



**COVID-19 Campus Mitigation Strategies
for the 2021-2022 School Year**
Updated as of August 2, 2021

9401 Starcrest Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78217
Ph: (210) 483-9100
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www.smhall.org

Planning for the 2021-2022 School Year at Saint Mary's Hall

As we prepare for a return to campus and in-person learning, our goal is to provide full and exceptional delivery of our programs in all three divisions, including academics, athletics, and fine arts, while creating and maintaining protocols that keep students safely in the classroom, on the playing fields, and in the art studios. Throughout the year, Saint Mary's Hall will adjust as needed to accomplish our stated goal.

The health and safety of our community is our primary objective. With guidance from our SMH Health & Safety Task Force, we are closely monitoring the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as local, state, and national guidelines and changes in the pandemic. This information will help us to plan based on what is best for SMH and our unique community.

[View CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

Although there is no guarantee of preventing spread, we believe that the health and safety protocols outlined below will significantly help in the mitigation of COVID-19. We recognize cases will continue to appear in our community, and we trust that an appropriate level of mitigation strategies are key to keeping students and employees on campus while also mitigating the need to quarantine large groups.



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Campus Mitigation Strategies

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Masks will be required in ALL indoor settings. In most scenarios, masks will not be required in outdoor settings. To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possible spread of the virus, the CDC issued guidance for people fully vaccinated to wear a mask indoors in public in areas of substantial or high transmission.

Physical Distancing: We will ask students and employees to maintain 3 ft. of physical distance in indoor spaces. We value the connection and ability for students and teachers to interact. Physical distancing will be maintained while studying and learning indoors.

Vaccinations: We will not require vaccines for our students and employees. However, we believe vaccines are an important mitigation strategy for our community. Also, the CDC does not currently require people who are vaccinated and asymptomatic to quarantine when exposed to a positive COVID-19 case but does require those who are unvaccinated to follow standard quarantine protocols. We will use this guidance as we contact trace our community. Quarantine guidelines are indicated below.

Surveillance Testing: We will not utilize surveillance testing among our student and employee population. This strategy was highly effective last spring, but it is not needed at this time.

The Utilization of Campus Spaces:

- **Classroom Spaces:** Masks will be required with 3 ft. of distance maintained.
- **Outdoor Spaces:** Masks will not be required. However, we will work to maintain a 3-ft distance on campus where necessary.
- **The Dining Hall:** We will provide a more familiar approach to our lunchtime rituals with additional seats per table and the use of drink dispensers, salad bars, and more. Students will be required to wear masks in the dining hall, except when seated at a table to eat.
- **Community Gatherings, Performances, and Athletic Events:** At the heart of our institution are essential events that connect our community in profound ways, including Blue Tie, Chapel, Athletic events, Fine Arts performances, Assemblies, Morning Moments, and more. We will host these events in person using our campus facilities and outdoor spaces. For indoor spaces, we will ask our audience, performers, spectators, and athletes to wear masks and maintain 3 ft. of distance, where possible.

Faculty & Staff Health & Safety Training: Faculty and staff are our first lines of defense in keeping our school safe. We are continuing to educate and prepare our employees through mandatory training for all employees in recognition, prevention, and management of infectious diseases. We continue to provide training, including COVID-19 presentations focused on SMH specific safety protocols.

Policy for Campus Visitors: Campus will be open to parents, alumni, and visitors for the 2021-2022 school year for scheduled events and appointments. All guests to campus will be required to follow our COVID-19 Campus Mitigation Strategies and help set a good example for our students.



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COVID-19 Response & Exposure Protocol (Quarantining and Contact Tracing)

We will follow CDC guidelines for any students, faculty, or staff who test positive for COVID-19 and our COVID-19 Response/Exposure Protocols. These guidelines include, but are not limited to, notifying the health department of a positive case, informing anyone in our community with exposure while maintaining confidentiality, and ensuring the Return to Campus Criteria (indicated below) are met before the infected individual returns to campus.

Return to Campus Criteria – Quarantine Guidelines:

SMH will follow CDC guidelines for quarantine. Anyone who has been in close contact** with someone who has COVID-19 will have these two options to return to campus:

- After day 10 without testing, or
- After day 7 after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later).

Students, faculty, and staff do NOT need to quarantine if:

- They are asymptomatic, and they have shown proof they have been fully vaccinated, or
- Both parties were properly masked, or
- If an individual has COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months.

*** According to CDC, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 ft. of an infected student where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks; and other K–12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, and increased ventilation) were in place in the K–12 school setting. When not in the school setting, a close contact is someone who was within 6 ft. of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more, over a 24-hour period*

Reporting Community Cases: As of now, we will not have weekly surveillance testing, but we will report COVID-19 cases as they are identified on campus and among our community on our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#). We will individually inform anyone in our community with potential exposure to positive cases.

Cleaning Measures

- Regular designated times for handwashing
- Classrooms furnished with hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray to wipe surfaces upon class arrival and departure
- Hand sanitizer stations placed in multiple locations to encourage hand hygiene
- Restrooms cleaned and disinfected several times throughout the day using EPA-, OSHA-, and CDC-recommended products
- Limitations placed on number of people in restrooms and other shared spaces at the same time
- Frequently touched surfaces cleaned throughout the day with EPA-approved disinfectants
- Increased sanitation procedures using Clorox
- Electrostatic Spray disinfectant/sanitation system in all classrooms and high-traffic areas



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Facilities Safety Measures:

Since last school year, we have implemented the following modifications:

- Upgraded filters and opened fresh air intake on all air conditioning systems
- Incorporated more outdoor learning areas, such as the Kelleher Family Pavilion, Lewis Field, and campus courtyards, among others
- Installed tents that can be used for additional learning/community spaces, including the Montessori and Kindergarten courtyards for Lower School students and tents for Upper and Middle School students
- Created and posted signage, which has been strategically placed throughout campus outlining safety protocols, hand-sanitizing stations, and traffic control and pathway identification
- Installed Plexiglas shields and strategically placed them in offices throughout campus to protect students, faculty, and staff
- Implemented the Rosner Model for classroom spaces, which allows for a fixed seating model that places students in a room to maximize the space in the safest way possible
- Purchased safety supplies (facemasks, face shields, rubber gloves, etc.) that will be available for student, faculty, and staff use
- Enhanced safety protocols implemented in the Peggy Pitman Mays Dining Hall, including extensive training of SAGE Dining Services® personnel for the handling of food prep and distribution



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Parent Partnerships & Home Health Screenings*

Deciding when and how long your child should stay home

If your child has any of the following symptoms, they might have an illness they can spread to others:

- Fever or chills: Temperature of 100.0° F or higher
- New onset of severe headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion/runny nose
- New uncontrolled Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle/body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea, Vomiting and/or Diarrhea

If your child **DOES** have any of the symptoms above, keep them home from school:

- Lower School parents notify your teacher **AND** contact the main office of your division to report your child's absence. Include your child's symptoms or diagnosis from their physician. This allows tracking patterns of illness and decision making for health reporting.
 - Lower School Administrative Assistant **Karen Monroe**, Lsoffice@smhall.org
- Middle /Upper School parents contact the main office of your division to report your child's absence. Include your child's symptoms or diagnosis from their physician. This allows tracking patterns of illness and decision making for health reporting.
 - Middle School Administrative Assistant **Kristi Huffhines**, khuffhines@smhall.org
 - Upper School Administrative Assistant **Deb Deveau**, ddeveau@smhall.org
- If symptoms persist beyond 24 hours, they must have a note from their healthcare provider stating they can return to school.
- COVID-19 test is necessary if recommended by their healthcare provider.
- If COVID-19 test is negative, your student should stay home until symptoms have improved according to existing school policy as stated in the handbook, i.e., 24 hours fever free without fever-reducing medications, and 24 hours vomiting and diarrhea free.
- The school nurse may need to contact you for additional questions to help determine when it is safe for your child to return to school.
- The CDC has a [Coronavirus Self Checker](#) available, which may help you make decisions about seeking medical care.

If your child **DOES NOT** have any of the symptoms above, consider whether your child needs to see a healthcare provider and be tested for COVID-19. Your child may need to be tested if they:

- Have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 (less than 6 ft. for more than 15 cumulative minutes)
- Have taken part in activities that put them at higher risk for COVID-19 because they could not physically distance as needed
- Were asked or referred to get testing by a state, local, or territorial health department or healthcare provider