

2021-2022 COVID-19 Policy

Sts. Joseph and John School, in alignment with current scientific evidence and guidance from CDC, strongly recommends vaccination for those students ages 12 and older. This recommendation is in addition to the consistent use of layered mitigation strategies to help limit the spread of COVID-19, to support in-person learning, and to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including children, students, teachers, staff, and members of their households. This recommendation is grounded in the knowledge that the benefits of being physically present in school are significant and creating conditions that help safeguard in-person instruction is a priority.

The wearing of facemasks is not required for the 2021-2022 school year except on school buses.

The following situations should be considered:

- SJJ highly encourages the use of facemasks for unvaccinated persons under the age of 12.
- If a localized outbreak of COVID-19 or a variant of COVID-19 occurs, the temporary use of facemasks may be employed as part of a multi-layered effort to end the outbreak.

Sts. Joseph and John School will maintain awareness of COVID-19 transmission levels in the local and school community when making determinations about the use of COVID-19 layered prevention strategies in the school.

Sts. Joseph and John School will have the following procedures/protocols in place:

1. Promoting vaccination for eligible students
2. Consistent and correct mask wearing for those choosing to mask
3. Physical Distancing and cohorts
4. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
5. Ventilation
6. Staying home when sick and getting tested
7. Cleaning and disinfecting
8. Sending sick students home
9. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine when necessary
10. Remote Learning options for students
11. Volunteers

Promoting vaccination for eligible students

People 12 years and older are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. SJJ promotes COVID-19 vaccination among teachers, staff, families, and eligible students.

Consistent and correct mask wearing for those choosing to mask

Universal indoor masking is strongly encouraged for all people in the school setting, including teachers, staff, students, and visitors regardless of vaccination status. Students and adults do not need to wear masks when outdoors. However, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission, SJJ recommends that people aged 2 years and older who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded indoor and outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated. Therefore, we are asking that all students, staff and visitors have a mask in their possession each day. We will continue to be flexible and will change protocols if necessary. There may be the possibility of a temporary mask implementation during the cold/flu season. We know that masks are effective at preventing many other illnesses including strep and flu as we saw by our attendance records last school year.

Physical Distancing and cohorts

SJJ will implement physical distancing to the extent possible indoors; however, because of the essential services we provide, students will not be excluded from in-person learning or care to maintain a minimum distance requirement. When it is not possible to maintain physical distance in these settings, SJJ will prioritize prevention strategies, such as indoor masking if needed and/or forming cohorts. To reduce transmission risk in the school setting, SJJ will try and maintain physical distance between students within classrooms whenever feasible. Physical distance will be maximized as much as possible when moving through the hallways, lunch lines and while eating. The use of additional spaces will be utilized if necessary to help facilitate distancing.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

Students, staff and all adults in the building will practice handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses, including COVID-19. SJJ will monitor and reinforce these behaviors and provide adequate handwashing supplies. SJJ will build routines of hand hygiene into the daily schedule for all students and staff, including handwashing and sanitation breaks during or between classroom activities. This includes teaching and reinforcing handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and the safe use of hand sanitizer.

Ventilation

Ventilation is an important factor in minimizing COVID-19 transmission indoors. SJJ continues to evaluate the operational capacity of ventilation systems and increase and maintain ventilation throughout the building. This will be done by opening multiple doors and windows if feasible, using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows and ensuring proper airflow throughout the building.

Staying home when sick and getting tested

Staying home when sick with symptoms of COVID-19 is essential to keep infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, out of the school. SJJ will continue to educate staff, students and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to school.

If you are waiting on a COVID-19 test for anyone in the family, please make sure your child(ren) stay home until the test results come back. If the test comes back negative, your child(ren) may come back to SJJ or if the test is positive, they will need to be quarantined. Please contact Mr. Akosi with the results of any test results.

Cleaning and disinfecting

The virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly spread by respiratory droplets. The virus can also be spread if you touch a surface contaminated with the virus and then touch your eyes, nose, or mouth, although this is not the primary way the virus spreads. In general, cleaning daily enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. Disinfecting removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection. A daily schedule will be established for routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces in classrooms and common spaces. Routine environmental cleaning will be scheduled when students and teachers are not occupying the space.

Sending sick student home

If a student or staff member becomes ill with COVID-19-like symptoms while in attendance, they should immediately be sent home, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status or prior history of disease. Symptomatic students or staff who are waiting to be picked up will be asked to put on a mask if not already wearing one and will be isolated in a designated space. Students will remain under the visual supervision of a staff member while in isolation on school property. Symptomatic persons will be isolated separately whenever possible; however, if it is not feasible to maintain separate spaces, physical distancing will be implemented to the extent possible in the shared space.

Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine when necessary

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should stay at home (isolation) until all of these items are true:

- They feel better
- Their cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms are better
- It has been at least 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive
- They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fever.
- They have received a negative COVID-19 test

Quarantine Guidelines (effective 1/4/2022)

If you test positive for COVID-19 (Isolate)

- Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:
 - Stay home for 5 days (Day 1 is day after test day)
 - If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you may return to school on day 6. If you still have symptoms, stay home.
 - Continue to wear a mask for 5 additional days

If you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)

- If you are fully vaccinated within the last 6 months (Pfizer or Moderna), 2 months (J&J), or boosted:
 - Wear a mask for 10 days
- If you were vaccinated over 6 months (Pfizer or Moderna), 2 months (J&J) ago or are unvaccinated:
 - Stay home for 5 days. (Return on day 6)
 - Wear a mask for an additional 5 days

If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home.

Remote Learning Option for Students

With the exception of a COVID quarantine or the whole school switching to remote learning, there will not be a remote learning option for the school year. SJJ will need to see a doctor's note on any students that need to quarantine. What SJJ teachers did in the 2020-2021 school year was remarkable but not sustainable.

Volunteers

It has been determined that volunteers will be allowed on campus and in the classroom when we return in the fall, providing they are willing to follow all mitigation and safety measures (regardless of vaccination status). All visitors and volunteers coming into the building are strongly encouraged to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

SJJ School is a safe, stimulating, and enriching place for students to learn. We can work together to help ensure students can safely return to and remain physically together in school this fall, where they need to be. SJJ administration will continue to monitor and share information as we receive it.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office.