



Main Campus (K-8), 600 Tyler Street, Hastings, MN 55033
ECC Preschool Campus, 2035-15th Street, Hastings MN 55033

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seas-school.org

A Ministry of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

SEAS COVID-19 Update for the 2021-2022 School Year

I hope and pray that your summer has been good so far and that everyone in our SEAS family is healthy and finding some time to relax.

We have completed our preliminary COVID-19 preparedness plan for the coming school year. Right now, the situation in Hastings is pretty good. According to the Dakota County COVID-19 Statistics website, since June 14th there have been five lab diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in Hastings. Dakota County has seen 127 over that period of time. While any case is one too many, these numbers are lower than anything we've seen since April of 2020.

This is good news! We will be able to remove many of the restrictions we had to put in place last year. Unfortunately, the pandemic is not over yet and SEAS will still have some restrictions. Not everyone will agree with the steps we are taking. Since my July 13th letter I have heard from a few parents who are adamant about their children not wearing masks and others who think we should keep the mask mandate in place. While I always appreciate hearing from families and listening to your concerns, the anger, demands, and personal attacks put forth by a few have been very disappointing.

We are a private Catholic school and, therefore, a school of choice. However, just because we are private, does not mean that we ignore mandates, requirements, and recommendations from state and federal agencies, especially in regards to a pandemic. We are catechists and educators, not scientists and doctors. We use information from the Minnesota Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dakota County Health, and the Minnesota Department of Education to help craft our plan. We reach out to local principals and the Archdiocese for guidance. Our plan was created using scientific research based on best practices and data available at this point in time. I know some do not trust the organizations I referenced above, but we do. You are free to disagree.

Efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 are still necessary. There is still a significant risk to the unvaccinated, which, depending on vaccination status, includes over 80% of our students.

Our plan is flexible, which means there could be a move to distance learning or a return to masks for everyone if the situation in Hastings or Minnesota warrants it. I want that to be clear for all families- if there is a mask mandate or other required/highly recommended measures, we will need to update our plan. On the same note, if cases continue to remain low, we can open up even more. The health, safety, and welfare of our SEAS family is always our number one priority.

I am looking forward to seeing the students' smiling faces again! Please let me know if you have any concerns or questions.

God bless you all,

Mr. Sullivan



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A summary of our 2021-2022 COVID Preparedness Plan is available on our website. The [COVID-19 Information page](#) includes a summary of our protocols for our return to in person learning and more. Below are some of the more frequently asked questions.

School Hours

- School hours will return to pre-COVID times.
 - K-8: Students should arrive by 7:50, class begins at 7:55. Pick up is at 2:30.
 - Preschool: Arrive at 8:40, classes begin at 8:45. Pick up is at 11:15 or 2:45

Masks

- Masks are required on all school buses. This is a federal requirement and there are no exceptions, even for those fully vaccinated.
- Currently, masks are recommended, but not required, for all those who are not fully vaccinated.

Quarantines

- SEAS will continue to follow the [MDH COVID-19 Decision Tree](#) for those with symptoms.
- Those who have been fully vaccinated, defined as two weeks past your final dose, and who are not demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19, are not required to quarantine.
- Individuals, who are not fully vaccinated or who have not had a lab diagnosed case of COVID-19 in the last 90 days, will have to be quarantined if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone diagnosed or demonstrating COVID symptoms.
- Quarantines will be from 7-14 days depending on the situation.
- A lab diagnosed case in a classroom will be considered a close contact.
- It is recommended, though not required at this time, that those who are not fully vaccinated or who have not had a lab diagnosed case of COVID-19 in the last 90 days quarantine for 14 days after traveling out-of-state.
- Teachers will post work to SeeSaw (K-3) or Google Classroom (4-8) for those in quarantine. When possible, live sessions will also be available.

Cleaning

- Custodians will continue to thoroughly clean our two campuses each school day.
- Specialized cleaning will continue to occur for outbreaks of illnesses.
- Proper hygiene will continue to be taught and enforced.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the building.
- Water fountains will continue to be covered. Bottle filling stations will still be available.

Vaccines

- Public health officials recommend vaccinations for all eligible, currently those 12 or older.
- A COVID-19 vaccine is not required at this time.
- Proof of a COVID-19 vaccination is required for determining quarantine scenarios. Those not providing proof of vaccination will be required to follow the quarantine guidelines. You may submit proof [here](#).

Ventilation

- Rooms will continue to follow ventilation guidelines.
- Summer improvements to our heating system may eliminate the need for open windows during winter months.

Social distancing

- Grades will continue to be isolated with the exception of recess, lunch, and at mass.
- We will not have grade level “mass buddies” this year.



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- We will social distance as much as possible.

Volunteering at SEAS

- Visitors to the building will continue to be limited, but volunteers will be allowed.
- Volunteer hours will be required of all families again this school year.
- Volunteers must check in at the office, have their temperature taken, and answer COVID symptom questions.

Mass

- Masses will be held Wednesday mornings at 9:30.
- Only students and staff will be allowed to attend mass.

Pick up and Drop Off

- For safety concerns, parents will not be allowed to enter the building at the K-8 campus.
- Students in 6th-8th grade and their siblings will be dropped off and picked up on Tyler Street.
- Students in K-5th will be dropped off and picked up in the parking lot.
- K-8th begins their day at 7:55 and ends at 2:30.
- Preschool will be dropped off at 8:45 at the ECC doors. Parents and students will be screened before entering the building. We will be limiting the number of families in the building at one time.

This plan will be updated as needed. Please continue to pray for those affected by the pandemic. The following prayer comes from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and is a great one for families to pray together during these difficult times.

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.

Amen.