



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Faith • Academics • Service

In-Person Learning Plan

In response to COVID -19

Updated August 2021

Introduction

As of July 12, 2021, the CDC and The California Department of Health respectively, issued updated Health Guidance for K-12 Schools for the 2021-2022 School Year. This framework is available through the links listed below:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx>

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>

When To Stay Home

If your child has a fever of 100.4°F or higher or ANY symptoms of illness listed below, please follow the protocol listed below.

- Cough (for students with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, this should be a change in their cough from baseline)
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (for students with asthma, this should be a change from their baseline breathing)
- New loss of taste or smell
- Chills
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

If your child has any of the above more common symptoms of COVID-19, they must stay home and get tested for COVID-19, get an alternative diagnosis from a medical provider **or** stay at home and isolate for at least 10 days.

Please be vigilant when talking to your child every morning about how they are feeling and completing the **DAILY home health screening through Beehively.**

Students who exhibit the following less common symptoms of COVID-19 must be evaluated by a healthcare provider to determine if COVID-19 testing is indicated:

- New onset of stuffy or runny nose (different from pre-existing allergies)
- Body aches
- Fatigue or lethargy

If a healthcare provider determines COVID-19 testing is indicated, please keep your child home until they are cleared to return back to school by their healthcare provider.

When To Return, if you have stayed home

Students, teachers and staff may return to school after experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 by:

- Providing results of a negative **PCR** COVID-19 test, **OR**
- An alternate diagnosis made by their healthcare provider indicating that the student/staff member may safely return to school (e.g. doctor's note, email).

Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should follow the criteria for returning to school related to that diagnosis. We understand that this request can be inconvenient and disruptive; however, it is the best way that we can be sure it is safe for symptomatic individuals to return to the school setting. Thank you in advance for your patience and support in this process.

Important Note About COVID Testing

There are two different types of COVID-19 tests available:

1. Molecular (RT-PCR) tests that detect the genetic material of the virus.
2. Antigen tests (or "rapid tests") which detect specific proteins on the surface of the virus. PCR tests are the gold standard for COVID-19 testing.

Positive results through Molecular tests are highly accurate and considered confirmatory. Antigen tests cannot definitively rule out active COVID-19 infection because they have a higher chance of missing an active infection, especially in those who do not have any symptoms.

Please note, to return to SVES after experiencing symptoms or exposure, SVES will only accept results from a Molecular PCR Test.

Therefore, when scheduling a test with the goal of returning to school, work or an athletic/extracurricular program, please be sure to request a PCR test only.

We genuinely respect your time and earnest efforts to keep our schools safe, but we cannot accept results from an antigen test and, therefore, we do not want you to invest time and energy getting a rapid test. If you have difficulty getting tested with your healthcare provider, here is a list of free, confidential testing options provided by Sonoma County:

<https://socoemergency.org/emergency/novel-coronavirus/testing-and-tracing>

Masks & Hand Hygiene

Students are required to wear masks indoors at all times. Students are also required to wear masks during high contact games outside.

Outside Games where masks required:

- Basketball
- Gaga Ball
- Tetherball
- Bark Park

Students have scheduled hand washing times and stations. There are hand-sanitizing stations available for before and after entering a room along with before and after eating.

Parent Volunteers

Parent volunteers will be welcome to start after Labor Day. Parent Volunteers need to comply with all the requirements stated in the SVES handbook. In addition, parent volunteers that work directly with students will need to show proof of full COVID vaccination or submit a weekly negative PCR test.

Shared Space

Students will be sharing the science lab. There is a scheduled cleaning after each group. Students are encouraged to not share their personal items. If a class is sharing supplies, they are cleaned in between.

Please Notify the School:

- **If your child is being evaluated for COVID-19.**
 - They may return to school with a negative PCR test **or** if they have received an alternate diagnosis made by their healthcare provider and they follow any criteria for returning to school related to that diagnosis.
- **If a household member is being evaluated for COVID-19.**
 - The household member should isolate / quarantine as appropriate and get tested right away. Your child / children may come to school unless the household member tests positive for COVID-19.
- **If a household member tests positive for COVID-19.**
 - Household members who have been in close contact with the positive case within 2 days of when symptoms began should stay home and not return to school until after completing quarantine. Contact SVES for support and guidance on quarantine and testing protocols.
- **If an unvaccinated household member has a known COVID-19 exposure.**
 - The household member should isolate / quarantine as appropriate.
 - Your child/children may come to school unless it is determined that your child/children have been in close contact with a confirmed positive case.

- **If your child has had close contact with someone (outside of the household) who has tested positive for COVID-19.**
 - They should get tested 5 - 7 days after their last contact with the person who has COVID-19.
 - Provide negative test results to SVES. SVES will coordinate your student's safe return to school.
 - Students with known underlying health conditions may be at increased risk of severe illness. These health conditions may include Diabetes (Type I and II), immune system deficiencies, or chronic respiratory conditions. If your child has a chronic health condition, please consult with your child's healthcare provider to determine if/when it is safe to attend school.

Any student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has been exposed to COVID-19 must stay home from school and follow Sonoma County Public Health's At Home Quarantine Guidance. Parents / guardians must notify the school immediately if their child or household member tests positive for COVID-19 or if a household member may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Modified Quarantine

NEW FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR, per CDPH guidance and in keeping with California's foundational principle striving to ensure that "all students must have access to safe and full in-person instructional time as much as possible, there is a modified quarantine stipulation in instances of a positive case in a classroom.

When both parties are wearing a mask in the indoor classroom setting, unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 cumulative minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet) may undergo a modified quarantine. Students may continue to attend school for in-person instruction after an exposure if they:

- Remain asymptomatic and screen for symptoms daily
- Continue to appropriately mask, as required
- Undergo COVID testing at least twice weekly during the 10-day quarantine*
- Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.

In instances when unvaccinated close contacts were not wearing a mask or the positive case was not wearing a mask during indoor exposure, unvaccinated close contacts will be required to quarantine.

Two fundamental components of the modified quarantine approach outlined by the most recent CDPH guidelines to allow students to remain in school after an exposure are

1. Universal masking

2. Testing unvaccinated close contacts of a positive case no less frequently than twice per week during the quarantine period.

We recognize that this is a notable shift from what our school community grew accustomed to last year and understand that meeting the testing requirement could be very difficult for students and families.

If a Student Develops Symptoms at School

- If a student develops a fever of 100.4°F or higher and/or symptoms consistent with COVID-19, your child will be placed in an isolation area and observed until they are picked up.
 - **Students must be picked up within 40 minutes by you or your identified emergency contact.**
- Parents / guardians must always have a plan for picking up their child. Siblings and/or other household members attending school may remain at school.
- If a student starts exhibiting symptoms, staff will assure the student is wearing a mask. If not, the student will have a mask placed on them and isolated.
- When the parent arrives to pick up their child, stay in the car, call the office, and wait for the child to be escorted outside.
- Please contact your child’s healthcare provider to schedule an appointment and/or schedule COVID-19 testing. Your child, their siblings, and other household members attending school will not be allowed to return to school until the symptomatic child has been without fever for at least 24 hours **AND** receives negative test results for COVID-19 from a PCR test or completes 10 days of isolation.
- Please inform the point of contact (Shannon Jordan, Joan Gogas, or Danielle Rynning) at your school as soon as possible if your child / children are diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Important Note: Children who are isolating or quarantining at home cannot participate either in in-person instruction or in any extra-curricular activities (incl. youth sports).
- **Isolation** (Separating from others if you have COVID-19): People who are in isolation should stay home until it’s safe for them to be around others. In the home, anyone sick or infected should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific “sick room” or area and using a separate bathroom (if available).
- **Quarantine** (Staying home if exposed to COVID-19): People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, and monitor their health.

[County of Sonoma Vaccination Information](#)
[August Vaccine Clinics in Sonoma County](#)

[County of Sonoma Testing information](#)
[August Testing Calendar / Clinics in Sonoma County](#)