



St. Martin Parish School Board

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Dear Parents, Students, and Community of the St. Martin Parish School System,

The St. Martin Parish School District is proactively monitoring the situation surrounding the COVID-19 (coronavirus) and is taking the necessary precautions as recommended by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to prevent the spread of germs within our schools.

We ask that parents adhere to the guidelines to assist us with keeping our school community safe and healthy this school year. The following are guidelines that schools must follow for the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Students who have been exposed to anyone, including household contacts who have tested positive for COVID-19, should not be sent to school. Please call the school to inform them that your child has been exposed so that their absence can be coded correctly and directions for isolation can be given.
2. **Please do not send your child to school if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or have compatible symptoms which are:**
 - a. Fever or chills
 - b. Rigors- a sudden feeling of cold with shivering accompanied by a rise in temperature, often with copious sweating, especially at the onset or height of a fever.
 - c. Cough
 - d. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - e. Fatigue
 - f. Muscle or body aches
 - g. Headache
 - h. New loss of taste or smell
 - i. Sore throat
 - j. Congestion or runny nose
 - k. Nausea or vomiting
 - l. Diarrhea

If your child has any of these symptoms while at school, they will be isolated immediately and you will be called to pick them up. They will also require medical clearance before being allowed to return. If they are not cleared within 48 hours, some of their close contacts will be required to quarantine until the school receives documentation of that clearance. If they are not cleared at all, they will be required to isolate for 10 days from symptom onset and some of their close contacts will need to quarantine for 14 days. **This year, proper wearing of masks will allow close classroom contacts greater than 3 feet away from the case to remain at school.**

Fully vaccinated individuals, and those who have had COVID within the last 90 days, will not be required to quarantine unless they develop one of the above symptoms. **All close contacts** are encouraged to seek testing immediately, and again between 5-7 days post exposure if negative.

If your child is required to quarantine due to being a close contact, your other children do not need to quarantine because they are contacts of contacts. If you elect to quarantine your other children out of an abundance of caution, please note that these absences will be marked as unexcused.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in these matters. If we all work together, we can get through these challenges to have a productive school year.