



St. Mary's School

132 W. Butler | Manchester, Iowa | 52057 | 563.927.3689

November 11, 2020

Dear Families of Students of St. Mary's School,

Thank you for your collaboration, partnership, and support this year. We have been blessed to have our students and staff in our building for over a quarter of the school year. Although mitigation strategies and details outlined in our Return-to-Learn plan continue to be implemented daily, there has been a rise in the number of COVID-exposure cases at St. Mary's School. There is also an increase of cases in Delaware County, as the 14-day positivity rate is now 24.3%. Due to the increase in COVID-exposure cases, we are prepared for the possible move of a specific grade or the entire school to online remote continuous learning for a range of time (possibly two weeks or more). Of students expected for in-person learning, 4.37% are absent due to quarantine, being isolated with Covid symptoms, or having tested positive for Covid-19. Our staff has also been impacted and we continue to monitor staff illness and quarantine numbers.

We have implemented our school health and safety protocols in partnership with Delaware County Public Health. We will continue with our health and safety protocols and will follow cleaning and notification recommendations from Delaware County Public Health and CDC. It is important for all members of the school community to watch for [COVID-19 symptoms](#), including fever, cough, headache, loss of taste or smell, fatigue, and/or stomach issues. If you have any concerns, please contact your healthcare provider. If your child were to test positive for COVID-19, please let us know by calling Kelley Harbach at 563-927-3689 or 563-920-9705.

Although our current school data does not support moving to remote continuous learning at this time, we want families to be prepared for this possible change. If St. Mary's were to move to our remote continuous learning model, all teachers would still report to school and would teach in a digital format. Attendance would be required and students would attend school virtually. Attendance would be taken and illnesses and COVID-19 symptoms would still be reported to the school.

If a change was made, I would communicate this message to families as soon as possible. Please take time to make a family plan now in order to be prepared for this possibility. We continue to monitor our numbers multiple times a day and will take action as soon as it is necessary. Please know any decision to move to remote continuous learning will be made for the health and safety of our St. Mary's School community.

We are asking our families to please be diligent and follow health and safety protocols inside and outside of school. Please continue to pray for all those affected and an end to this virus. As always, please contact me at 563-927-3689 or via email at kharbach@st-marys.pvt.k12.ia.us.

Yours in Christ,

Kelley Harbach