

St. Thomas Aquinas (STA) Catholic School COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention Plan 2021-2022

As of August 6, 2021

<p>FACE COVERINGS</p>	<p>Iowa law prevents schools from requiring face coverings for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors. The CDC, however, recommends universal indoor masking in K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>St. Thomas supports mask wearing; it is one of the layered prevention strategies to keep our students healthy. Parents should discuss with their child(ren) their family's decision and the importance of respecting the face covering decisions of others.</p> <p>Face coverings may be required at school masses held in a church building at the discretion of the pastor and following local parish practices.</p>	<p>HF847 CDC-FC IDPH</p>
<p>PHYSICAL DISTANCING</p>	<p>The CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students when possible.</p> <p>St. Thomas will work to maintain 3 feet of distance within the school setting whenever possible.</p>	<p>CDC-PD</p>
<p>HAND WASHING</p>	<p>The CDC states handwashing is a proven prevention strategy and is one of many important layers of protection for students.</p> <p>St. Thomas will utilize reminders and scheduling to promote consistent hand washing throughout the school day. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school building.</p>	<p>CDC-HW</p>
<p>CLEANING AND DISINFECTION</p>	<p>The CDC states proper cleaning and disinfection are important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.</p> <p>St. Thomas will continue cleaning and disinfection efforts throughout the school day including increased cleaning of restrooms, frequently touched surfaces, and eating areas.</p>	<p>CDC-C&D</p>
<p>VENTILATION</p>	<p>The CDC recommends multiple strategies for increasing ventilation to maintain a healthy environment at school.</p> <p>St. Thomas has routine professional checks of HVAC equipment, and will utilize outdoor spaces when possible.</p>	<p>CDC-V</p>
<p>WATER FOUNTAINS</p>	<p>Water fountains and bottle fillers will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.</p> <p>St. Thomas students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles to reduce spread of illness.</p>	<p>CDC-C&D</p>

VACCINATIONS	<p>The CDC and IDPH encourage all eligible lowans to receive the vaccine.</p> <p>St. Thomas does not require staff or students to be vaccinated, but encourages all those eligible to give it their fullest consideration.</p>	<p>IDPH</p> <p>CDC - Vacc</p>
VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS	<p>Volunteers and visitors who have tested positive need to follow isolation requirements and may not come on site for a minimum of 10 days.</p> <p>Volunteers and visitors of St. Thomas who have tested positive will need to follow isolation requirements and not come on site for a minimum of 10 days.</p>	<p>CDC-Q&I</p>
COVID TRACKING & QUARANTINING	<p>IDPH advises exposed children and staff should not be required to stay home, regardless of mask usage. When there is a positive case, parents should be given information around exposure to COVID-19 in order to make their own informed decisions regarding risk.</p> <p>Following IDPH guidance, St. Thomas tracks all student illnesses (Influenza, COVID-19, Norovirus, etc) on a daily basis. St. Thomas will communicate with the school community and IDPH when more than 10% of our students are absent due to illness.</p> <p>Parents who want their child(ren) to quarantine for 14 days when exposed to a positive case should contact the school office to activate our virtual learning option.</p>	<p>IDPH</p> <p>CDC-CT</p>
ISOLATION	<p>Those testing positive for COVID must be excluded from school for 10 days after symptoms start and 24 hours with no fever and improved symptoms OR 10 days after positive test (if no symptoms).</p> <p>At St. Thomas, students and staff must follow the guidelines above after receiving a positive COVID diagnosis.</p>	<p>IDPH-Illness chart</p> <p>IDPH</p> <p>CDC-Sick at School</p>
STAYING HOME WHEN ILL	<p>Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.</p> <p>St. Thomas asks all parents to stay diligent in keeping students home when ill. School staff will also be asked to stay home with any sign of infectious illness.</p>	<p>CDC-Q&I</p>
MONITORING	<p>The CDC states localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies.</p> <p>St. Thomas will continue to work with the Hamilton County Health Department and review guidance from the IDPH, CDC, DE, and Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Schools.</p>	<p>CDC</p> <p>CDC COVID Data Tracker</p>

<p>VIRTUAL LEARNING</p>	<p>St. Thomas will offer a long-term learning option for a student with a specific health concern (ie: underlying health condition, etc.). Those interested need to contact the school office at 515.832.1346 or tschleisman@stswc.com for more information.</p> <p>St. Thomas will offer a short-term learning option for students needing to isolate or quarantine. When an illness or desire to quarantine is reported to school, the school office will provide information about short-term virtual learning.</p>	
<p>TRANSPORTATION</p>	<p>All students on any form of school transportation are required by federal law to wear face coverings.</p> <p>Students are not required to wear face coverings in private vehicles, even when transporting for school purposes.</p>	<p>IDPH</p> <p>USDE</p> <p>CDC-Transportation</p>