



SACRED HEART

SCHOOL

Safe Learning at SHS

2021 - 2022

A Guide for Families

While it was our hope that the Covid-19 pandemic would be behind us by the start of the 2021 school year, it is clear that the threat of infection is still very much present. Our continued vigilance is necessary in the 2021-2022 school year in order to appropriately prioritize the education of our children. We know from the 2020-2021 school year that safe, in-person learning is possible. However, that is only achieved with diligence and transparent collaboration between the home and school. For that, Sacred Heart wishes to thank the entire community in advance for your cooperation in keeping our school and the precious children within it safe.

Enclosed is a list of necessary precautions to ensure a safe and productive school year. All of this is predicated on your good and safe decisions outside of school. Please continue to be mindful of your extracurricular activities.

Vaccination

Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy in addressing the Covid-19 Pandemic. The vaccine is currently only available to those ages 12 and up and the choice to get the vaccine remains a personal choice. In considering your options, for those of you leaning on the position of the Church for guidance, please review Pope Francis's [message](#), which deems the vaccine an "act of love." Rest assured that the highest doctrinal authorities in the Church (Pope, Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Bishop of this Diocese) have determined and advised that it is morally permissible to take the available vaccines and have encouraged (not mandated) people to get vaccinated. It must be voluntary, according to the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith (quoted by the USCCB) as well as the Catholic Medical Association. There is plenty of good, reliable information available in respectable, mainstream Catholic publications.

Students are not mandated to get the vaccine. If a student has received the vaccine, we invite parents to submit a copy of the student's vaccination card to help determine quarantine times in the event of exposure.

Sacred Heart will continue to follow [CDC guidance on quarantine recommendations](#).

Mask Wearing

In light of the Governor's announcement of [Executive Order 251](#), students and staff at SHS will be required to wear masks indoors at the start of the 2021-2022 school year. While this is not what we want for our students, what we want more than anything is their safety and well-being. Masks have been proven to be effective in the spread of Covid-19 and we will thus comply accordingly.

Students may remove their masks indoors only when the individual is engaged in activity that cannot physically be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating or drinking, or playing a musical instrument that would be obstructed by a face covering.

Students may remove their masks when outdoors for Physical Education and/or recess. At that time, the mask should be kept around their wrist for safe-keeping.

Masks should be kept on during indoor PE and/or recess. Should students be outdoors, but playing a game that requires close contact (i.e. basketball or huddles), masks must be worn.

Additional Precautions

While masks are proven effective, they are not the only manner in which transmission is mitigated. For that, SHS will also continue to use the HPA air purifying system in our classrooms, which reduce the risk of transmission by 74%.

Students will continue to maintain 3 feet of physical distance throughout the day at Sacred Heart.

Sacred Heart will continue to follow CDC guidelines on quarantine times due to infection or exposure.

Travel Precautions

SHS requires families to follow the travel precautions listed on the CDC website for both [domestic](#) and [international](#) travel. Should a student travel, we ask that they should get a viral test 3-5 days after returning or quarantine a full 7 days. If a vaccination card is on record, the student may follow the guidelines for vaccinated individuals, which include self-monitoring symptoms after domestic travel and getting a viral test 3-5 days upon return and monitoring symptoms for international travel.

Should a student need to quarantine after travel, he/she may log into the virtual classroom for up to 7 days. Assuming the student is healthy at that time, he/she is expected to return to the classroom.

Remote Learning

In accordance with the Superintendent's as well as the Governor's recommendations, remote learning is not an option for continued learning in the 2021-2022 school year. We know that students learn best in an in-person setting and SHS is committed to making that happen safely.

That said, if the safety of our students is ever in question, a virtual classroom will be opened. The conditions under which this may occur included:

1. If Covid-19 has been diagnosed within a household, a student will be asked to learn remotely for the CDC recommended time of quarantine.
2. If Covid-19 comes into the classroom, the student will switch to remote learning with the rest of the class having the option to learn remotely.

3. If the Health Department recommends our school close our building due to outbreak, then Sacred Heart School will operate on a Phase I schedule (below).

Phase 1: Remote Learning

This phase is reserved for emergency situations—namely if the Department of Health recommends that SHS close due to a spike in cases. Students learning from home due to quarantines while the school remains open to in-person instruction will follow the same school schedule and expectations.

What to Expect from Staff:

Students can log into their Google Classrooms where teachers will be presenting and analyzing material live with students. Videos may be used to supplement teacher instruction, but will not replace it. While the instruction component may not take the full class period, teachers will remain be “in the classroom”/on screen whole class period to assist students as they work independently/practice the taught skill.

What SHS Expects of Students:

Students are expected to wear uniforms during remote learning and attendance will be taken at each class. Should Sacred Heart be in Phase I, the assumption is that students are present for the day. If they are not in any given class, they will be marked as absent in Genesis. Please contact your child’s teacher as well as the main office if your child will not be present in school.

Proper attendance requires students to be in uniform and seated at a desk/table. Screens/cameras must be on and students should remain in the frame for any live component of a lesson.

Phase I Daily Schedule:

Period	Time
Prayer	7:55am
1st	8:00 - 8:40 am
2nd	8:40 - 9:20 am
3rd	9:20 - 10:00 am
Snack	10:00 - 10:15 am
4th	10:15 - 10:55 am
5th	10:55 - 11:35 am

Lunch	11:35 - 12:10 pm
6th	12:10 - 12:50 pm
7th	12:50 - 1:30 pm

Phase IV

In Phase IV, all students are in school during normal school hours (7:50a-2:30p). This phase requires all safety protocols to be followed. Should a student be learning from home for any reason, Phase I expectations are to be followed, namely present, punctual, in uniform, and camera on.

Schedule for Phase IV:

Period	Time
HR	7:50-8:00 am
1st	8:00-8:46 am
2nd	8:48-9:34 am
3rd	9:36-10:22 am
4th	10:24-11:10 am
5th	11:12-11:58 am
6th	12noon-12:46 pm
7th	12:48-1:34 pm
8th	1:36-2:22 pm
HR	2:24-2:30 pm

Safety Protocol in Detail

The standards and safety measures below are expected for in-person learning

- Sacred Heart will continue to follow [CDC guidelines on quarantine](#) times due to infection or exposure.

- All students and staff must wear a solid color mask. Neck gators or vented masks are not acceptable.
- Staff will monitor student symptoms. Parents must be able to pick up their child at any moment should a student present any Covid compatible symptoms.
- An isolation room will be designated for students with symptoms.
- Students will be dismissed from their classrooms or from the Auditorium, but will remain in their lunch cohorts.
- Gym classes will be held outside. If inclement weather precludes students from being outside, then an indoor health class will be provided with masks on.
- Classes will limit students in the bathroom to 1 at a time.
- Students must use hand sanitizer every time they enter the classroom.
- When students enter the classroom at the start of the day, students must sit at their desks first and wait for the teacher to call them to unpack.
- Students will not be allowed to sharpen pencils or share writing utensils. Extra materials will be needed for each classroom.
- Hand sanitizer must be 70% alcohol.
- Students will be taught proper handwashing to the “Our Father” first day back.
- Air conditioning vents will be cleaned and classroom doors will be locked but open to allow for air flow. HPA air purifiers will continue to be in use throughout the year, decreasing the chance of transmission by 74%.
- Small group instruction will be limited to two students at opposite ends of the table with the teacher in the middle. Teacher will need to sanitize the area before calling the next two students.
- Each classroom will get a box of latex free gloves.
- Office to have extra disposable masks in case a student forgets their mask or it breaks.

PreK Considerations

- During nap, students will be spread out as far as possible so that they can sleep with their mask off.
- Please send your child with a snack.
- Lunch will be split so PreK 3 and PreK 4 are not eating in the same room to allow for physical distancing.

Food Considerations

- Students in grades 5-8 will not have snack in the classrooms. K-4 may send a snack.
- Water fountains will remain off for the time being. Students may bring their own water bottles.
- Hot lunch is again available. Students will be sent up to order 1 class at a time.

Health and Safety Contingency Plans

1. If a student or teacher tests positive for Covid-19, he/she must quarantine at home for the [CDC recommended length of time](#).
2. Family Member/Household member of Student or Faculty Member tests positive for Covid-19: Student or Faculty Member will quarantine at home for the CDC recommended length of time.

3. If a student is showing symptoms, he/she will be quarantined in the isolation room until a parent picks them up. The following will be considered as symptoms:
 - a. A temperature of 100.4 and higher will be an automatic send home.
 - b. Coughing, sneezing, diarrhea and stomach issues can also be symptoms of Covid-19 but will not require students to get sent home unless symptoms are extreme and causing a disruption.
 - c. If students have a fever and another symptom, the student will need to get Covid-19 test
 - d. If a student is sent home with fever, they must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
4. Should CDC and or State guidance change, the Sacred Heart Community will move in accordance with those recommendations.
5. Should a student require a covid test for any reason, he/she must remain home until a negative test result is presented to the school.

Parent Communication

- A Responsible Citizen Clause will be added to the Handbook reminding parents of the need to be honest and transparent with the school and also respect the privacy of other families.
- Families will only be informed if there is a confirmed case of student or faculty member.
- Sacred Heart School also request families be safe in all out-of-school activities. Please prioritize school for your child!

Responsible Citizenship in the SHS Community

Please note that the following statement has been added to the SHS Handbook:

As a member of the SHS community, we value education and understand the importance for safety during this global pandemic. With that in mind, we are committed to the safety protocols set forth by the school including:

- Not sending our child to school with any temperature altering medications such as Tylenol.
- Being honest with our fellow Chargers and disclose to the administration any exposure to Covid-19 or positive test within the family. This information will be kept confidential, but for the safety of others, please be honest with your school and disclose to the administration any exposure or positive test.
- Complying with [CDC](#) and [State](#) safety recommendations including wearing masks, minimizing non-essential travel, and limiting large group social environments.

While we are all eager to return to normalcy, please be prudent when sending your child to school. If he or she is experiencing any symptoms that could be covid compatible, please keep them home for the day. Thank you for doing all you can to keep our students and staff safe!