



COVID-19 and Communicable Disease Protocols*

Saint Mary Catholic School * 508 East Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079
Protocols as of August 15, 2021

Face Masks

Face masks are optional for students, staff, and visitors in the school building and on school campus, although the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department highly recommends that unvaccinated individuals wear masks while indoors and outdoor crowded spaces.

Vaccinations

When vaccinations are available to those under 12 years-old, it will be an option for parents to have their children inoculated. At this time, the COVID-19 vaccine is not listed on the state's required vaccination list.

Positive Test Results

Students and staff are required to quarantine and isolate for a 10-day period beginning when symptoms first appear. In addition, the health department will be consulted for anyone testing positive for affirmation of dates. Individuals may be released from isolation after 10 days if they have gone feverless for 24-hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, and other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

Quarantine After Exposure to Someone who has Tested Positive

Exposure to a positive test, if unvaccinated, requires a 10-day quarantine in accordance with the health department. Individuals may be released from isolation after 10 days if they have gone feverless for 24-hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, and other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving. If someone is vaccinated, they only need to quarantine and get test results if symptomatic; otherwise, no quarantine is required. "Exposure" is generally defined as being within 3 feet of a COVID-positive/probable individual for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Other Considerations

- Hand Sanitizer will be available to all students and staff at every classroom door.
- Teachers will still do midday disinfection on high-touch surface areas such as student desks, countertops, and doorknobs.
- Windows will be open for air circulation as much as possible.
- Lunch will be served in the cafeteria with the option of spreading out into classroom pods if it becomes necessary. Recess will be outdoors with full use of the playground for all students. Preschool will still use the preschool playground as usual.
- Temperature screening will not be required unless a teacher or office staff suspects a child is ill.
- Volunteers are allowed with advance notice to the office and teacher.
- Cloth furniture and toys will be sprayed daily with a fabric disinfectant made by Tide.
- Birthday treats are allowed, but please follow your teacher's suggestions. For example, preschool cannot have homemade treats since all food must come from a licensed kitchen, which is standard protocol for state licensing.
- Field trips are allowed, but we will follow protocols of the destination and make every effort to be outdoors.

** In order to protect the health and safety of all students, personnel, and the community at large, the school, as determined by the COVID-19 Safe Schools Committee of Saint Mary Catholic School, shall follow all state statutes and health department regulations which pertain to immunization and other means for controlling casual-contact communicable disease spread through normal interaction in the school setting. Protocols are subject to change in response to changes in state or county statutes or regulations.*