



MITIGATING RISK

MASKS

Evidence continues to suggest that wearing masks greatly reduces the chances that a carrier will spread COVID-19 to others, offers some protection for an individual from becoming affected by others, and vastly reduces community spread if all members of a community are following mask-wearing guidelines. Given that our effectiveness to thrive and function as a community rests on our collective ability to remain healthy and prevent spread, we are requiring all community members to wear masks most of the time while on campus. *Exceptions* to this protocol for students include:

- When seated at a table in the dining hall for a meal
- On the floor where their room is located in the dorm
- Outdoors where they can socially distance
- Athletes will be asked to wear cloth covering during non-aerobic activities such as team meetings, during initial warm-ups, and when on the sidelines, as feasible

Students and faculty will be required to wear masks during class and throughout passing periods.

Because of the mask requirement, we are **asking each student to purchase 5-10 cloth masks**. Masks without air valves are most effective at preventing spread so we ask that you purchase masks without this feature. Each student will be given two masks upon arrival to campus. Canterbury cloth masks will also be available for purchase in the school store. Please remember that the pattern on masks should be respectful and appropriate.

While we understand that wearing a mask often may seem daunting, please remember that the purpose of this rule is to help keep our community safe and healthy. We are hopeful that as the year progresses we will be able to loosen some of the mask-wearing requirements.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Based on our current understanding of how COVID-19 is transmitted—through respiratory droplets by people in close proximity—physical distancing will be another important aspect of keeping the Canterbury community safe. Physical alterations have been made to classrooms so that students will be physically distanced during class. Community members will be asked to maintain a six-foot physical distance from other Saints as best as possible but especially when indoors or when a mask is not being worn.

Unfortunately, because of physical distancing, large assemblies such as School Meeting, meals, Mass, and all-school events will look different than they have in the past, at least at the beginning of the year. In some cases, alterations were made to areas where physical distancing is challenging, such as the dining hall and dormitory bathrooms. This also means that students will need to be mindful about meeting in large groups (defined as more than 5-6 people), especially while inside.

Additionally:

- Hallways and stairways will be marked to indicate traffic flow and reduce gatherings.
- The dining hall will be scheduled to maintain an appropriate seating capacity for distancing.
- Capacity limits will be posted for shared rooms such as bathrooms and conference rooms to limit the number of individuals in a confined area.

HAND WASHING

Community members will be asked to make an individual commitment to frequently and effectively washing their hands. As a reminder, please review the CDC guidelines regarding [hand washing](#). While we will remind you to wash your hands often, this is a step that each community member must take upon themselves to abide by.

CLEANING

Our staff has been working this summer to ensure adequate protocols are in place to allow for increased frequency of cleaning of high-touch areas such as doors and bathrooms throughout the day. All products being used are approved by the CDC for COVID-19. Additionally, cleaning products will be made available in every classroom to aid in the cleaning of desk surfaces between classes. We expect that students will be mindful of their own spaces in the dorm rooms and shared spaces such as common rooms, the dining hall, and the athletic center.

VENTILATION & FACILITIES

We are learning more about the importance of appropriate ventilation and preparation of spaces as a way to help mitigate risk to our community. To that end:

- HVAC and exhaust systems have been assessed and updated as indicated by guidelines.
- Extra furniture has been removed from common areas to encourage physical distancing.
- Classrooms have been set with desks situated a minimum of five feet apart.
- Partitions have been installed where physical distancing cannot be easily done (e.g., between dorm bathroom sinks, dining hall tables, and computer music lab stations).
- Additional hand sanitizer stations have been placed throughout campus.

MONITORING HEALTH ON CAMPUS

DAILY WELLNESS CHECKS

All members of the community will be asked to respond to a short electronic wellness check *each day*. The intent is to aid the Health Center team in being aware of the overall health of the campus community, the potential for risk to COVID-19 exposures, and the early identification of potential cases. Additionally, the daily health checks will encourage students to take ownership of their health and be mindful of how they feel on a given day.

TESTING/SCREENING

One of the best ways to help keep our community safe is to be able to identify any cases on campus as early as possible and to avoid community-based transmission. Data is showing that most cases in our students' age range are asymptomatic-to-mild, which means rigorous screening is necessary to identify potential cases. The State of Connecticut has provided guidelines for testing at residential schools, which were used as the basis for our four-point testing strategy:

1. **Pre-Arrival:** All students, faculty, and staff must have a negative COVID-19 PCR test within 7 to 10 days prior to campus arrival. You will upload these results to [Magnus](#). If the test result is positive, please notify Director of Health Services [Colleen Cook](#) and you must delay your arrival to campus at least 10 days if asymptomatic. A longer delay may be needed if a student starts to experience symptoms.
2. **Repopulation:** All students, faculty, and staff will be re-screened via COVID-PCR test within the first two weeks of classes. This will be coordinated through the campus Health Center.
3. **Surveillance:** As per state guidelines, we will conduct weekly testing of a random sample of students, faculty, and staff. The goal of this is that each member of the community will be tested at least one additional time throughout the semester.
4. **Symptomatic:** Many COVID-19 symptoms overlap with several other medical conditions, such as the common cold, allergies, and flu. To avoid quarantining students for several days while awaiting PCR test results, the School is in the process of obtaining an on-site antigen test. The Health Center will be able to perform a nasal-swab test on students presenting with COVID-like symptoms and obtain results in under 15 minutes.

As the situation across the state changes and we learn more, these above guidelines may change and we will update our practices accordingly. While we have secured a source for on-site testing, we continue to review the various testing platforms to determine the best solution for Canterbury. Among the remaining variables are cost of testing and insurance coverage availability.

CONTAINING THE VIRUS ON CAMPUS

CONTACT TRACING

In the event of a positive case in our community, the School will have *at least five* certified contact tracers (who have completed the Johns Hopkins University online COVID-19 contact tracing course) to assist with interviewing and communicating with at-risk individuals. We are asking all students, faculty, and staff to be honest and helpful as we track any possible sources of infection in the community. All students and parents/guardians will be notified directly by a contact tracing team member if the student is identified to be a direct contact and will be given further instructions regarding next steps and quarantine procedures.

ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

One of the best tools to prevent the spread of COVID-19 outside of mask use and social distancing is the use of isolation and quarantine in the event a case is identified. We will be employing these three practices throughout the school year as needed:

1. **Travel-Related Quarantine:** All international students and domestic students arriving from states listed on the [CT Travel Advisory List](#) are required to quarantine for 14 days. It is important that domestic families keep up to date on the advisory list as it may change. We are opening the dorms early to allow students to complete this quarantine on campus before the start of Orientation. Please communicate your plans with the Student Life Office by completing the [Arrival Survey](#).

PLEASE NOTE

Connecticut now requires domestic travelers to report their quarantine plans to the state via an [online portal](#). Failure to do so may result in a fine.

2. **Exposure Quarantine:** Quarantine is also used in the event an individual is identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. If your child is identified to be a close contact, you will be notified and your child will be asked to quarantine for 14 days. Off campus is the preferred location for quarantine. We will be able to accommodate a small number of students on campus in designated housing if space is available. During this time, students will be able to engage in classes through remote learning and will have the support of the Donovan Center for Learning.
3. **Isolation:** Isolation is for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. All students who test positive **MUST** be isolated off campus. We will have a short-term designated space for students until they can be picked up.

EMERGENCY CONTACT/GUARDIAN

Each family must establish an emergency departure plan in the event that your child tests positive for COVID-19 and requires isolation or if the School is required to shift to a fully remote learning model based on state or local conditions. Each family is required to provide an emergency contact/local guardian in the [Parent Information Questionnaire](#). For families who need help securing a local guardian, please reach out to Assistant Head of School for Student Life [Peter LaVigne](#) or Dean of Students [Jake Dellorco](#).

COMMUNICATION FOR A POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE

In the case of a positive COVID-19 test or diagnosis, the Health Center will notify the student's parents/guardians immediately. The Health Center will then begin contact-tracing procedures and, in turn, notify those students who have encountered a potential exposure. Ultimately, Canterbury will notify the entire school community and the local Department of Public Health.

RETURNING TO CAMPUS FOLLOWING QUARANTINE OR ISOLATION

We will follow [CDC guidelines](#) to determine when a student may be eligible to return to campus. Please contact the Health Center before returning to campus to confirm all criteria have been met.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

Per CDC guidelines, if there is a cluster of positive COVID-19 cases in the community, the School may elect to temporarily lock-down the campus for a period of days to facilitate contact tracing and sanitization of affected areas. In this situation, students would not be required to leave campus but would be required to shelter in place and participate in distance learning.

Alternatively, if directed by state or local health officials to close campus for an extended period, all students will need to leave campus within 48 hours and must be in the care of a parent, family member, or an emergency contact/guardian. This scenario would likely be initiated by increased community transmission in the local area or across the state. If this expectation proves to be impossible for some families, the School will work on a case-by-case basis to meet the needs of the child.

Students will be expected to take all of their belongings if campus is closed for an extended period. As mentioned in prior communications, *please pack lightly for the fall semester with that in mind.*

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

If the School must shut down and enact an immediate plan for closure, the School will communicate with families via email and text message. In our message, we will include locations, times, and protocols for picking up students. Please ensure that all parent/guardian contact information is current with the School at all times. Any campus closure will also be posted to the Canterbury website.

COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS

Our Health Center is committed to supporting our campus community throughout the year.

Preventing the spread of illness depends upon each member of our community remaining vigilant to the many and varied symptoms of COVID-19. Due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, and because symptoms of COVID-19 are not specific to this illness and have significant overlap with many other viruses, students with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 should not be in the classroom, dormitory, or other communal settings. At times, this may require being excluded from community contact for minor symptoms that could ultimately be caused by another respiratory virus or other cause altogether. Day students who have a fever or other symptoms should stay home, call the Health Center to report the absence, and call their primary care physician for guidance and clearance to return to campus.

COUNSELING & MENTAL HEALTH

We are committed to providing our students with mental health support as needed. Director of Counseling [Cynthia Willmen](#) will continue to oversee our robust counseling services. We offer both on-site and off-campus options for students. Many of the off-campus counselors with whom we have established relationships will also be offering telehealth services this year.

VULNERABLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

For students who have [CDC-specified underlying conditions](#) that place them at increased risk of serious illness, please contact Director of Health Services [Colleen Cook](#) so that we may discuss in advance any additional precautions or accommodations your student may need.

FACULTY & STAFF

Faculty and staff will be required to follow all re-entry guidelines expected of the broader Canterbury community, including the quiet period and negative COVID-19 PCR testing. They will also be required to follow all safety and health practices expected of our students. During the academic day, faculty will be required to wear masks and keep six feet of social distance, or as much as possible, between themselves and students. To facilitate classroom instruction, there may be some instances where faculty may remove their mask and use alternate PPE, such as a face shield or remain behind a clear barrier.

All faculty will participate in extended return-to-school training, which will prepare us for new procedures and protocols as we reopen school in person. As part of Orientation and continuing throughout the year, faculty and staff will reinforce the message of the importance of social distancing and wearing masks. It is expected that faculty and staff will model appropriate behaviors and redirect student behavior as necessary.

HEALTH CENTER UPDATES

- Separate room and entrance for “well-visits” (e.g., daily medication, concussion assessments, and off-campus appointment check-ins)
- Increased Health Center capacity
- Increased cleaning protocol of rooms
- An on-site quick test for COVID-19 to be available this year
- Expanded mental health resources with an on-campus counselor; off-campus and telehealth options available
- [Student Health and Wellness](#) website updated with information and resources created for students
- Flu shots available through the Health Center for students (please see [Magnus](#) for details)

HEALTH TERMS

ASYMPTOMATIC: A person who presents with positive COVID-19 testing but does not exhibit any symptoms.

ISOLATION: Per the CDC, a strategy used to separate people infected with COVID-19 from people who are not infected. People who are in isolation should stay home until it is safe for them to be around others. In the home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific “sick room” and using a separate bathroom, if available.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING: A minimum of six feet of distance between individuals. Used as a risk mitigation strategy based on the ability of droplets to travel through the air.

QUARANTINE: Per the CDC, a strategy used to keep someone who may have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Quarantine helps prevent the spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, and closely monitor their health.

QUIET PERIOD: The period of time required by the School for all students, faculty, and staff to commit to decreasing their activity in the community and limiting potential exposure before returning to campus.

SELF MONITORING: A strategy that teaches members of the community to self-assess their behavior and health, then record the results.