

St. Nicholas' Covid Action Plan 2021-2022



What we've learned from 2020-2021

- St. Nicholas School was successfully able to reopen with parents, staff, and students being vigilant we did not experience spread on campus
- Enhanced cleaning methods implemented last year including implementation of electrostatic sprayers and sanitizing stations will remain
- We are counting on you to do your part this year to maintain an environment that allows students to enjoy being on campus as there is no substitute for in person learning
- Federal, state, and local regulations change quickly and our staff monitors these changes closely and pivots when necessary to make sure that we follow regulations thus allowing us to remain open
- St. Nicholas is unique in that our students, teachers, and staff are more like family and the health and safety of our St. Nicholas family is top priority when making decisions
- Knowing that some families feel strongly one way or the other, we want St. Nicholas to remain a judgment free zone, and we ask that everyone follows the rules on campus and treats all students and staff with respect. This includes maintaining the privacy of any staff or student who may test positive or be suspected of having Covid throughout the school year.

Exposure Risk in the 2021-2022 School Year

Current definition of exposure

CDC defines exposure as: “Being within 6 ft of someone who has COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more (unmasked) over a 24-hour period”

- Members of the staff and student body may be exposed to the virus both on and off campus
- While we will take precautions and ensure high standards for hygiene short of total isolation there will be inherent risk
- We encourage everyone to practice safety at home to reduce the risk of exposure
- Sanitizer is available at the entrance of the classrooms, and students are encouraged to use it as they walk into the classrooms

Student/Staff Expectations

- Only come to school or bring your child(ren) on campus if you and your children are feeling well
- Socially distance 6 feet apart from both students and staff whenever possible
- Face coverings are required when entering and exiting campus during drop off and pick up
- Parents please do not exit the car during drop off and pick up. Please have your child's backpack next to them in the car and not in the trunk
- Teachers and staff will remind students of importance of safe social distancing & proper mask wearing procedures
- Masks - all elementary and middle school students are required to wear masks with the exception of lunch, outdoor recess, and outdoor PE
- Masks- Students 2 years and older are expected to wear masks with the exception of outdoor recess, nutrition, lunch, naptime, and outdoor PE
- Covid testing - at this point we will not require weekly covid testing but any child exhibiting symptoms will need to be Covid tested and produce a negative test prior to returning to school
- Desk shields - we will not be requiring use of them this year - however if you'd like your child to use one they will be responsible for carrying them with them
- Cohorts - students will be able to play at recess with other students not necessarily in their class
- Daycare - we will offer before school and after school daycare with no advance reservations

Notifications

Positive Case on Campus

The entire student body will be informed of a positive Covid case on campus. That letter will be generic and more to make you aware.

- For example if your child is in fourth grade and a first grader tested positive you will receive a generic letter to make you aware of a positive case on campus.
- There is no action required when you receive this letter. You do not need to quarantine/isolate based on this letter it is simply to inform you.
- This letter will not indicate the class affected, and we ask that you please be respectful of the person/family's privacy.

Positive Case in Your Child's Classroom

Students/teachers that had a class with the positive Covid student/teacher will be notified that your child possibly came in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid.

- For example if a first grade student tested positive all students in first grade will be notified
- Your child will be asked to quarantine
- We ask that you please be respectful of the person/family's privacy.

Student/Staff Exposure to Confirmed Positive Covid 19 Case off campus or in household

CDC defines exposure as: “Being within 6 ft of someone who has COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more (unmasked) over a 24-hour period”

- Please notify the office that your child was identified as someone coming into close contact with someone who tested positive for Covid-19.
- Not Vaccinated Students - Per Los Angeles County Department of Public Health “exposed students can end their quarantine early and go back to school after 7 days instead of waiting until after 10 days, if the student takes a PCR (mouth or nasal swab) test after day 5 (on Day 6 or later), the test is negative, and the student has not developed any symptoms of COVID-19. If your child does not get tested on day 6 or later, they will need to quarantine for the full 10 days.”
- Vaccinated Students - (A person is fully vaccinated two weeks after their second shot of Pfizer Covid vaccine) If a vaccinated student is asymptomatic they will be allowed to remain on campus and monitor for symptoms for 14 days
- Since only a student was exposed the class will remain on campus and the student quarantining will work independently

Student/Staff Exposure to Confirmed Positive Covid 19 Case on Campus

CDC defines exposure as: “Being within 6 ft of someone who has COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more (unmasked) over a 24-hour period”

- Using contact tracing the entire class will be informed of a positive case
- Not Vaccinated Students - Per Los Angeles County Department of Public Health “exposed students can end their quarantine early and go back to school after 7 days instead of waiting until after 10 days, if the student takes a PCR (mouth or nasal swab) test after day 5 (on Day 6 or later), the test is negative, and the student has not developed any symptoms of COVID-19. If your child does not get tested on day 6 or later, they will need to quarantine for the full 10 days.”
- Vaccinated Students - (A person is fully vaccinated two weeks after their second shot of Pfizer Covid vaccine) If a vaccinated student is asymptomatic they will be allowed to remain on campus and monitor for symptoms for 14 days

Student/Staff Tested Positive for Covid 19 (and was on campus after exhibiting symptoms)

A person is considered to have COVID-19, if you have a positive diagnostic viral (swab or saliva) test for COVID-19

- Please notify the office that your child has tested positive for Covid-19.
- The office will notify the rest of the students in your child's class that there has been a positive case.
- Your child will quarantine for 10 days.
- Students/Staff may not return to school until they no longer exhibit symptoms and are able to have a doctor's note indicating that they may return to school after COVID.

What to expect this year

Toddler, Preschool, & Pre-Kindergarten Students

(Subject to change as the county's rules change)

- Our goal is to continue to provide a safe environment for our students and teachers.
- Health and Safety Stations will be set up outside of the classrooms. Three Year Old and Pre-Kindergarten Classes will use the main gate and check-in their child at the station in the breezeway between the church office and restrooms. Toddler and Two Year Old Classes will use the lower gate and check-in their child at the station between the sand and bike area.
- Keep your children home if they are sick. Parents are expected to notify the office of any contagious disease.
- Teachers/Staff will make visual inspections of the children for signs of illness and will be taking temperatures. If a child has a temperature of 100.4 (taken with a non contact forehead thermometer) or higher or appears sick, they will not be allowed to stay at school. Parents will be expected to take their child home and monitor them for symptoms. Children will not be allowed to return until they are fever free (without fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours.
- Parents will not be allowed in the classrooms. Parents are encouraged to wear a mask when signing-in and signing-out their children at the Health and Safety Stations. Staff will be taking the children to and from their classrooms.
- Masks- Students 2 years and older are expected to wear masks with the exception of outdoor recess, nutrition, lunch, naptime, and outdoor PE
- Teachers will have students wash their hands and use hand sanitizer prior to entering and exiting the classrooms, as well as throughout the day.
- Social distancing will be observed, as feasible.
- Throughout the day, surfaces will be routinely cleaned, disinfected and sanitized.
- Birthday Celebrations- Students may bring in store bought nut free treats to share with their class.

What to expect this year Elementary Students

(Subject to change as the county's rules change)

- Parents are to remain in their cars for drop off and pick up. Parents will not be able to visit classrooms at this time. Please make sure your child's backpack is not in the trunk
- Students will be required to wear a **clean** face covering when entering or exiting campus
- Students will be required to wear masks in the classroom and will not be required to wear masks during lunch or during outdoor recess and PE
- Students will go into the gym for morning assembly
- Birthday Celebrations- Students may bring in store bought individually wrapped nut free treats to share with their class
- Teachers will have students use sanitizer prior to entering and exiting classrooms
- No hugging, high fives, fist bumps etc.
- Students will no longer be restricted to playing in cohorts at recess, and can play with students in other grades

What to expect this year Middle School Students

(Subject to change as the county's rules change)

- Parents are to remain in their cars for drop off and pick up. Parents will not be able to visit classrooms at this time
- Students will be required to wear a **clean** face covering when entering or exiting campus
- Students will be required to wear masks in the classroom and will not be required to wear masks during lunch or during outdoor recess and PE
- Birthday Celebrations- Students may bring in store bought individually wrapped nut free treats to share with their class
- Teachers will have students use sanitizer prior to entering and exiting classrooms
- No hugging, high fives, fist bumps etc.
- Students will no longer be restricted to playing in cohorts at recess, and can play with students in other grades
- Students will use the locker room to change into PE uniforms

Frequently Asked Questions

Field Trips - Hopefully we will be able to go on field trips depending on the regulations on venues etc.

Vaccines - Currently this is a personal choice for families and we will not be requiring children to receive a vaccine to attend school.

Temperature Checks - We will continue temperature checks in our preschool, pre-kindergarten and toddler rooms as our youngest students may not verbalize that they aren't feeling well. Elementary and Middle School students will no longer have temperature checks as a fever is only one symptom and many people with Covid do not have a fever while they are ill.

Absences - Students will not be penalized for missing school while they are under order to quarantine. If children are not sick they will still be expected to submit their classwork and homework ontime electronically so they do not fall behind. There will be no "perfect attendance" award this year.

Conclusion

In compiling this action plan we relied on the expertise of doctors within the community and a collaboration of school administrators. Restrictions change frequently and we will remain fluid and keep you informed. Please reach out to the office directly, to get answers to your questions with regards to Covid and we will provide you with any information that we know. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate through the unprecedented challenges that Covid has placed on us. Rest assured the health and safety of our students, teachers, staff, and St. Nicholas Family is of utmost importance and we will continue to make modifications as necessary.