. If you have questions regarding exposure, please contact our school nurses directly.

DIAGNOSIS, POSITIVE TEST, NO SYMPTOMS

If a student or staff member tests positive, St. Francis will follow the Maricopa County Department of Public Health safe practices guidelines.

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nurse with any questions. There will be no synchronous virtual learning at St. Francis Xavier. Students who are either **sick or quarantined** will coordinate with their teacher for learning materials and will be allowed the number of days absent to make up work. For example, if a student is out 5 school days due to **sickness or quarantine**, they will have 5 school days to make up any assignments/assessments upon their return to school.

DIAGNOSIS, POSITIVE TEST, AT LEAST 1 SYMPTOM

Anyone who has not had a COVID-19 test but has at least 1 symptom from the list below **MAY NOT ATTEND SCHOOL**. They must stay home and quarantine for a minimum of 10 days after the first symptom. A person must be fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications before returning to school.

A student will be sent home with any of the following COVID-19 symptoms identified by the CDC:

Cough

Shortness of breath

Fatigue

Congestion

Sore Throat

Diarrhea

Nausea

Headache

Body Aches

Fever

Chills

New Loss of Taste or Smell

If a child exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, parents should have their child evaluated by their physician to rule out COVID-19 or any other illness. The student should follow the direction of their physician which includes potentially isolating for 10 days. Please update the school nurse with any direction received by the healthcare provider.

[Click here for Maricopa County Guidance](#)

Parents must promptly notify the school nurse with recommendations from their physician thus giving SFX the opportunity to proceed with any potential further actions needed to maintain a safe environment at school.

Health and safety on campus

The school nurse is the designated point of contact for St. Francis and can be reached through the main school phone number, (602) 266-5364.

The school nurse is responsible for the daily tracking of attendance and monitoring for trends in illness escalation.

Home is the first point of screening for illness. All members of the SFX community are expected to monitor for signs of illness and **MUST STAY HOME if they are sick. There will be a zero tolerance policy with regard to sick students, staff, and teachers on campus.**

According to the CDC, children may be less likely to have a fever as an initial symptom of COVID, thus the absence of fever may not be a reliable indicator of disease. Please check all symptoms listed above.

It is understood that when a parent or designated caretaker brings a child to school, they are assuring the child is well and fit for school. If your student is sick, do not bring them to school.

Daily “spot checks” will be done by the school nurse throughout the day to obtain random sampling of students and staff.

Students may experience similar symptoms to COVID-19 from a variety of other illnesses. If your child has symptoms that are undiagnosed and on the COVID-19 symptom list, they will be sent home. Please consult with your health care provider to treat known conditions, such as seasonal allergies, to avoid having your student sent home from school.

Increased surveillance measures will be added when warranted based on the monitoring of community health indicators. Screenings include checking for fever (temperature greater than 100.4) and COVID-19 like symptoms.

Families/staff should self-report to the school nurse if they or their student(s) have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or through contact tracing were exposed to someone with COVID-19. The school nurse is directed to notify the Maricopa County Department of Public Health in accordance with Guidelines for School Reporting.

Management of illness

Any teacher, staff member, or student who becomes ill at school with any respiratory symptom not known to be part of a chronic condition (i.e. asthma, allergies) will be separated from other staff and students and will be excluded from school. Parents/guardians are expected to pick up an ill child within **30 - 45** minutes of notification. Please provide the school with any updated contact information. Students will only be released to those listed on that student's allowed pick-up list. Please update this list as necessary by calling the front desk for instructions.

The Nurse's Office will be used as a sick room as it is a self-contained space, has a door which can be closed, has furnishings that can be easily disinfected, and allows for the relative separation of a potentially infectious person from those who are not ill. A sign will be placed on the outer door to clearly communicate the use of the nurse bay for the care of a potentially infectious person. All non-urgent, routine visits to the Nurse's Office will be halted. If necessary, the medical needs of other students may temporarily be met by another member of the school staff as designated by the Principal to limit cross exposure. When exiting the building, the ill person will use the "sick kid pick up door" on the South drive..

A person displaying symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be referred to their primary care provider for assessment and recommendations for COVID testing.

A person who tests positive for COVID-19 should follow current Maricopa County Department of Public Health Guidelines.

Using the required COVID-19 School Report Form and established protocols, the school nurse will notify the Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) of positive COVID-19 cases. MCDPH will investigate confirmed cases and provide follow-up recommendations and instructions for SFX.

The school nurse will work in collaboration with Maricopa County Department of Public Health to perform contact tracing and identify those members of the community who are considered to have met the criteria for close contact. Recommendations of the MCDPH may include the need for evaluation and testing for COVID-19 by their health care provider and home quarantine.