



St. Josaphat Parish School

2022-23 COVID Response Plan

August 2023

Dear SJPS Parents /Guardians,

In this document you will find the essential elements of the St. Josaphat Parish School **2022-23 COVID Response Plan** that includes our mitigation strategies referenced in part or whole within the WI Department of Public Instruction and City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) digital guidelines as well as those forwarded by the Centers for Disease Control to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Please review our plan in light of the following considerations:

- As a Catholic institution, SJPS supports and protects the rights of parents to make decisions for their children that are in keeping with their family's own moral and religious convictions as well as protections they desire for their children's health and well-being. (Catholic Church 2211)
- While the science surrounding the spread and mitigation of COVID-19 appears conclusive, SJPS will not promote any option or practice as definitive. Instead, we will follow proven, safe strategies while recognizing the ever-changing nature of this public health concern - that by default, causes expert opinions and recommendations to change without warning.
- Above all, SJPS honors the rights of parent to choose responses that align with their personally held beliefs. We encourage all members of our learning community to exercise **informed consent** when considering any voluntary mitigation options proposed in this document. *Remember, all recommendations (masks, vaccines, screenings, etc.) may have both positive and negative effects on the physical, social and emotional well-being of students in a school setting. Please consider ALL possible effects when selecting options for your children.*

Please know, I take seriously the responsibility to protect our entire learning community from the spread of COVID-19 or any other condition that may negatively alter the physical, emotional and spiritual health of our student body. As such, I am always open to hear your concerns, suggestions and questions concerning this or other matters. Never hesitate to reach out as your opinions are important to me.

May the Lord protect us and keep us for He is our shield and our fortress. He alone is the one in Whom we put our trust.

Yours in Christ,

Karin Strasser, Principal



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SJPS Protocol Overview

1) Here's what happens when your child becomes sick during the school day:

- ⇒ Your child's teacher sends him/her to the office with symptoms
- ⇒ We ensure your child is comfortable and contact you immediately. Please be sure your emergency contact information is accurate.
- ⇒ IF your child exhibits one or more of the current COVID symptoms below, we will offer a free COVID rapid test:

Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills

Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath

New loss of taste or smell

Muscle aches or body aches

Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)

Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms

Nausea, vomiting, when in combination with other symptoms

Headache, when in combination with other symptoms

Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms

Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies), when in combination with other symptoms

- ⇒ Testing is available to students (**only**) on a strictly voluntary basis. You must first create an account before we may test your child. You do not need to be present for testing. Once you establish an account for your child, it remains active forever unless you ask us in writing to deactivate it. By creating an account online, you give access to SJPS and Novir to conduct the rapid test with or without your presence.
- ⇒ IF your symptomatic child is tested, and the test is negative, s/he may remain in school. We will send students home if symptoms are severe despite a negative test result.
- ⇒ IF your child tests positive, we access the CDC Quarantine and Isolation Calculator to determine a school return date. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>



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2) Here's what happens if your child tests positive for COVID-19:

- ⇒ We'll tell you the return date when you pick up your child. Your child is responsible to complete and submit all work assigned during his/her absence.
- ⇒ Your child may return to school on the designated return date IF symptoms are gone or improved and they are fever free for 24 hours. **Your child does NOT need a negative test to return to school**, but must wear a mask in school for an additional four days.
- ⇒ Your child may return to school **BEFORE** the designated return date IF she/he has **NO SYMPTOMS**, has a **NEGATIVE COVID TEST** and **WEARS A MASK** the remaining days of his/her quarantine. Testing takes place before the school day begins. (SJPS Test-to-Stay Program)

3) Here's what happens if your child is a close contact with someone at home or school who has COVID-19.

- ⇒ IF your child does NOT have symptoms, s/he may stay in school.
- ⇒ IF your child HAS COVID-19 symptoms, s/he may be tested at school. IF the test result is negative, your child may stay in school, and may wear a mask until symptoms are gone. IF symptoms are severe, your child will be sent home regardless of the negative test result.
- ⇒ IF your child tests positive, see the response detailed above.



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COVID-19 Infection Control and Mitigation Measures for Wisconsin Schools 2022/2023

July 27, 2022

https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/DPI_Infection_Control_and_Mitigation_Measures_for_Schools.pdf

Schools are not required to conduct contact tracing as a standard practice but should continue to work with their Local and Tribal Health Departments (LTHD) in the case of outbreaks. **Quarantine periods may be omitted.** Asymptomatic (exposed) children and staff, regardless of where the exposure occurred, no longer need to quarantine. Students or staff who self-identify as close contacts may continue to attend school/work if they remain asymptomatic. **As noted above emphasis should be on identifying ill or symptomatic students and staff and removing them from the classroom.** Use of isolation rooms or separating ill and symptomatic students is encouraged.

If the school provides COVID-19 testing a symptomatic student or staff member may remain in school if they are tested immediately onsite, and that test is negative. Best practice would include wearing a mask, if possible, until symptoms are fully resolved. If the student is “too ill” to be in school (fever, severe cough, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.) they should be sent home regardless of COVID-19 test results.

If the symptomatic student or staff cannot be tested immediately, they should be sent home and allowed to return to school/work as long as they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their symptoms are resolving, or if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis. A negative test is recommended but not required for return to school/work.

If COVID testing is done in school/onsite or the student or staff member tests positive using an at home test kit or at another site they should follow current CDC guidance for isolation. Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free for 24 hours, they may return to school/work after Day 5 (on Day 6 with Day 0 being day of test or onset of symptoms). CDC stipulates this return may occur on Day 6 provided: • the individual is able to mask, they must do so through Day 10. • If the individual is unable to mask, it is recommended they have a negative test on Day 5 or later to return to school/work prior to day 11.



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SJPS Mitigation Strategies

Layered Prevention Practices

1. STAY HOME

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- 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
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. If your child exhibits any of these symptoms in isolation or combination, **PLEASE KEEP HIM/HER HOME.**

Parents, guardians or caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day. Students who are sick should not attend school in-person. When a student can return to school will depend on the duration of illness, type of symptoms, laboratory testing for COVID19 or other illnesses, whether or not the student has been in close contact with an individual with COVID-19, if yes, whether both the student and the individual with COVID-19 were wearing a mask, and whether the student has been vaccinated for COVID-19

2. Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

All staff and students will wash their hands often and cover their coughs and sneezes. SJPS will encourage frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer placed in classrooms and throughout the building.



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SJPS Mitigation Strategies Continued: *Layered Prevention Practices*

3. Adequate Supplies / Tissues

SJPS will maintain adequate cleaning and protective supplies to support healthy hygiene and proper cleaning and disinfecting practices.

4. Vaccination

Vaccination is currently promoted as a public health strategy to prevent COVID-19. Parents/guardians are encouraged to fully research the benefits and drawbacks associated with available vaccines and make a determination for their children based on informed consent and availability.

5. Masking

Masking is optional and entirely based on parent preference. In the event we face a school outbreak, the current masking policy may be reconsidered to ensure a safe learning environment for all students and staff. Face guard visors are available to students who desire additional/varied options along with N95 masks. These options are free of charge while supplies last.

6. Physical Distancing

SJPS will work hard to ensure adequate space between students whenever possible.

7. Screening Testing

SJPS offers a test-to-stay option for qualified students and staff. Call the office for details.

8. Ventilation

SJPS has room capacity air purifiers located in all classrooms. We also installed new windows on the east and north façades of the building which allow greater air flow in classrooms and the building at large. Additional system upgrades or improvements will be considered based on resource availability and funding.



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SJPS Mitigation Strategies Continued: *Layered Prevention Practices*

9. Cleaning and Disinfection

Research and experience have determined that objects are not a main source of spread of COVID-19. Good handwashing after touching shared objects and particularly before touching face (eyes or mouth) and eating is emphasized. The CDC currently recommends cleaning of routine surfaces once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces. SJPS will clean classrooms and common areas daily and undertake more frequent cleaning under the following circumstances:

- High transmission of COVID-19 in the community or school
- Infrequent use of other prevention measures

10. Virtual Learning

SJPS will NOT offer a virtual learning platform this school year; however, we will remain watchful and prepared in the event we must reinstate an online platform. All students have access to devices; teachers currently use a number of digital resources and our team will respond quickly and efficiently should we need to discontinue in-person learning for a determined period of time.

11. Home and School Partnership

Maintaining a strong partnership with our families creates a stabilizing force all members of St. Josaphat Parish School. To this end we will maintain our proven communication channels to share timely, critical updates concerning COVID-19 and other important information. We encourage parents to stay connected to and monitor the following outlets: 1) our internal social media platform - Classdojo, 2) our St. Josaphat Parish School Facebook page, 3) our school website, sjpsmke.com, 4) personal email accounts registered in our student information system and 5) our monthly Thursday Folder take-home documents.

As we anticipate an exciting, fun-filled year of learning ahead, we pray the strategies outlined in this plan will mitigate the spread of *any illness* among our staff and students. **More important, we ask for the Lord's ongoing protection and guidance as we uphold faith over fear - remaining confident in Christ's everlasting Power, Love and Truth.**

