



The health and safety of all students, families, and staff remain paramount in our COVID-19 policies and procedures. St. Monica Catholic School Covid Task Force has met over the past two weeks to analyze and discuss the opening of St. Monica Catholic School in light of the new recommendations from the CDC, American Pediatric Association, Diocese of Dallas, and other resources. Per the CDC, "COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized in the United States have been shown to be effective against SARS-CoV-2 infections, including asymptomatic and symptomatic infection, severe disease, and death. These findings, along with the early evidence for reduced viral load in vaccinated people who develop COVID-19, suggest that any associated transmission risk is likely to be substantially reduced in vaccinated people."

Currently, SMS plans to fully open on August 10, 2021. Given the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases in North Texas and the presence of the Delta Variant, we are *highly recommending* that all students, staff, and anyone on school campus wear masks while indoors in accordance with current CDC guidance.

St. Monica Catholic school will also:

- Provide a portable plexi for any family that wishes to have their child with a plexi on their desks
- Maintain the same strict cleaning and sanitizing protocols we have used the entire 20-21 school year. These protocols include additional cleaning staff, cleaning between classes, cleaning equipment, and sanitizing stations throughout the classrooms and hallways.
- 3ft distancing will be maintained in the classrooms wherever possible
- Students will be eating in the cafeteria with distance maintained wherever possible
- Families will once again sign a Diocesan Consent and Release form as they did in 20-21

Our COVID-19 email covid@stmonicaschool.org remains in place. Any family that has either been exposed to COVID or has a case of COVID is to report this directly to our Covid email. Any quarantine/isolation expectations will be communicated, taking each circumstance individually.

Our patron Saint Monica modeled for us the power of prayer. As we begin the new school year, please keep each other in prayer. Let us pray especially for patience, this remains a time with mixed emotions and thoughts. Therefore let us hold each other up



in prayer and, with charity being the driving force of our actions, we pray for another successful and healthy school year.

Please note: The school reserves the right to implement a temporary mask mandate if any significant outbreak of Covid occurs in any area of the school campus or programs, regardless of vaccination status.