

## Update to the St. Mark Catholic School COVID-19 Screening Process and Policy

Our students have been doing a terrific job following all of our safety measures so far this year. We are very pleased that we have been at school for one month and have not had a single case of COVID-19. It seems evident that wearing face masks, frequent hand washing, social distancing, and the increased disinfection of surfaces is actively aiding in keeping our school community safe. We want to extend a huge thank you to our parents for their honesty in reporting symptoms and possible exposures since this tremendously boosts our ability to prevent an outbreak.

As we continue to evolve, and in conjunction with guidance from Collin County Healthcare Services and the Diocese of Dallas, we are able to make a couple of changes to our current procedures.

Beginning on Monday, September 21, only St. Mark students will have their temperatures taken in the morning and parents will be asked symptom questions pertaining to their student(s) only. **We continue to request that everyone in the car wear a face mask during the screening process for the health and safety of our screeners.** If one child is experiencing a symptom that is not related to allergies or another known health condition, or has a fever greater than 100 degree, please keep the child at home and call Nurse Katy Kaeding at (972) 578-0610 for further direction. The other children may attend school as usual, as long as they have not been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19.

If a child is being excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms, their siblings are permitted to remain in school, pending test results. Collin County Healthcare Services and the Diocese of Dallas have determined that our school community is safe during the interim because of our safety measures. If the sick child tests positive, then the siblings will quarantine at home according to current CDC recommendations. We have five staff members who are certified contact tracers that will perform a confidential investigation and give further guidance to the family and our St. Mark community.

If the nurse feels that your child needs to be excluded from school, you will have three options:

1. The first is to have an RT-PCR test (not the rapid test) run on your child. If it is negative, your child may return to school as soon as results are received according to the school's routine illness policy, which can be found on page 46 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#). Email a copy of the results to Nurse Katy Kaeding at [katy.kaeding@stmcs.net](mailto:katy.kaeding@stmcs.net).
2. Obtain a note from the doctor stating that your child's illness is not related to COVID-19 and that they are clear to return to school. They may return to school according to our routine illness policy, which can be found on page 46 of the [Parent Student Handbook](#). Email the doctor's note to Nurse Katy Kaeding at [katy.kaeding@stmcs.net](mailto:katy.kaeding@stmcs.net).

3. If you do not wish to take your child to the doctor or obtain an RT-PCR test, your child will need to isolate at home for ten days. They may return when they feel better and have been fever-free for twenty-four hours.

Please do not hesitate to contact Nurse Katy Kaeding at [katy.kaeding@stmcs.net](mailto:katy.kaeding@stmcs.net) if you have questions.