

# School Reopening Plan



**2021-2022**

## Introduction

The global Coronavirus pandemic continues to pose a risk for in-person instruction and in-person gatherings. Schools are designed to educate students through social, face-to-face interactions, in relatively close spaces and in large groups. The benefits of this approach to education are well accepted. We know that everyone is longing for normalcy in our lives. We also know that student and staff safety are our number one priority, followed closely by religious and academic instruction. St. Stanislaus staff members have been working closely with local health officials, local school districts, and the Diocese of Jefferson City to develop a reopening plan that meets the needs of our school community.

As we plan for a school year that will continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we must be prepared to the best of our ability for all possible scenarios. Student safety will be our highest priority. As a staff, we will be prepared to continue to deliver instruction remotely and as seamlessly as possible if the need arises. We have a much better understanding and far more experience than many others in the state of Missouri, as we remained having in-seat learning all last year with few interruptions.

As we continue to navigate COVID-19 coronavirus and the impact it has on our school, we have never lost sight or focus on the impact it has also had on our staff, students, and community. We know that each individual has been impacted in different ways and that everyone has differing views on how we should return and what that should look like. As a Catholic community we are called to model respect for differing viewpoints.

## General Guidelines

St. Stanislaus School will utilize the advice from the Cole County Health Department, CDC, local school districts, and the Diocese of Jefferson City to aid in decision making throughout the school year to continue to keep St. Stanislaus students and staff safe. Changes will be made based on the level of spread within the school community. Levels of spread are defined as the following:

**GREEN** levels of risk occur when there are isolated cases within the school community; minimal exposure to others in the school community. GREEN levels indicate a need for preventive practices and additional proactive processes/protocols.

**YELLOW** levels of risk occur when there is sustained transmission within the school community; potential for rapid increase in positive cases. YELLOW levels require mitigation strategies and social distancing. YELLOW levels indicate a need for additional practices/protocols.

**RED** levels of risk indicate large uncontrolled transmission within the school community. RED levels require intensive mitigation strategies, isolated closure of areas of the school, staggered days of attendance or short- or long-term transition to distance learning.

## Protocols Based on Level of School Community Spread

<b>RED</b> Substantial Spread	<b>YELLOW</b> Moderate Spread	<b>GREEN</b> Low Spread
<b>Masks/PPE</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masks are required for all students/staff regardless of vaccination status when social distancing not feasible (ie: passing periods)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masks are encouraged for all students/staff regardless of vaccination status when social distancing not feasible (ie: passing periods)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masks are encouraged by all but not required; individuals choosing to wear a mask or PPE may do so</li> <li><b>Masks will be required</b></li> </ul>

		when working in small groups.
<b>Close Contact Tracing</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close contacts will be identified and required to quarantine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close contacts will be identified and required to quarantine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents will be notified of potential exposure; quarantine of close contacts honored but not required</li> </ul>
<b>Lunch</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classrooms or outdoor dining areas will be utilized as additional lunch space to ensure social distancing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students may transition to grab-and-go lunches and the classrooms or outdoor dining areas may be utilized as an additional lunch space</li> </ul>	
<b>General Operations</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stagger entry and dismissal of students</li> <li>Sharing of school supplies may be limited/restricted</li> <li>Non-essential visitors may be restricted</li> <li>Birthday/celebratory treats will be restricted</li> <li>Outside groups will be limited to indoor use of facilities</li> <li>Eliminate field, assemblies, large gatherings, where social distancing cannot be provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staggering the use of common spaces, including the cafeteria</li> <li>Birthday/celebratory treats may be restricted</li> <li>Limit non-essential visitors</li> <li>Limit field trips</li> <li>Outside groups may be limited to indoor use of facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visitors may be limited to those providing educational services, pre-approved by building administrators</li> <li>Birthday/celebratory treats should be individually packaged</li> </ul>
<b>Specials Classes</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specials teachers will provide instruction in homeroom classrooms</li> <li>Music class will replace performance type activities with alternative lessons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music class may limit the performance type activities</li> </ul>	
<b>After School Activities, Extra-Curricular Activities, Athletics, Clubs</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After school activities may be suspended</li> <li>Extra-curricular activities will generally be discontinued except in those cases where firm social distancing and health precautions can be assured; Spectator attendance will</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program will be evaluated to determine if appropriate to continue with mitigation or social distancing practices; Spectator attendance may be limited</li> </ul>	

be limited

## Definitions

There are a few definitions that will be defined in order for you to understand our protocol. They are as follows and come from the Cole County Health Department.

### Fully vaccinated

A person is considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their final dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

### Isolate

A positive case should stay home from school and distance away from others for 10 days from when symptoms first began, symptoms have improved, AND fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

### Quarantine

A person identified as a close contact can remain in school if:

- Fully vaccinated (proof of documentation MUST be provided)
- Proof of positive antibody test - Unvaccinated persons who have tested antibody positive within 3 months before or immediately following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and who have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure do not need to quarantine, provided there is limited or no contact with persons at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness, including older adults and persons with certain medical conditions.
- Recovered from COVID-19 with a PCR/Antigen positive in the last 90 days

A person identified as a close contact should remain home after date of last close contact for:

- 14 days
- 10 days (grades 1-8). The close contact may return to school/activities on day 11 if they meet the below guidelines.
- 7 days. The close contact may return to school/activities on day 8 if they meet the below guidelines AND have a negative **PCR** test after day 5.

Guidelines to be followed through 14 days after close contact if returning to school are as follows:

- No symptoms noted.
- Continue to monitor for symptoms daily.
- Wear a mask.
- Social distance.

If any symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate.

## Prevention Strategies

### Staff and Student Screening Measures

Students and staff who have symptoms of COVID 19, will be asked to stay home and report the absence to the school office or supervisor. Symptom screening should be done by parents/guardians/staff at home, prior to

coming to school. If the child or staff member has any signs/symptoms of illness, they need to stay home. Symptoms to be monitoring for include the following:

- a fever (100.4 or higher) or a sense of having a fever (you don't feel well, chills)
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- cough
- sore throat
- nasal congestion or a runny nose
- headache
- fatigue
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- new loss of smell or taste
- new muscle aches
- lack of appetite
- rash

If you have been diagnosed or presumptively diagnosed with COVID-19, you must stay home. If you are fully vaccinated and a family member is being tested, you may stay in school and follow the quarantine guidelines mentioned above. If you are unvaccinated and a family member is being tested for COVID-19, the student/staff member is not allowed to come back to school until the test results are back and negative.

Most medical professionals define a fever as a body core temperature elevation above 100.4 degrees. A temperature should be measured BEFORE giving medications to reduce the fever. Students will be sent home with a temperature of 100.4 or greater and may not return to school for 24 hours without the use of a fever reducing medication. The student may return to school sooner if accompanied by a doctor's note with a diagnosis not related to a respiratory illness, influenza, or COVID-19. Examples of these would include a sinus infection, strep throat, ear infection, etc. With these circumstances, however, the student must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. Fever reducing medications include Tylenol, Acetaminophen, Motrin, Ibuprofen, etc.

- Students who are identified to have symptoms of COVID 19 may be instructed to wear an appropriate mask, use hand sanitizer, and go to a designated area to be picked up by parents and sent home.

### **Custodial**

The school will clean frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, water bottle filling stations, doorknobs, bathrooms, handrails, etc.) with cleaning and disinfectant products. Computer safe disinfectant methods will be used for computers and keyboards.

We will continue to follow the Department of Health recommendations regarding sanitation, social distancing, changing structures and systems to comply with guidelines, and best practices for the amount of individuals within buildings or spaces. As the guidelines change and adjust, so will our direction and communication. We will continue to adapt to our environment and provide the best support to our staff, students and families.

### **Masks**

It is encouraged that all individuals wear a mask, but it is not required. This is subject to change based on the level of spread within the school community.

If a parent/guardian wants their child to wear a mask throughout the day, the parent/guardian needs to communicate this via email to the school office and nurse. The school office or nurse will then notify the child's teachers.

Masks will be required when working in small groups.

### **General Hygiene Practices**

Wash your hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds. 20 Seconds would equate to the following:

1. Singing "Happy Birthday" twice
2. Saying three Hail Mary's
3. Singing the chorus to "Let It Go" from Frozen

While the school will have additional hand sanitizer, there will be an expectation of students following these healthy practices:

Clean your hands (consider regular "hand washing" breaks).

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; or use the inside of your elbow, not your hands. Immediately throw away used tissues.

Clean your hands (wash them or use hand sanitizer) after coughing, sneezing, eating/handling food, or touching things in "common" areas in your building (kitchen, mailroom, copier, lobby, etc.).

Hand sanitizer will be provided in every classroom.

### **Morning Drop Off**

Students coming before 7:20 a.m. will meet in the gym and sit in a single file row with their grade level. Social distancing will be followed as much as possible. Students will be dismissed to go to their classrooms at 7:20. If your child is arriving after 7:20, they need to go straight to their classrooms. Drop off will be at the double doors just outside of the cafeteria, like the 2020-2021 school year. If you are dropping off after 7:40, you will need to drop your child/children off at the main office, as those doors will be locked.

### **After School Pick Up**

Students will stay with their grade for pick up line and may go to their parents car after they have arrived and are safe to do so. Pick up procedures will be the same as the 2020-2021 school year as far as location. The third car line for pick up will be utilized again this year.

### **In the Classroom**

In all classrooms, students will maintain a stable group (grade level) as much as possible.

The school will continue to monitor the health department and CDC recommendations regarding social distancing. The current recommendation for schools by the CDC is for students to adhere a 3-foot perimeter. All classrooms that allow 3 foot spacing between students will follow this recommendation.

Classrooms will include assigned seating and other measures to minimize contact. Seating chart changes will not occur during the week as to limit possible close contacts. Changes can only be made on a Monday morning unless there is a special circumstance that has been discussed.

Sanitation of surfaces will be done at least daily, depending on school community spread. In the event a student is sent home ill, more thorough cleaning will be done of the classroom.

### **Water Fountains**

Students will be required to bring filled water bottles, labeled with the student's name, each day. Fountains will not be available for drinking but for filling water bottles. If your child forgets their bottle, you may bring it to the office or they will be provided a plastic cup.

### **Lunch**

Assigned seating will be utilized during lunch in the cafeteria. The seating charts will be the same as within the classroom to limit possible close contacts. Students will space out during lunch. Some changes to the food service program may take place until restrictions/guidelines from the health department change such as: no open self-serve containers, possible use of disposable utensils, and no sharing of food among students, at any grade level. We will not use junior high lunch servers this year.

### **Recess**

Recess will be held outside as much as possible. During low school community spread, grades will be allowed to intermingle if recess is held outside. If recess has to be held indoors, there will be no intermingling of grades.

### **Specials Classes**

PreK-8 students will have access to specials classes with the following guidelines:

- Social distancing will be managed as much as possible.
- Seating charts will be utilized and the same as in the classroom to limit possible close contacts.
- Hand sanitizing before and after class will be expected.
- Surfaces/equipment will be disinfected on a regular basis.
  
- **P.E**
  - When possible, PE will be held outside. Students will attend P.E. in the gymnasium if they cannot go outside.
- **Art**
  - All students will attend art in the art room.
- **Music**
  - All will attend music in the music room.
- **Technology**
  - All students will have access to the computer lab. All equipment will be regularly disinfected.

### **Visitors**

Large gatherings may be limited depending on the level of COVID spread within our school community. The level of spread will be monitored daily.

In order to limit exposure to our students and staff, visitors may be limited. This will be re-evaluated based on current health conditions/recommendations throughout the school year.

### **Transporting Students**

It is recommended that all students wear a mask when being transported on a bus. Masks will be provided on buses for those students that wish to wear them.

### **Field Trips**

Field trips will be allowed if there is low school community spread. Recommendations from the Cole County Health Department will be acquired. Guidelines for the location of the field trip will be followed. For example, if the location requires wearing of masks that we are going to, masks will be worn.

### **Holiday Parties**

Parents will be allowed in as long as there is low school community spread.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

In addition to following any applicable directives from the Central Missouri Parochial Athletic League (CMPAL) for sports, and other school extracurricular programs will follow these guidelines: continue with preventive and proactive practices, spectator attendance may be limited, or the possible discontinuation of extracurricular activities.

### **Mass**

Students will sit in their assigned classroom seat order during mass as to limit possible close contacts. Social distancing will be followed as much as possible. Mass will be held on Wednesday for grades 4-8, Thursday for grades PreK-3, and Friday for all grades.

### **After Care**

After Care will provided utilizing stable groupings, social distancing, and other layers of protection to the highest extent possible. During high levels of risk, the After Care Program may be suspended, even if the school remains in session. This decision will be based on the current level of risk, guidance from relevant guidelines, and the feasibility of maintaining stricter distancing.

### **Health Room**

The Nurse will regularly keep a log of health room visits. The name of all persons seen with fever, cough, or other symptoms of COVID 19 will be recorded. Due to student privacy, these records are not public; however, information may be shared with the Cole County Health Department, as appropriate.

### **Suspected or Confirmed Case of COVID-19**

In the event of a suspected case of COVID-19, the following protocols will be followed:

SCENARIO

- An employee or student who does not feel well and visits the school office staff.
- If the symptoms are similar to those associated with COVID-19 infection, the school office staff will contact the student's parents and they will be sent home.
- The employee or student will be separated from others.

#### EMPLOYEE

- The employee will contact their primary healthcare provider and see if the provider recommends testing for COVID-19.
- If the employee tests positive for COVID, the provider that ordered the test will call the employee with the positive result.
- The Health Department will also contact the employee and conduct a risk assessment (contact tracing). If the employee resides in a county other than Cole, then that county's Health Department will contact the employee.
- The Health Department, school nurse, and /or principal will ask the employee about all close contacts the employee had from the 48 hours prior to symptoms up to and including the day the employee began isolation measures.
- They will direct the individual and any other person at possible risk of being infected with what to do.

#### STUDENT

The school office staff will contact the parent. When the parent arrives, the school office staff will encourage the parent to contact their child's health care provider.

- The school office staff will also notify the principal.
- The healthcare provider will arrange for the student to be tested, if needed. If the student tests positive for COVID, the healthcare provider will contact the parent.
- The Health Department, school nurse, and /or principal will then contact the parent and conduct a risk assessment (contact tracing).
- The parent will be asked about any close contacts the student may have had from the 48 hours prior to symptoms up to and including the day the student began isolation measures.
- They will direct the parent on what the student and any other person at possible risk of being infected should do.

#### EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT ORDERED TO SELF-ISOLATE

- If an employee has been told to self-isolate, they will contact the principal and the school nurse.
- If a student has been told to self-isolate, the family will call the school and follow the guidelines for family members according to local health officials.
- The principal will contact the pastor and the Diocesan Superintendent.
- The principal along with the Diocesan School Office will consider initiating the following Positive COVID-19 Protocols:
  - The school nurse and/or principal will contact the Health Department for additional guidance.
  - Official communication to families and/or media will come from the school principal or the Diocesan Office of Communications.

- The building principal will follow up with the staff member or family of the student.
- If a student or staff member is being tested for COVID-19, they must remain at home until results are confirmed. They may not return to school if the test is positive. Positive students or staff members should follow the definition within this article for “isolate”.
- If a person in the immediate household of a student or staff member is awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test; the student or staff member should stay home until the test results are confirmed, unless fully vaccinated and they are experiencing no symptoms.

When positive cases are identified within the school, the principal will follow communication protocols given by the Cole County Health Department and the Diocese of Jefferson City. Communication will be made on a need-to-know basis.

### **Pandemic Period/Response Activities (School Closed)**

The decision to close the school building may be made as a means to prevent further spread, or in response to high student and/or staff absenteeism. The principal in consultation with the pastor, diocesan school office, and local health authorities will make school closure decisions. Current CDC recommendations will help guide closure decisions.

Possible School Closure Trigger Points:

- Student absenteeism
  - When it is not prudent to keep the school open due to extremely high absenteeism of the student population due to illness.
- Teacher/Staff absenteeism
  - When the number of staff available to supervise and instruct students drops below what is necessary to maintain a safe learning environment.
- Confirmed case(s) of COVID-19.
- To protect the public health and safety
  - When advised to close by the Governor, state and local health authorities or the Bishop.

The decision to close on these triggers is the school’s decision in conjunction with guidance from the Cole County Health Department, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the CDC, and the Diocese of Jefferson City.

### **Close Contact Guidelines**

If there is low school community spread, close contacts will be identified and parents will receive a courtesy call stating their child has been identified as a close contact. It will be up to the parents whether or not they wish to keep their child home to quarantine or if they want to keep them in school. If the parents choose to keep their child in school, the student will continue to be monitored for symptoms daily. Parents will need to complete screening measures daily before sending their child to school. In the event that the child starts having symptoms, they will need to stay home and follow the quarantine guidelines.

If the school is having moderate or substantial school community spread, close contacts will be identified and parents will receive a call stating their child has been identified as a close contact and that they will need to come pick them up. Follow the quarantine guidelines listed above under the section “Definitions” to see when your child is able to return to school and under what circumstances. This will be discussed with the school nurse.

**As the school year progresses, we will continue to stay in close contact with the Cole County Health Department. If our plan for the 2021-2022 school year needs to change, we will communicate these changes to families as quickly as possible with revisions in a different color font. Again, all of these protocols are subject to change based on the level of transmission within the school community.**

Revisions made on 9/9/21 are in this color font and can be found on pages 2, 3, and 6.