



St. Thomas the Apostle School
COVID Plan
2021-2022



Campus Guidance

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.

Masks

Masks or face coverings are required for all persons, ages 2 and older, while inside the campus.

On Tuesday, August 31, Pennsylvania's Acting Secretary of Health signed an Order requiring face coverings to be worn in all school entities, including school districts, brick and mortar and cyber charter schools, private and parochial schools, career and technical centers, intermediate units, and early learning and other childcare settings, effective Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

The Order applies to everyone indoors at K-12 schools. The order also applies to early learning programs and childcare providers for children ages 2 and older, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

<https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/education-details.aspx?newsid=1188>

COVID-19 Positive Cases

If a child tests positive, it is the responsibility of the parents to notify the principal or DRE (for prep students). They will conduct contact tracing and notify the parents of the students that have had "close contact," the parents for the effected class, as well as the school community. Information provided will include the homeroom only. No personal information will be disseminated.

The principal, in conjunction with the nurse's office, will determine the quarantine period based on county health and CDC recommendations. A student that tests positive will need to remain quarantined and will be allowed to return once the following have been met:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND
- 24 hours have passed without fever, without fever-reducing medication, AND
- Your other symptoms have improved.

Students without symptoms, but that have tested positive will need to remain quarantined (not return to school) until:

- At least 10 days have passed since the date of your first positive diagnostic test and you continue to have no symptoms since the test.

Day "0" is when an asymptomatic individual tests positive or when a symptomatic individual that tests positive began having symptoms. Guidance for the return date will be provided by the nurse's office. A COVID-19 test will not be required to return to school.

*Be cautious if retesting for COVID-19. Your test results can remain positive for a couple of months, even though you are no longer able to spread the virus.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/student-becomes-sick-diagnosis-flowchart.html>

<https://www.montcopa.org/3562/School-Guidance>

https://www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/62272/COVID-19-School-Guidance-05-06-2021_Final?bidId=

All test results will be placed in a CONFIDENTIAL FILE.

In the event of a COVID case in a homeroom / classroom, a decision will be made to quarantine the class by the principal, after consulting with the appropriate health providers / officials. The classroom will return to in person instruction when the appropriate quarantine is completed.

COVID-19 Exposure & Quarantining

If it is determined that a student or staff member has been exposed to COVID-19, the individual(s) will be required to quarantine. The principal, in conjunction with the nurse's office, will determine the quarantine period based on county health and CDC recommendations.

- For those that do NOT live with the COVID-19 positive person, they will quarantine 10 days from after the exposure. The day of exposure is considered Day 0.
- For those that DO live with the COVID-19 positive person AND cannot *live separately* from the individual they will begin their 10-day quarantine only AFTER the COVID-19 individual is released from their quarantine.
 - *Living separate from your housemate means no contact, no time together in the same room, and no sharing of any spaces such as a bathroom or bedroom.*
- If during your quarantine you test positive you will then need to quarantine based on recommendations for quarantining for COVID-19 positive cases (pg 2-3) and contact the nurse's office.

- Individuals that are fully vaccinated and have been exposed to someone who is COVID-19 positive, will NOT be required to quarantine, unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people need to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if they don't have symptoms. These individuals will also need to wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative. They should quarantine for 10 days if their test result is positive. (pg 2-3)
 - If a fully vaccinated individual is not willing to test 3-5 days after their exposure, they must quarantine for the full 10 days.
- People who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months do not need to quarantine.

It is encouraged that anyone who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual obtain a COVID test. **Testing is recommended no earlier than 5 days from the date of exposure.**

**If you do not have COVID-19 symptoms but are getting tested, because you've been exposed to someone who tested positive, you'll get a more accurate result if you get a PCR test instead of a rapid antigen test.*

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/CDCGuidanceInformation/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/PA%20Ending%20Isolation-Quarantine.pdf>

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/PA%20Ending%20Isolation-Quarantine.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

<https://www.hackensackmeridianhealth.org/HealthU/2020/12/03/exposed-to-covid-heres-when-to-get-tested/>

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing involves the identification and notification of close contacts, confirmed and probable, to COVID-19 positive individuals, in order to quarantine them during the contagious period. Contact tracing, when combined with quarantine strategies, is critical to help limit COVID-19 from spreading in schools, is used to break chains of transmission, and ultimately help prevent future surges of cases.

https://www.chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/62272/COVID-19-School-Guidance-05-06-2021_Final?bidId=

Close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet (*) for a total of 15 minutes or more, within 2 days (48 hrs) prior to illness onset, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask.

*** Exception:** In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) ***if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.***

Each teacher will submit weekly seating charts to the principal or Director of Religious Education. These will be used to assist in conducting contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID case.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/student-becomes-sick-diagnosis-flowchart.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

COVID-19 Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

1. Fever or chills
2. Cough
3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
4. Fatigue
5. Muscle or body aches
6. Headache
7. New loss of taste or smell
8. Sore throat
9. Congestion or runny nose
10. Nausea or vomiting
11. Diarrhea

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 in children include fever or chills, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, stomachache, tiredness, headache, muscle or body aches, and poor appetite or poor feeding

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/student-becomes-sick-diagnosis-flowchart.html>

What to do if a student is sick

- Please stay home! The CDC has identified several signs/symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19. Please familiarize yourself with these signs/symptoms. If a student is exhibiting any of these signs/symptoms they must not come to school.
- If a student starts to feel sick in school, they must tell their teacher. It is important that students are honest with their teachers and let them know if something doesn't feel right.
- If a student is sick or is sent home sick from school, there are procedures that the student's parent/guardian must follow before the student may return to school.
- If a student presents to the nurse's office with 2 or more of the above symptoms, the student will be sent home and considered a potential COVID-19 case.
 - These students will NOT be permitted to return to school until they are 24 hours symptom free (without medications) and have proof of a negative COVID test. At home COVID-19 tests will not be accepted.

Virtual Learning

St. Thomas the Apostle School will not be offering Virtual Education. Students who are not able to attend school for COVID related reasons will be responsible for making up any missed schoolwork when they are able to return to school. In the event of an extended sickness, the principal and the teachers will determine a way for schoolwork to be completed at home

In the event of inclement weather, or other school emergency, the school will operate a virtual asynchronous format. The teachers will utilize Google Classroom as the vehicle for virtual instruction. Teachers will post assignments in the Google Classroom.

In the event that a classroom has to quarantine, every effort will be made to provide instruction through a virtual synchronous format.

Cleaning Policy

Our school will be cleaned and sanitized nightly. In the event of COVID outbreak, the classrooms affected will be cleaned thoroughly.

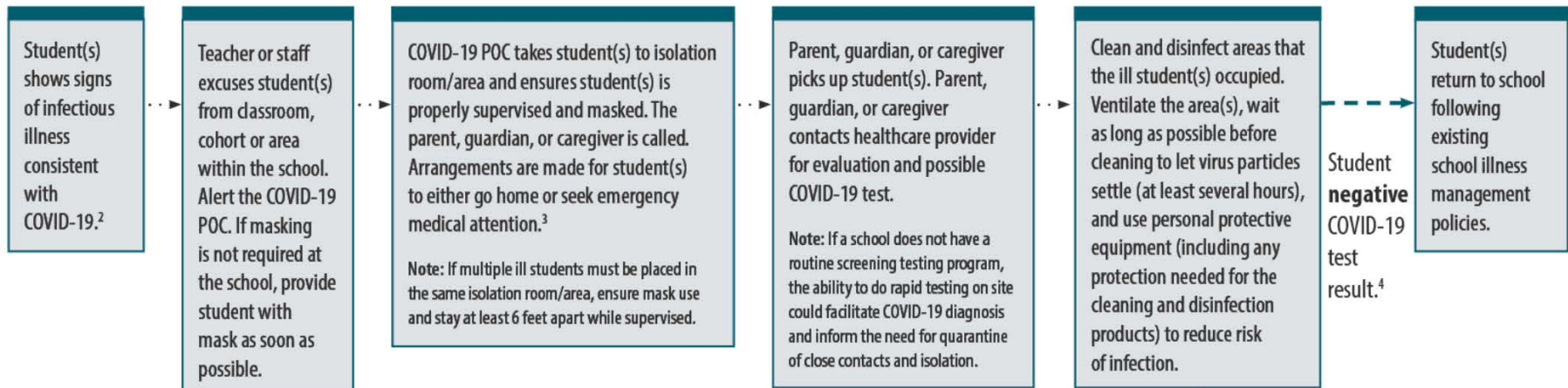
Cafeteria and Hallways

The students will be eating in their classrooms. The STA COVID committee will make this determination when lunch will be moved to the Old Gym. We will be using data and guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and local guidance from our government officials. The tables will be cleaned after each use and again daily.

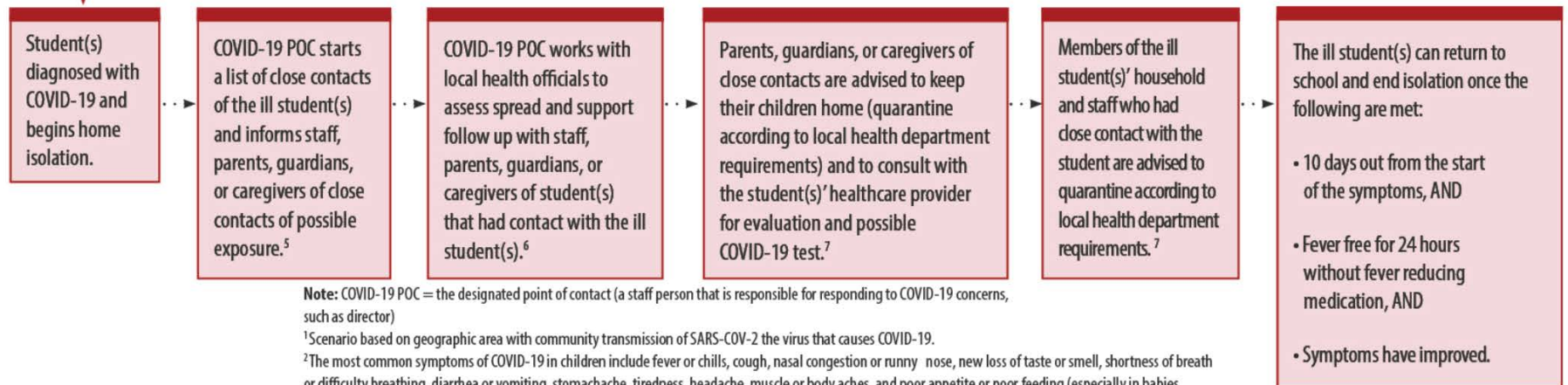
COVID WAIVER

On the first day of school each student will receive a COVID Waiver. Please sign and return the waiver to school. Please fill out one form per family.

WHAT TO DO IF A STUDENT BECOMES SICK OR REPORTS A NEW COVID-19 DIAGNOSIS AT SCHOOL¹



Student **positive** COVID-19 test result.



Note: COVID-19 POC = the designated point of contact (a staff person that is responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns, such as director)

¹Scenario based on geographic area with community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 the virus that causes COVID-19.

²The most common symptoms of COVID-19 in children include fever or chills, cough, nasal congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, stomachache, tiredness, headache, muscle or body aches, and poor appetite or poor feeding (especially in babies under 1 year old).

³Schools that do not have a universal mask requirement could require masking by students, teachers, and staff if they are experiencing onset of upper respiratory infection symptoms at school while waiting to be picked up or leave the school.

⁴With no known close contact.

⁵Close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more within 2 days prior to illness onset, regardless of whether the contact was wearing a mask. See exception in the definition for the exclusion of students in the K-12 indoor classroom: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

⁶To the extent allowable by applicable laws regarding privacy.

⁷CDC guidance provides that people who are fully vaccinated and do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine, but should get tested after an exposure to someone with COVID-19.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)