



HEALTH AND SAFETY PLAN 2021-22

Our Plan for the Mitigation of Viruses and Other Infectious Diseases

St. Francis will continue to implement the following health and safety guidelines to promote and maintain a safe and healthy start to in-person learning. As we evaluate institutional data, the school will make adjustments and implement changes and updates as needed.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

MASKS REQUIRED INDOORS

As of now, masks are required indoors for all students, faculty and staff, and campus visitors. All masks should be school appropriate. We hope to return to a mask-optional policy as soon as it is feasible to do so.

Facilities and Healthy Practices

ENHANCED CLEANING PROCEDURES

St. Francis will continue to use hospital grade disinfectant to clean all flat surfaces and high touch areas, such as doorknobs and light switches, multiple times a day. Teachers and classrooms will be supplied with disinfectant wipes or a suitable disinfectant spray.

SIGNAGE

We will continue to display signage that encourages healthy practices such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, social distancing, etc.

INCREASED HAND HYGIENE

Hand sanitizer and hand washing stations will be readily available in the classroom, common areas, and wherever food is served. We will provide time for students to wash or sanitize hands before and after eating and after activities such as PE or recess.

RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

We will continue teaching and encouraging students to practice respiratory etiquette, such as sneezing into their elbow, covering their coughs, and washing hands or using hand sanitizer after blowing their nose.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

All individuals are encouraged to practice physical distancing of at least 3 feet whenever possible and to the extent possible.

EVENTS

We are looking forward to bringing visitors back to our campuses this year. Our first priority is to keep our students in the classroom and engaged with on-campus instruction. To accomplish this, we may adjust or modify the protocols for some events. For example, after Labor Day, we intend to allow parents to attend their child's chapel service on a rotating basis.

We will continue to monitor data leading up to our events and gatherings, and their corresponding protocols will be adjusted to maintain the health and safety of our community.

As always: please refrain from coming to campus if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID.

Monitoring and Reporting Illness

SELF-MONITORING

Individuals should monitor how they and/or their children are feeling on a daily basis. Anyone who does not feel well, has a fever, or has any of the signs and symptoms associated with viruses or other infectious diseases should stay home and consult with their health care provider for testing and care.

AFTER-HOURS REPORTING

St. Francis has created an [online reporting form](#) that can be used to report a positive or suspected-positive COVID case within the household after the school day has ended, between the hours of **4:00 p.m. and 7:30 a.m.**

- To report a positive case within your family—or for your student—during school day hours, please continue to contact your campus nurse.
 - **Couper Campus Nurse:** Debbie Toler, 713.458.6167
 - **Piney Point Campus Nurse:** Fay Gant, 713.458.6128
- General COVID questions should also be directed to the nurse for your campus, or you can email HealthResponse@StFrancisHouston.org

The [online form](#) is the best way to get in touch with the school after hours, and it will ensure that we are able to communicate quickly with your child's teacher(s) and make arrangements for remote instruction.

MONITORING STUDENTS

Teachers will monitor their students for signs and symptoms of illness. If a student does not appear to feel well, the school nurse may do a clinical assessment. The nurse will contact the parent of a student who needs to go home and/or to a physician for further evaluation.

Health Protocols

ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

School policy prevents students with symptoms of a communicable illness (like COVID-19, flu, or measles) from attending school. The school and parents are in partnership to keep our community healthy, and together we can prevent outbreaks of contagious diseases.

Individuals exhibiting symptoms of viruses and/or infectious diseases will be referred to the nurse for a clinical assessment and for isolation. The nurse will contact the parent of a student who needs to go home and/or to a physician (or healthcare provider) for further evaluation. Individuals with a confirmed positive COVID-19 PCR test will isolate at home for 10 calendar days from either the date of the positive test or the onset of symptoms, and must also be fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication, before returning to school or work.

FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

Fully vaccinated individuals exposed to COVID-19 will not need to quarantine or be tested for COVID-19 unless they are exhibiting symptoms. Individuals with symptoms should contact their healthcare provider. If a fully vaccinated individual tests positive for COVID-19, he or she will isolate at home for 10 calendar days from the date of the positive test and must also be fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication, before returning to school or work.



UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

Known Exposure

Individuals with a **known exposure** to COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on, sharing a drinking glass or utensils, kissing), caring for a person who has COVID-19, or living with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19) should:

- quarantine for 7–10 calendar days,
- provide a negative COVID-19 PCR test (with the test taking place 5 days post exposure), or
- receive clearance from a healthcare provider before returning to school or work.

Possible Exposure

Individuals with a **possible exposure** to COVID-19; within 3 to 6 feet for more than 15 minutes with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, but has not had **known exposure** as described above, should self-monitor for two weeks. These individuals will be advised to monitor their health for two weeks, follow the CDC guidelines for those who have had possible close contact and to reach out to their healthcare provider if they have questions.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Staff, students, and parents can monitor active COVID-19 cases at their campus on the St. Francis COVID case dashboard located in the Parent Portal. In addition, St. Francis will email parents to report positive cases in the following manner:

Pre-Primary-Kindergarten: St. Francis will report positive cases by homeroom class.

Grades 1-5: St. Francis will report positive cases by grade level.

Grades 6-8: St. Francis will report positive cases by grade level and extracurricular activities.

Grades 9-12: St. Francis will report positive cases to the entire division.

REMOTE LEARNING MODELS

If students are required to quarantine, the school will provide remote instruction as follows:

- **Primary School:** Remote learning will not be offered to Primary School students. Students can participate and stay connected through activities that teachers post on Seesaw.
- **Grades K– 6:** If students are required to quarantine, they will remote into classes via Zoom.
 - In Lower School, teachers will send a daily Seesaw post with the class schedule and links. Students will know exactly when classes or their small group instruction is occurring. They will not be required to attend PE, recess, or lunch. Seesaw will continue to be the mode of communication to students and parents.
 - In Middle School, students in grades 5 and 6 will also remote in via Zoom to their academic classes. Students will receive their instructions, schedules, assignments, and communication through Veracross teacher pages.
- **Grades 7–12:** We are planning for a vaccinated population. If students are required to quarantine, they will have access to class materials, resources, and videos via Veracross teacher pages. While they will not remote into classes, students will have access to materials and instructional videos needed to stay current in the class. Conferring with teachers will also be an integral component of this scenario. We feel that older students are more capable of self-managing and self-pacing instructional time. Students will meet with advisors when they return for an individualized re-entry plan.
- For extenuating circumstances, including extended quarantines, each division office will work with families to address.

We will continue to monitor cases and the spread of infectious diseases in the St. Francis community. If the situation requires, we will implement additional mitigation procedures and adjust as necessary.