RETURN TO SCHOOL - 2021 - 2022

The Health and Prevention Guidelines due to COVID-19 for the 2021-2022 school year are subject to change at any time in response to changing local data, mandates, and/or guidance from the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio Department of Health and/or the Warren County Combined Health Department.

Consistent preventative measures will once again be in place in the building to help limit the spread of COVID-19. The ODH strongly recommends vaccinations for staff and eligible students to prevent the spread of the virus.

All students and staff are encouraged to stay home if they are ill or having symptoms of COVID-19.

MASKS
In the COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio Schools from the Ohio Department of Health it states, “Masks have been proven to be extremely effective in slowing the spread of the virus. Ohio researchers conducted an evaluation last year that showed that masking helped control the spread of the virus in Ohio schools. ODH strongly recommends that those who are unvaccinated and vaccinated wear masks while in school.”

With that being said, St. Margaret of York, masks are required for all students and staff and visitors at St. Margaret of York while indoors. We will also be socially distancing within the classrooms as our desks are at least 3 feet apart.

It is important to take into consideration the current guidelines regarding exposure to COVID-19 from the Warren County Combined Health Department/CDC. The guidelines for quarantine/exposure are defined as students exposed to Covid-19 will need to quarantine for 10 days. Please see attached Warren County Health District quarantine guidelines for further details. https://warrenchd.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/WCHDCovid19QuarantineGuidance.pdf

Masks are mandated on all buses for transportation.
**SYMPTOMS**
If students show 2 or more symptoms of COVID-19, they will need a doctor’s note or will need to be tested for COVID-19.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Look for emergency warning signs for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone

Call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

**If a student or family member is being tested for COVID-19, all other family members and siblings must quarantine while results are pending and should not return to school or work.**

**LUNCH**
We will once again use two lunch room spaces for students utilizing the MPR and Fr. Brooks Hall.

**SCHOOL MASS**
Students will return to school Mass in a staggered manner.

**VOLUNTEERS AND GUESTS**
All volunteers and guests on campus must wear masks. (They must also be trained through Safe Parish which has taken the place of Virtus training.)

We will once again utilize the drop off bin outside school doors for forgotten items. We will utilize the cart outside the Multi-Purpose Room for pick-up of supplies for quarantined learners.
What Does an Exposure to Covid-19 Look Like?

According to the Warren County Health Department, “close contact” is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10-15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset of COVID-19. Other variables, such as wearing a mask and how the actual classroom is arranged and operated will impact individuals that are identified as close contacts and need to quarantine for 10 days.

Isolation is the process in which people who are known to be ill with a dangerous, contagious disease are treated to prevent the disease from spreading.

Quarantine is the process in which people who have been exposed to an infectious disease, but are not yet known to be ill, are kept separate from others and monitored.

ILLNESS AND COVID-19

Please contact Cindy Hayden (513-697-3155) with specific questions as each scenario could be different.

Fever

If a child develops a fever, they must stay at home and be fever free for 24 hours in order to monitor for the development of other symptoms concerning for COVID-19. They may return to school sooner if they are seen by a medical provider and there is a written alternative explanation for the fever (e.g., ear infection, Strep throat, influenza) or if they have a negative COVID-19 test. In this case, typical return to school guidelines are applied.

Possible Exposures

If a child is in a classroom with another student who has tested positive for COVID-19, that may be considered a close-contact exposure. The Warren County Combined Health District will make close contact determinations. The recommendations for quarantine at home for 10 days will be determined by the Warren County Health District, during which time quarantine learning will take place.

No student, parent, faculty, or staff member should come to St. Margaret of York or any St. Margaret of York function if in the last 10 days they have had prolonged (more than 15 minutes) close contact (within 6 feet) with anyone, including a family member, diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19.

Siblings

If anyone in a household (child or adult) has tested positive for COVID-19, all students from that household must also quarantine at home for 10 days.

If a child develops a fever at school, any siblings must also go home until the child with a fever has been seen by a medical provider as described above or has a negative COVID-19 test.

If a child develops a fever at home, any sibling should not be sent to school until the child with fever is evaluated as described above.

Communication will be developed by the Warren County Health Department, not the school or district.
When a Student Presents with COVID-19 Symptoms at Home

When a student presents with symptoms at home, the parent or guardian is expected to take the following actions:

Notify the school that the student has symptoms that could potentially be from COVID-19. If the student is healthy enough, he/she is expected to access google classroom for assignments.

Contact your family physician for further recommendations.

St. Margaret of York requires a medical release from the physician OR a negative COVID-19 test result before returning to school.

Any student with a fever over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit should stay home from school.

Any student that has the following symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home from school and should see their primary care provider to be assessed for COVID-19.

Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing

OR

Two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, gastrointestinal issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea)

OR

Any of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing, fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, gastrointestinal issues (nausea and vomiting or diarrhea) AND an epidemiological link to a case of COVID-19

When a Student Presents with COVID-19 Symptoms at St. Margaret of York:

The parent/guardian will be notified and the student will be sent home.

The symptomatic student will be isolated until he/she can safely leave the building.

We strongly recommend contacting your family physician for further directions and notify the school that your child will be participating in remote learning if he/she is healthy enough.

St. Margaret of York requires a medical release from the physician OR a negative COVID-19 test result before returning to school.

In Case of Positive COVID-19 of Student, Faculty or Staff Member

St. Margaret of York does not intend to close when notified of a positive case in our student body or within our faculty/staff. Two notifications will be sent. First, a general notice will alert the entire community to a positive test. A subsequent notification will be addressed to those students and families that are determined to be within close contact.
A student (or faculty/staff member) who tests positive for COVID-19 will be expected to self isolate at home for 10 calendar days. The individual may return to school when a health care provider confirms that:

At least two days (24 hours) have passed since recovery (defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medication AND Improvement in respiratory symptoms AND At least 10 days have passed since COVID-19 symptoms first appeared

For the continuity in education, it is essential that your son/daughter participate in school virtually, as long as he/she is healthy enough to do so.

*If an individual tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms, he/she may return to school/work 10 days following the positive test.

**In Case of Positive COVID-19 in a Household Member**

If a student has a household member who has tested positive for the virus, he/she should follow the CDC guidelines: Stay home for 10 days, maintain physical distancing as much as possible from the infected person, and self monitor for symptoms. Notify the school that he/she will participate in quarantine learning if he/she is healthy enough to do so.

**Returning to School After Illness**

If a student is diagnosed as having COVID-19, they must meet the following criteria to return to school:

- 24 hours with no fever (without using fever reducing medication) AND
- Other symptoms improved AND
- 10 days since symptoms first appeared

Students that only have a fever and no other symptoms and have not had any contact with an individual that has COVID-19 may return to school after they are fever free for 24 hours without using any fever reducing medications and physician documentation.

Any other illnesses should be handled in a routine manner according to school policies.