



STB Re-Entry FAQ

As of September 1, 2021

How do I provide proof of vaccination?

Currently, STB will be collecting all vaccination records by hand.

To submit your record, you may do one of the following:

- **OUR PREFERRED METHOD:** In a sealed envelope labeled with your student's name, provide a photocopy of your student's vaccination card that includes both the front and back of the card. This envelope may be brought directly to the Main Office, where it will be safely stored until collected by our school Nurse, Ms. Lorie Reidy. The record will then be reviewed, logged, and filed in your student's medical record.
- **IF A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR VACCINE CARD CANNOT BE OBTAINED:** In a sealed envelope labeled with your student's name, provide your student's vaccination card. This envelope may be brought directly to the Main Office, where it will be safely store until collected by our school Nurse, Ms. Lorie Reidy. The record will then be reviewed and logged. A photocopy of your student's vaccination card will be made and filed in your student's medical record, and the original vaccination card will be returned to your student in a labeled envelope.

Time will be allotted on the first day of school for the collection of vaccination cards. If your student is fully vaccinated, please ensure that they have brought with them a copy of their vaccine card in a sealed envelope with their name on it. (Alternatively, they may bring a copy of their original vaccine card in a sealed envelope with their name on it; this card will be returned to your student after submission.)

If your student is not fully vaccinated but on the path towards vaccination, please submit their vaccine card directly to Ms. Amanda Michaud in the Main Office as soon as they've completed the vaccination process.

Vaccination counts will be maintained by the school's nurse and administration, and when a community rate of 80% has been reached, we will notify the Fitchburg Board of Health to pursue relief of the mask mandate for vaccinated students/staff.

Are students required to wear masks all day even if they're vaccinated?

As of right now, yes. But St. Bernard's will work diligently to collect proof of vaccination from our student body. When we have reached an 80% communal vaccination rate, we are positioned to remove the mask mandate for vaccinated students.

This ordinance has been given to us directly from the Fitchburg Board of Health and honors the guidance of the Department of Secondary Education (DESE) in Massachusetts.

All masks or gaters must cover the nose and mouth of the wearer and fit appropriately. Masks must be made of tightly woven fibers/cloth. Reusable masks must be washed daily, and we recommend students bring several masks a day to interchange if/when their mask collects moisture.

The only current exception to this rule involves outdoor gatherings, which do not require masks. As such, we plan to utilize outdoor spaces as often as possible to allow for loosened mask requirements.

Are you providing masks for students?

All students and staff are expected to come to school with their own masks and are highly encouraged to bring several clean, unused masks with them each day so that masks can be changed out if soiled or replaced if broken.

The school will have a limited supply of paper and clean fabric masks on hand to utilize if student masks break.

Students will not be allowed to remain in the building if they are noncompliant with mask requirements.

Will students be required to social distance in halls, classrooms, and at lunches?

Distancing is always encouraged as we progress through this pandemic, but it is no longer required, per state and city guidelines.

That means students will not be asked to utilize "up" or "down" staircases; they will not be required to walk in single-file through halls; and they will not be prohibited from using the

bathroom if another student is also present. Handshakes and high fives are no longer prohibited, though frequent hand washing and sanitizing is highly encouraged.

We will continue to space out desks as much as possible, with the goal of maintaining three feet of distance in each classroom.

In order to allow for three feet of distance in between students at lunch, STB will utilize two lunch rotations (“First Lunch,” “Second Lunch”).

In addition, students will frequently meet outdoors for classes and supervised lunch on the student lot lawn, so they may spread out efficiently and unmask.

What should I do if my student has symptoms of COVID-19?

Do not send your student to school if they have symptoms.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- A fever (including low-grade)
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue (unexplained by exertion)
- Muscle/body aches
- Headache (unexplained by other causes)
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea (in the presence of other symptoms)

Please reach out to your doctor for guidance on the best testing procedures if your student is experiencing any of the above symptoms.

Students who are symptomatic should not return to in-person learning until they have tested negative or completed a ten day quarantine, beginning at the onset of symptoms.

Students who come to school with symptoms will be sent home, unless they have proof of negative testing following the onset of symptoms.

What happens if my child or someone in my immediate family tests positive for COVID-19?

The exact protocol we ask that each family follow in the face of a positive test is as follows:

1. Contact Principal Anderson via email (landerson@stbernardscchs.org) to report the family member who has tested positive, including the date their positive test was taken;
2. Support the school's efforts to conduct contact tracing;
3. Begin quarantine to protect the spread of COVID; prepare for transition to full-remote (if applicable);
4. Follow the school's instructions regarding re-entry plan to ensure a safe return

Will the school inform me if other community members test positive for COVID-19?

To honor the privacy of members of our community and adhere to HIPAA regulations, we will not share the names of confirmed infected persons with the larger St. Bernard's community. Teachers of students needed to quarantine will be notified to ensure transition to remote learning.

A weekly count of positive cases within the community will be reported via Principal Anderson's "Weekly Update" email.

In the event of communal spread which occurred on campus (three or more individuals traced to the same infection source), STB may choose to transfer to remote learning for a ten day period to prevent additional spread.

Is full-remote learning an option this year?

Full remote learning is not an option for STB students this year.

We are committed to in-person learning, given the wide availability of the COVID-19 vaccine (including the recently FDA-cleared Pfizer vaccine) and the important role that socialization and structural normalcy play in students' development and mental health.

That said, STB will utilize several metrics to determine whether or not it's safe for students, faculty, and staff to learn in the building.

Foremost, we will monitor our own community for possible transmission occurring within the building or on school grounds and react accordingly to rates of incident.

In addition and as a school in Massachusetts, we are beholden to the mandates of the State and the Governor's Office. Should a state-wide shutdown once again be put into effect, St. Bernard's will honor that decision by making the school-wide shift to distance learning.

On the whole, however, remote learning will be avoided as much as possible, and we will do our best to keep our students in the routine of a "normal" school year.

Will my student have to take a daily screening like they did last year?

No, St. Bernard's will not be requiring daily screenings. We will rely on the good judgment of parents to determine whether or not their students are fit to attend school, based on the presence of symptoms.

At what point will St. Bernard's relax its remaining COVID restrictions?

Our goal is to return to full normalcy as soon as possible. We're hopeful that an 80% communal vaccination rate will allow us to lift nearly all COVID restrictions, and we look forward to other benchmarks from state and city officials to determine when a complete return to normal life will be allowed.

What do I do if I have a question or concern as things move forward?

Please reach out at any time! We are eager to hear from our families to ensure they're safe and well as we embark upon this challenging journey together.

You can email any questions or concerns about the reopening model to Principal Anderson (landerson@stbernardscchs.org); for questions about the logistics of the day, you can email Ms. Amanda Michaud (business@stbernardscchs.org). Ultimately, we will make sure your questions are answered as efficiently as we can!