

Saint Albert the Great Catholic School

HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN YEAR 2



ST. ALBERT THE GREAT

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

INTRODUCTION:

Saint Albert the Great Catholic School responded heroically to the challenge of COVID-19, keeping students on campus while taking significant steps to mitigate the disease's spread. This updated document aims to create an expectation of what the coming year holds. While we embrace a less restrictive environment, the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our top priority.

Our priorities remain:

- **Safety:** Our overall risk has been reduced because adults and students 12 and older have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. We will continue to manage our risk.
- **Hygiene:** We will continue to emphasize robust hygienic practice.
- **Presence:** We understand the importance of our students being in school five days a week.
- **Growth:** Despite limitations, we want our children to continue their academic progress at grade level in their faith and all core academic standards. We have written this document specifically for our school environment, and we expect it to evolve as the public health situation changes. Our team will continue to share any updated documents on the school website and through Option C.

Pandemic Crisis Response (PCR) Team

Sandra McDevitt	Susan Forourzan
Chuck Buretta	Helen Lydon
Michelle Nichols	Kate Alleva
Kristy Levy	Amanda O'Donnell
Betsy Atras	Mary DeHaven
Stephanie Brunetti	Karen Youngers

Pandemic Crisis Response Team Consultants

- Richard S. Lorraine, MD Medical Director Montgomery County Department of Health
- Dr. Andrew McLaughlin, Secretary for Catholic Education for Archdiocese of Philadelphia

COVID-19 PREVENTION PROGRAM (year 2)

Infection Mitigation Strategies

For the past year, we have offered a variety of mitigation strategies working in unison to reduce our risk of exposure and transmission of COVID-19 on campus. By following the guidance of our local health department, we have effectively applied all recommended strategies, as well as our own, at our school this past year. As COVID-19 rates of spread increased, we layered on the strategies, and because of the cooperation of our students and parents last school year, along with the tremendous efforts of our faculty and staff, SATG was able to operate as normally as possible during the COVID pandemic. We anticipate that the same cooperation will allow us to continue to operate safely and normally this year in spite of the continuing health crisis in our world.

Vaccination

Saint Albert the Great Catholic School strongly recommends that all persons eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccines receive them at the first opportunity. In addition to vaccines required for school entry, SATG strongly recommends immunization each autumn against influenza unless contraindicated by personal medical conditions, to help:

- Protect the school community
- Reduce demands on health care facilities
- Decrease illnesses that cannot be readily distinguished from COVID-19 and would therefore trigger extensive measures from the school and public health authorities.

Daily Screenings

It is extremely vital and the responsibility for every family/parent and guardian to daily monitor the health of every child before he/she leaves the house for school. Every day, parents/guardians will be required to screen their child/children for symptoms before they come to school. This should be done, at the least, one hour before arriving at school. It is most important that a child not be given Tylenol and sent to school during this period of the pandemic. Masked symptoms will help no one. If a child is sick, do not send your child to school. Any child who exhibits these symptoms below, after arriving at school, will be required to be picked up. **We recommend that all families have a plan in place should a child need to go home. Please make sure all contact information is up-to-date and accurate at the start of the school year.**

Daily Health Checklist

- Temperature 100.4 or higher
- Cough
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Loss of taste or smell
- Shortness of breath/fast breathing
- Shaking and chills

If your child is feeling sick, he or she should stay home. Please note that a child must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medicines before returning to school. Please remember that the first line of defense is YOUR HOME; we are totally dependent on every family to monitor the health of every child before he/she leaves their home on a daily basis. With this in place, each family is doing their best to protect everyone who is a member of our SATG Family.

Social Distancing

Classroom configurations will promote learning and maximize physical distancing where feasible. Desks will be arranged as close as possible to 3 feet from the center of each desk to the center of the next desk. In our Pre-K program where tables are used for seating, barriers will be utilized. Outdoor learning will be utilized as much as possible. Gym classes will be held outside as much as possible.

Cleaning & Disinfection Routine

High touch surfaces will be cleaned frequently throughout the school day along with classroom equipment and desks. Our cleaning crew will continue to thoroughly clean our classrooms and will conduct specialized cleaning during the pandemic and also if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs.

Classroom Plans

Windows will be opened for proper ventilation and all fans will remain on during the school day. Hand sanitizer stations will be in place and used as students enter and exit the classrooms. Faculty will continue to promote good hand hygiene with frequent hand-washing throughout the school day. There will be no use of water fountains except to use the touchless feature to fill water bottles.

Masks / Face Coverings

On August 31, 2021, the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health ordered the universal wearing of face coverings in all PA K-12 school buildings. This order will take effect on September 7, 2021 and shall remain in effect until otherwise terminated. This Order will supersede the Montgomery County DOH and the Archdiocesan guidelines.

Mask wearing will be mandatory at the start of the school year as recommended by the Montgomery County Department of Health and mandated by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This masking requirement will be reevaluated every two weeks in accordance with the community Covid-19 positivity ratings. In a high or substantial rating, masking will be mandatory. In a moderate or low rating, masking will be strongly recommended with a no masking option and signed waiver. It is important to note that Saint Albert the Great Catholic School reserves the right to change our masking policy dependent on current situations and this will be applicable for an individual child, group of children, or an entire classroom. We will monitor all information provided to us from local and state health officials on a constant and consistent basis.

Isolation/Quarantine

Whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 10 days as both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals can transmit the virus during that time.

Reporting Requirements

The following information should be reported to the office/principal in a timely manner.

- If anyone in your family has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- If your SATG school student has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- If your child is a close contact of a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Illness of child (include symptoms on the attendance line).

Mrs. McDevitt will report to and consult with the MCHD in order to determine next steps for targeted mitigation, contact tracing, and protection.

Faculty/Staff Information

Based on recommendations from the Archdiocese and the MCHD, mask wearing for faculty and staff during the 2021-22 school year will follow the same tiered schedule based on high and low positivity rates. All faculty and staff will begin the year with masking. Unvaccinated faculty and staff members must wear a face covering when in the building. Staff members are expected to self-affirm that they are symptom-free and fever-free without medication.

Visitor & Volunteer Protocols

At this time, we are allowing limited visitors and volunteers into the school building. The school vestibule area will be used for late arrivals and early dismissals. Parents will not be permitted to enter the school building except on a limited basis as needed.

Lunch Services

Students in grades Pre-K to 8 will eat lunch in the dining hall. Lunch and recess will be staggered in order to maximize physical distance as much as possible. There will be 3 lunch periods and children will be properly distanced at their tables. Surfaces that come in contact with food will be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.

Travel Restrictions

Our focus will be on behaviors and not the act of travel itself. We reserve the right to ask community members to quarantine if they have traveled to regions which are documented hotspots, so please be prepared for a revisiting of this policy.

Virtual Learning

We will offer in-person instruction to our students throughout the year. We will also offer virtual learning for a trimester at a time. Students will not be permitted to come in and out of this option. If you are interested in this program please contact Mrs. McDevitt directly. Students will also be able to use virtual learning during a quarantine period of over 10 classroom days. This will be reviewed by Mrs. McDevitt and faculty as we move through the school year. Students will not be able to use the virtual option during a regular illness. Work missed will be documented and sent home as stated in our Handbook. In the event there is a state-wide shelter in place order, we will revisit our Digital Learning Plan on a school wide basis and implement a platform that will enable us to continue to provide meaningful and robust instruction to our students.

Right to Amend

Saint Albert the Great Catholic School reserves the right to amend this list of guidelines as needed throughout the year, given guidance from the Montgomery County Health Department and/or the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.