



**ST. PATRICK'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL
CONTINUOUS EDUCATION PLAN**

**Submitted to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education
of the District of Columbia
June 2021**

All schools in the District of Columbia, including independent schools, were required to submit a plan to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) that described their plans to safely reopen in accordance with health and safety guidance. We provide St. Patrick's response to that requirement here. OSSE sought no revisions to the St. Patrick's plan.

***Please note:* St. Patrick's Fall 2021 Opening Plan, which will be posted on or about September 1, will provide a more detailed set of policies and protocols that will guide us during the 2021-2022 school year. That plan—which calls for all students to attend classes on-campus and in-person, five days a week, at all grade levels—will serve to update particular sections below, based on recent guidance from OSSE and the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health).**



Question 1

Please provide the school's plan to comply with the requirements that:

- a. Except for specific circumstances (e.g., while eating) articulated in OSSE's guidance, all students, staff, and visitors, including those who are fully vaccinated, must wear non-medical face coverings or face masks at all times while on school grounds, on school buses, and while participating in any school-related activities, including physical education and sports; and**
- b. Masks must be worn correctly.**

a. St. Patrick's will continue to comply with OSSE requirements with respect to the wearing of masks by students, faculty and staff, and visitors which, at this time, call for the wearing of masks at all times. The Day School has had students on-campus since September 8, 2020, with strict adherence to the requirements set forth above, which will continue in the fall of 2021, regardless of vaccination status, unless OSSE revises its requirements. All children above the age of two years old, all faculty and staff, and all contractors are aware of our policy that all individuals must wear face masks at all times—or, in the case of contractors, are made aware of that policy upon arrival. During the 2020-2021 school year, only essential visitors were allowed on-campus, a designation that included parents only when they were picking up sick children or dropping off, at the main entrance only, needed items. We have not made a decision regarding access for parents in the 2021-2022 school year, but widening access to include parents and additional service providers will include verifying that those individuals have received a COVID-19 vaccine and will comply with all protocols, including those regarding masks. Mask-mandate signage is clearly visible at all entrances and throughout the campuses and will extend to buses and all indoor activities. We will await any updates to the OSSE guidelines before revising our mask-wearing protocols, including those regarding the wearing of masks for outdoor activities, especially involving vigorous athletic activity. We should note that we have only five new members of the faculty and staff joining us this summer and in the fall, two of them from another District of Columbia independent school, so virtually all of our 2021-2022 faculty and staff are well aware of existing OSSE guidelines and, judging by their determination during the 2020-2021 school year, fully prepared to support those protocols.

b. The Day School Nurses have created educational videos that show the correct way to wear, remove, and store face masks according to CDC standards. We will show these educational videos to students at all grade levels as the 2021-2022 school year begins. Classroom teachers



with support, as needed from the School Nurses, will reinforce proper mask usage throughout the year.

Question 2

Provide the school's policies and procedures in the event that a student, staff member, or visitor is unable or unwilling to wear a face mask at all times.

St. Patrick's has had students on-campus since September 8, 2020 (and children in our Infant-Toddler Center since August 2020). Beginning with students in our Nursery School and Kindergarten and gradually adding grade levels across subsequent weeks, we had approximately 97% of our students learning on-campus four days a week during the Spring Trimester. All children above the age of two years old, all faculty and staff, and all contractors are aware of our policy that all individuals must wear face masks at all times—or, in the case of contractors, are made aware of that policy upon arrival. No contractor or essential visitor, all of whom access our buildings through secured main entrances, is allowed into any of our buildings if that individual is unable or unwilling to wear a face mask at all times. Beginning in the winter, we supplied faculty and staff with KN95 masks (we had supplied cloth masks earlier in the year), and they regularly complied with the requirement that they wear face masks at all times. No member of the faculty and staff is allowed into a building—or allowed to remain in the building—if that individual is unable or unwilling to wear a face mask at all times. Throughout the year, children above the age of two years old have done a wonderful job of wearing their face masks at all times. When an individual student struggles with that requirement, that student's teacher offers regular reminders, without shaming the student, to replace or adjust the face mask. We expect this level of compliance to continue into the 2021-2022 school year.

Question 3

Provide the school's policies and procedures to support physical distancing between individuals and within and across groups, including in classrooms, common spaces, during arrival and dismissal procedures, and during extracurricular activities.

We will strive to maintain reasonable distances between individuals and within and across groups at all grade levels, even as we recognize the challenges of doing so among our youngest children. Planned cohort sizes for the 2021-2022 school year have been determined to be in compliance with existing OSSE recommendations and to provide for appropriate social distancing within the cohort classrooms. In the Nursery School, teachers will arrange their classrooms and activities within the classrooms to avoid clustering of children and will implement prescribed distances



during rest and lunch, at this time likely to be six feet of distance. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 will be in individual desks, all facing the same direction and distanced as space allows. We will also control pedestrian flow in hallways and stairwells and provide markers along hallways and in other common areas to assist students in judging what three or four feet of distance looks like, with a final determination pending, so that they can maintain the appropriate social distance. Any time two or more cohorts are together in an interior common space, the two cohorts will be separated by at least three or four feet. In the Nursery School and Lower School, there will be some mixing of cohorts during outdoor recess and possibly in other outdoor settings.

On the Whitehaven Campus—which houses the Infant-Toddler Center, the Nursery School, and the Lower School (students through Grade 5)—we will continue using five separate entrances and exits at arrival and dismissal times but will not stagger arrival and dismissal times. By designating the doors that students will use—two different entrances off of the East Lot, the Church Courtyard, the Main Entrance, and the Elementary School Library Atrium—we avoid crowding and the loss of social distancing. As students enter school, they will use hand sanitizer, which is provided at school entrances and other locations. Students through Grade 5 will report directly to their cohort classrooms rather than report to one of several supervised central gathering places as in years past. On the MacArthur Campus, which houses our Middle School, students will rely on a single entrance and begin the day by reporting to Advisory groupings of eight to ten students.

Question 4

Provide the school's policies and procedures regarding the use of cohorts for students and/or staff, including steps to minimize interactions between cohorts, as applicable.

Students will be assigned to cohorts as outlined below. The goal is to create—as the unit of organization and instruction—small, stable cohorts that are balanced with respect to gender, student instructional needs, temperament, and other variables. Division Heads will be mindful of placing at least one identified friend with a student in a cohort and considering prior student experiences and teacher feedback.

In the Nursery School, there will be a lead teacher assigned to each cohort, with two cohorts for the Nursery classroom (three-year-olds) to four cohorts for the two PK classrooms (four-year-olds) and each cohort ranging in size from eight to 10 students. The Nursery School will have one assistant teacher assigned per classroom, for a total of three assistant teachers. In the Lower School, Kindergarten to Grade 5, there will be a teacher assigned to each cohort, with



three to four cohorts at each grade level and each cohort ranging in size from 12 to 19 students. In the Middle School, Grades 6 to 8, where each grade level will function as its own cohort and therefore comprise cohorts larger than those in Nursery School and Lower School, teachers will teach multiple classes with social distance maintained in each classroom and mixing within the grade level. At times, students will travel to the teacher's location and, at other times, the teacher will meet the cohort in that cohort's homeroom. Those classes will be taught to single cohorts at a time.

Question 5

Provide the school's policies and procedures to support handwashing and respiratory etiquette including frequent, proper handwashing strategies and encouraging covering coughs and sneezes.

As part of St. Patrick's ongoing health and safety measures, protocols remain in place regarding proper handwashing and the covering of the nose and mouth when sneezing since these measures assist in keeping our community healthy and preventing the spread not only of COVID-19 but of other respiratory infections, as well. St. Patrick's will continue to provide educational videos on proper handwashing techniques and how to cover a cough for all grade levels. The School Nurses will teach classes in person from the Nursery to Grade 3 students. These educational videos have been created by the School Nurses and will be reinforced by classroom teachers. St. Patrick's continues to practice CDC-recommended techniques for proper handwashing and how to effectively cover the mouth and nose when sneezing. Handwashing is encouraged before and after eating food; after using the restroom; after blowing the nose, coughing, or sneezing; and after hands get soiled.

CDC posters on handwashing and coughing and sneezing etiquette are in place throughout the school and in the restrooms. In addition, hand-sanitizing stations are located at each entrance of the school, in classrooms, and in other appropriate locations.

Question 6

Provide the school's plan to make available adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissues) to support healthy hygiene practices including, as relevant, in classrooms, bathrooms, offices, and common spaces.



St. Patrick's continues to support healthy hygiene practices throughout the building by providing all classrooms with adequate supplies of paper towels, hand sanitizer, disposable gloves, tissues, disinfectant wipes, and computer screen cleaner needed in that particular area. Individual offices also have their own supply of hand sanitizer, tissues, disinfectant wipes, and computer screen cleaner. All common spaces have access to hand-sanitizing stations, tissues, and disinfectant wipes. As supplies become low, they are restocked by St. Patrick's and are issued either by our Maintenance Team or our janitorial contractor.

Question 7

Provide the school's policies and procedures to acquire, distribute, and support the appropriate use of PPE including gowns/coveralls, gloves, surgical masks, eye protection (face shield or goggles) and N95 masks, as relevant and necessary.

During the summer of 2020, St. Patrick's Health and Safety Committee met to evaluate and, in turn, to acquire PPE supplies that aligned with OSSE and CDC requirements. The committee noted several particular areas of need for PPE protection, including individual protection; the specific needs of the Infant-Toddler Center, general and special-subject classrooms, entrances and common areas; and the Health Office, which resulted in the following purchases:

- Individual: Set of cloth masks (adults) and two cloth sets (students), KN95 disposable masks (FDA approved for adults), 3-ply disposable masks (back-ups for students and Infant-Toddler children 2-year-olds and above), and face shields and protective eye protection (adults). Staff members working in the infant rooms of the Infant-Toddler Center were also provided with Level 2 surgical masks, goggles, and face shields to use while caring for the infants.
- Infant-Toddler Center/General and special-subject classrooms/Entrances and common areas: Disposable gloves for adults, as needed, including those assigned to arrival and dismissal times, and a back-up supply of 3-ply disposable masks.
- Health Office: Barrier gowns, surgical masks, disposable gloves, KN95 masks (FDA approved), face shields, and protective eye protection. St. Patrick's does not use or supply N95 masks since they are needed by the first responders and must be fit-tested.

In the 2021-2022 school year, we plan to stock these areas with similar PPE supplies. Disposable PPE materials are restocked as needed throughout the school year and will be restocked in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year. While we supplied cloth masks, along with 3-ply disposable masks as back-ups, for students beginning in the Nursery School during the 2020-2021 school year, families will be expected to supply children with their own masks,



although we will always have a back-up supply. We currently supply faculty and staff with KN95 masks but we have not decided whether to continue that practice into the 2021-2022 school year.

Question 8

Provide the school's schedule for routine cleaning of rooms, surfaces, and objects, including high-touch objects and surfaces (e.g., pens, keyboards, elevator buttons, light switches, handles, stair rails, faucets, phones, doorknobs, grab bars on playgrounds).

Our operational strategy to prevent the spread of COVID-19 has been to ensure our cleaning protocols follow [CDC guidelines](#), which encourage institutions to consider the important differences among cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting and recommend the best chemicals to use and how to apply them.

High-touch surfaces indoors and outdoors will be sanitized and wiped down two times during the school day. Every classroom will be sanitized and fogged every school day. Where and when possible, students will receive individual supplies, such as writing utensils, and will only share supplies, like books and blocks, that are prohibitive to purchase individually.

Question 9

Provide the school's cleaning and disinfecting protocols in the event that (1) a student, staff member, or visitor develops symptoms of possible COVID-19 while in the school; or (2) if the school is notified that a student, staff member, or visitor who tested positive has been in the school. Include the school's plan to comply with specific required protocols for scenarios when it has been 24 hours or less since the sick person was in the school, as well as when it has been more than 24 hours but less than three days since the sick person was in the school.

When a student, a member of the faculty and staff, or a visitor shows symptoms of possible COVID-19 or tests positive, we will implement protocols that have been in place during the 2020-2021 school year. The office or classroom in which that individual works or studies will need to be closed for a certain period of time for disinfection. For suspected cases, we will implement CDC guidelines, along with other occupational and environmental recommendations, including immediately closing off and sanitizing the affected area. Portable air purifiers and scrubbers are available for deployment in these situations.

In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case in a student, a member of the faculty and staff, or a



visitor, the Day School will follow all steps outlined by DC Health as well as the cleaning, disinfection, and sanitization guidance from the CDC, including:

- If three days or fewer have passed since the person who has tested positive used the facility, we will
 1. Close off areas used by the individual who has tested positive.
 2. Open outside doors and windows, as possible, to increase air circulation in those areas.
 3. Wait up to 24 hours, or as long as possible, before cleaning or disinfecting to allow respiratory droplets to settle.
 4. Clean and disinfect all areas used by the individual who has tested positive, including classrooms, bathrooms, and common areas.
- If more than three days have passed since the individual who has tested positive used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary, and routine cleaning and disinfection will continue.

Question 10

Provide the school's plan to make available sufficient and appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies and to comply with the requirement that staff must wear gloves while cleaning and disinfecting spaces throughout the building.

The Day School's janitorial contractor proactively sought out the appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies in spring 2020 and has been using the recommended equipment, chemicals, and processes for cleaning and disinfection since that time. The contracted janitorial staff always wears gloves and face masks, made available by the Day School, when on our campuses, generally beginning in the late afternoon. Likewise, the Day School Maintenance Team, which handles these activities and others during the day, wears gloves while performing these duties. Hand-sanitizer stations are strategically placed at entryways and in common areas should there be a need for quick access.

Question 11



Provide the school's plan to perform necessary maintenance to ventilation and water systems and features (e.g., sink faucets, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) so that they are ready for use and occupancy and are adequately maintained throughout the operating period.

We have made significant upgrades to our air-handling systems and to our protocols to improve the quality of the air flowing into the facilities. Fresh and recirculated air is filtered before it is distributed to the various HVAC vents. These devices purify and disinfect the air further to create a safer indoor environment for all building occupants.

The devices include UV light systems that filter and purify fresh and recirculated air before it is delivered to occupied spaces and Cold Plasma Generators (CPG) that create highly charged ions to break down the structure of pollutant molecules. We have also installed MERV 9-13 filters on all HVAC systems, including MERV-13 filters on most of the units. While quarterly changes of the filters is standard, we will continue to change the filters monthly until such time as the health and safety situation allows. Likewise, we run the air-handling units continuously, with outside dampers open, rather than shutting down the units at night or on weekends, to further purify indoor air. Portable air purifiers, air scrubbers, and a disinfectant fogger machine are in place. Our Facilities Director, who has a DCRA HVAC mechanical journeyman license, leads efforts involving ventilation systems and water systems. We have standing contracts for preventive maintenance of our HVAC and water systems, with periodic changes of filters. For example, the preventive maintenance provided by our HVAC contractor includes changing belts, checking pressures, greasing bearings on blower motors, cleaning condenser coils, cleaning the cooling tower, amperage testing, heating and cooling cycle testing, and cleaning inside housings.

The information above, of course, refers to interior spaces. Given the desirability of exterior spaces during the coronavirus pandemic, we have installed three tents—two on the Foxhall Campus and one on the Whitehaven Campus—to promote outdoor instruction and other activities. We also created the St. Patrick's Garden & Outdoor Learning Space on the Foxhall Campus, which has provided an exciting new outdoor space for use across the grade levels. Students in cohort groups have also had scheduled access to our three playgrounds across each day and week, with regular wipe-downs of the play equipment in those locations. All of those tents and outdoor spaces will continue to be available to students during the 2021-2022 school year, although we will reevaluate the use of tents following the end of the Fall Trimester.

All bathrooms have been equipped with touchless faucets to ensure that faculty and staff and students can minimize their contact with bathroom surfaces. Not only do these faucets reduce the number of surfaces touched during the day, they also limit the waste of water, which is core to our environmental sustainability goals. In addition, all water fountains in common areas have



been limited to water bottle refills only. We have installed inline water coolers for each classroom to limit the movement of students into common areas during the day.

Question 12

Describe the school's policies and procedures to:

- a. Comply with the requirement to not admit or to dismiss any student, staff member, or visitor who is COVID-19 positive or otherwise meets criteria for exclusion, per OSSE's guidance; and**
- b. Dismiss any individual or cohort that is potentially exposed to COVID-19 within the school setting.**

St. Patrick's complies with OSSE exclusion guidelines. When there is a suspected case of COVID-19, which will be determined by the presence of any one of the symptoms (including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea), that child or adult will be moved into the Health Office area designated for isolation for care and awaiting departure from school. For students, parents/guardians will immediately be notified and expected to pick up their child within 30 minutes of notification. Any member of the faculty and staff or the parents/guardians of any students with symptoms of COVID-19 are then to contact their healthcare provider to determine if COVID-19 testing is indicated. The Day School will immediately deploy cleaning and disinfecting procedures, as above, for any areas and materials with which the student or the member of the faculty and staff, or visitor has been in contact.

For any cohort that has been potentially exposed to COVID-19 within the school, St. Patrick's will notify DC Health as directed by OSSE. DC Health will, in turn, instruct St. Patrick's on appropriate dismissal and other safety protocols, including specific individuals or groups that may need to quarantine. While close contacts will only be instructed to quarantine if the sick individual is confirmed to have COVID-19, all students and faculty and staff will continue to closely monitor themselves for symptoms and stay home and seek medical attention if those symptoms develop.

Question 13

Provide the school's plan to comply with the requirements to:



- a. Identify a staff member as the COVID-19 point-of-contact (POC) to whom families, staff, contractors, and vendors should report a positive case of COVID-19 and who is responsible for reporting positive cases of COVID-19 to DC Health;**
- b. Report any applicable positive COVID-19 case in a student, staff member, or essential visitor to DC Health on the same day the school is notified;**
- c. Not exclude students or staff with pre-existing health conditions that present with specific COVID-19-like symptoms on the basis of those specific symptoms, if a healthcare provider has provided written or verbal documentation that those specific symptoms are not due to COVID-19.**

a. In preparation for the 2020-2021 school year, St. Patrick's designated Judy Barr, a School Nurse and health educator, as the COVID-19 point-of-contact. Ms. Barr will continue in the capacity in the 2021-2022 school year. In a manner appropriate to the position, Ms. Barr works closely with her School Nurse colleagues and with the school administration as well as DC Health.

b. Promptly after being notified of a positive COVID-19 test result, Ms. Barr has completed and submitted the DC Health Non-Healthcare Facility COVID-19 Consult Form (dchealth.dc.gov/page/covid-19-reporting-requirements) and uploaded a roster of names, if needed, of any potential close contacts. Protocols for cleaning, disinfecting, and the closing of areas and equipment used by the individual who has tested positive are carried out as soon as possible. While awaiting follow-up from a DC Health investigator, and out of an abundance of caution, any individuals who may be considered to be possible close contacts are removed from the school building or, if they are already off-campus, directed not to return until further notice. St. Patrick's defers to DC Health the final identification of close contacts as well as next steps to take. During the 2020-2021 school year, St. Patrick's has relied on a 14-day quarantine period for close contacts, the gold standard for the purposes of quarantine, rather than a 10-day quarantine. For the 2021-2022 school year, we have not made a final determination about the length of quarantine we will require, but it will certainly be no shorter than the period required by DC Health.

c. While we are aware of this provision—namely, not excluding any individual with a pre-existing health condition that presents with specific COVID-19-like symptoms based on documentation from a healthcare provider—we did not encounter such a situation during the 2020-2021 school year. In the 2021-2022 school year, we will ask any such individual to provide us with the appropriate documentation from that individual's



healthcare provider so that the individual can continue to have access to school buildings and programs.

Question 14

Provide the school's procedures to support DC Health with contact-tracing in the event of a positive case of COVID-19.

St. Patrick complies fully with the guidance set forth by OSSE and DC Health in the event that contact-tracing is indicated in relation to a reported positive COVID-19 case. St. Patrick's has appointed a School Nurse as the COVID-19 point-of-contact, who is responsible for:

- Notifying the Day School administration of a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Ensuring that DC Health's Non-Healthcare Facility COVID-19 Consult Form is completed accurately and thoroughly and submitted in a timely manner in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Confirming that St. Patrick's has the correct contact information for all students and families, faculty and staff, and onsite contractors.
- Acting as the point-of-contact, under the direction of the Head of School, for families and faculty and staff to notify if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

Question 15

Describe how the school will notify the school community, as appropriate, of the positive case and corresponding actions taken by the school.

Over the past year, the Day School has developed a standard communication that notifies the community of any positive COVID-19 test result. The letter—emailed to all current families and all members of the faculty and staff, regardless of the campus, Division, grade level, or office or area of the building where the individual who has received a positive test result “resides”—includes the steps taken by the Day School to mitigate the risk of secondary transmission, usually in advance of further direction from DC Health, such as quarantining a cohort. In instances involving a period of quarantine, families receive an additional letter, specific to their children's cohort. Day School communications regarding positive test results strive to protect the privacy of the individuals involved. (Samples of these letters are attached.) Protocols include:



- notifying families of students and faculty and staff in close contact with the individual, including the requirement to quarantine for a stated period, which has been 14 days during the 2020-2021 school year (although we may bring that requirement in sync with DC Health's 10-day period of quarantine in the 2021-2022 school year);
- notifying all current families and faculty and staff that there has been a COVID-19 positive case, that those having been in close contact have been told to quarantine, and that appropriate steps will be taken to clean and disinfect the corresponding areas;
- educating the community to the signs and symptoms of COVID-19;
- referring members of the community to the Guidance for Contacts of a Person Confirmed to Have COVID-19; and
- informing members of the community about options for COVID-19 testing in the District of Columbia.

Question 16

If applicable, describe the school's current or planned COVID-19 testing protocol for symptomatic and/or asymptomatic students and/or staff, including steps the school will take to encourage participation in the testing program. Please include the school's plan to ensure that results of such testing programs are reported to DC Health per DC Health's COVID-19 reporting requirements:

<https://dchealth.dc.gov/page/covid-19-reporting-requirements>.

Since October 2020, St. Patrick's has performed—initially, monthly and, since January 2021, weekly—mandatory COVID-19 PCR testing for all students, faculty and staff, and contractors. We anticipate that we will continue with this protocol throughout the summer and into the fall of 2021 for all individuals listed above. Individuals who do not complete testing either onsite or at an alternative testing site in the specified time frame are not allowed on any of the Day School's campuses until such testing is completed and negative results reported. Results of onsite testing are reported to those individuals and to the St. Patrick's Health Office. In the event of a positive test result, the Day School COVID-19 point-of-contact reports that result to DC Health, as above. Individuals testing at an alternative location must upload the results to their Magnus Health Portal before being allowed to return to campus. The COVID-19 point-of-contact would also report any positive result from an off-campus testing location to DC Health, as above.

Question 17



Provide the school's plans to support COVID-19 vaccination of staff and students, as eligible, including efforts to encourage participation in public and community-based vaccination opportunities.

To date, St. Patrick's has strongly encouraged all members of the faculty and staff to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. As of June 1, 2021, 120 of 126 individuals were fully vaccinated, with one more individual awaiting a second shot, which would bring us to 96% of our faculty and staff being fully vaccinated. For the 2021-2022 school year, St. Patrick's will require that all members of the faculty and staff be fully vaccinated.

Under the auspices of OSSE, St. Patrick's faculty and staff were initially enrolled with One Medical to receive their COVID-19 vaccine in February 2021. Email communications, as well as one-on-one education sessions regarding COVID-19 vaccine information, were used to support and to encourage faculty and staff to receive their COVID-19 vaccination. St. Patrick's has continued to make available research and educational information as that evolving information has emerged. The Day School relied on in-house substitute teachers (who were themselves eligible for vaccination) to support flexible scheduling of appointments for faculty and staff to receive their vaccines and for any time-off requests regarding standard side effects. As more vaccination sites opened up, this information was shared via electronic communication with all faculty and staff. The School Nurses will continue to be available as resources for questions around the COVID-19 vaccine and the vaccination process.

St. Patrick's is a Nursery to Grade 8 program. Our current eligible student population comprises our Middle School students ages 12 years and older. The Middle School families received electronic communication and verbal communication from the Health Office regarding vaccine availability and timelines as soon as the information became available. The Day School encouraged and supported flexibility in the scheduling of student vaccinations, just as we did with faculty and staff. Educational materials and current guidelines continue to be available for all students and faculty and staff.

Question 18

Provide the school's plans to provide appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities with respect to its health and safety policies and procedures.

St. Patrick's expects all students to participate in on-campus, in-person teaching and learning in the 2021-2022 school year. However, families of students with underlying medical conditions that make in-person learning difficult or impossible may seek permission to participate in virtual



learning, although we expect those instances to be rare. (We currently have 97% of our students learning onsite, and the families of many of the students who have remained remote have indicated that their children will be on-campus next year, particularly as vaccines become available for younger children.)

For students with disabilities who are learning onsite, we will provide appropriate accommodations. When adult support is required for children with disabilities and that support cannot be provided while maintaining physical distancing requirements, appropriate PPE will be provided to the adult. In the event that a child has a hearing impairment, any necessary adults will wear face masks with clear centers.

Question 19

Please provide the school's plan to provide training and technical assistance on its policies and procedures to safely reopen schools in accordance with the DC Health Guidance for Schools and the OSSE Health and Safety Guidance for Schools, including:

- a. Who will receive training and technical assistance**
- b. The topics that the training and technical assistance will address; and**
- c. How and by whom the training and technical assistance will be delivered.**

Response:

- a. All faculty and staff will receive training as it pertains to guiding students with proper handwashing techniques, proper disinfection of high-touch surfaces, mask-wearing, social distancing, and related topics. For the most part, this training will occur when faculty and staff return in late August for six days of planning and other preparation before the September 8, 2021, beginning of the school year. We might note that St. Patrick's was open for the 2020-2021 school year, as outlined above, so we are not "reopening" school in the sense this question might suggest. Furthermore, only five new individuals will join the regular faculty and staff, exceptionally low turnover that will enable a continuity of implementation and a continuity of care. Added training will be in place for the Maintenance Team for sanitizing areas that are affected by possible and confirmed cases of COVID-19 and for proper disinfection of common areas and high-touch surfaces. The Day School's contracted janitorial service staff receives training on proper methods for daily cleaning and using the correct chemicals. St. Patrick's also contracts out its lunch service. Members of that staff have been trained in proper food-handling techniques and ensuring that the individualized meals are prepared safely, while wearing the correct PPE. Given that lunch procedures may change for the



2021-2022 school year and that there may be changes in the lunch-service staff, we will ensure that all are trained/retrained in current protocols. The Day School administration and School Nurses will continue to track closely emerging OSSE, DC Health, and CDC guidelines and seek specific technical assistance as needed.

- b. Topics listed above.
- c. Training for faculty and staff and the Maintenance Team, provided by the School Nurses, will be both synchronous and asynchronous as part of the opening meetings beginning in August. Janitorial and lunch services are contracted out, with staff members having been trained by their respective employers using guidelines unique to their respective industries. Technical assistance for the School Nurses will be curated from various sources, the primary sources being CDC, DC Health, and OSSE. The Board of Trustees Pandemic-Response Task Force has relied on a Medical Advisory Team of four physicians who have expertise in pediatrics, infectious diseases, vaccines, and global health. These health professionals will continue to guide us in designing and implementing appropriate protocols within the context of OSSE and DC Health guidelines.

Question 20

Provide the school's plan to monitor the implementation of the health and safety plans at each campus, including how, when, and by whom the implementation will be monitored and how the school will respond if a given campus is not adhering to the plan.

St. Patrick's has two campuses on which students spend their days: The Whitehaven Campus—which comprises the Infant-Toddler Center (six weeks to three years of age), the Nursery School (3's, 4's, and young 5's), and the Lower School (Kindergarten-Grade 5)—and the MacArthur Campus, which houses the Middle School (Grades 6-8). Each academic division has its own Division Head, who will have the primary responsibility for seeing that a specific division is adhering to all health and safety plans. That said, Division Heads will share that responsibility with the School Nurses, who are present on both campuses; the Facilities Director; and the Assistant Head of School for Finance and Operations. The Senior Administrative Team, which includes the Division Heads and Assistant Heads of School, meets weekly during the school year, with COVID-19 topics always on the agenda.

As noted above, the Board of Trustees created a Pandemic-Response Task Force in the spring of 2020. That group has met either weekly or in alternate weeks since that time to review health and safety planning, our adherence to those plans, and our communication of those plans to the wider community. The Task Force will continue to rely on a Medical Advisory Team of four physicians



with expertise in pediatrics, infectious diseases, vaccines, and global health. Having been open throughout the 2020-2021 school year, as described above, St. Patrick's has seen widespread compliance with health and safety plans schoolwide, including on each campus and within each division, by faculty and staff as well as by students and families. Instances of noncompliance are generally unique, reflecting choices made by individual students or families, and have been handled on a case-by-case basis in consultation with a Division Head, the School Nurses, and/or a member of the Medical Advisory Team. The Day School will continue its close monitoring of health and safety plans by the Division Heads, the School Nurses, the Senior Administrative Team, and the Board of Trustees Pandemic-Response Task Force, guided by its Medical Advisory Team.

Question 21

Describe the school's plans to communicate key health and safety policies and procedures to students, families, staff, and visitors.

Having been open on-campus and in-person during the 2020-2021 school year, as described above, St. Patrick's has gained valuable experience in communicating key health and safety policies and procedures to students and families, faculty and staff, and contractors and other occasional visitors. We began communicating with parents and faculty and staff regarding the 2021-2022 school year at a virtual Town Hall meeting in May (attached), a format we will continue to rely on during the summer of 2021, as we did in the summer of 2020. Those virtual Town Halls are recorded and shared with the community. We have also relied on our weekly newsletter, *HoundsTruth*, which often contains health and safety information and includes links to virtual Town Halls. We have communicated regularly, in stand-alone letters/emails, with families and faculty and staff regarding positive cases of COVID-19, testing protocols, and travel guidelines (some samples attached). These communiques are posted on the Day School's website for ready and subsequent reference by families and faculty and staff. In August 2020, we published the "Fall 2020 Campus Reopening Plan" (attached), a document that we will update and revise for the 2021-2022 school year and, in turn, post on our website.

Visitors to campus have been limited to essential individuals. Parents are welcome only to pick up sick students or to drop off needed materials, but they generally do not proceed beyond the main entrance. Technicians providing preventive maintenance or responding to particular building needs are generally employed by contractors with whom we have ongoing relationships and have been educated to our health and safety protocols, which are supported by building signage. All visitors, whether one-time or regular, are quickly oriented to those protocols and required to complete a health-screening questionnaire and receive a temperature check. If we do



widen the circle of potential visitors in the 2021-2022 school year, particularly to include parents, we will limit visitors to those who are fully vaccinated, which we will track using the Day School's visitor management system.

Health/Safety Plan Assurance Statement

The School attests to the following statement regarding operating in accordance with the DC Health and OSSE public health guidance:

The School assures that it will adopt the measures in the DC Health and OSSE COVID-19 guidance for schools to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission among students, staff, families, and the community.