

# St. Catherine School COVID-19 Community Protocols

## COVID-19 POSITIVE TEST PROCEDURES

In accordance with updated Department of Health [guidance](#) for schools, St. Catherine School requires a 5 day quarantine for all positive cases, beginning on either test date or illness onset, whichever came first. Staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 can return to school after 5 full days if:

- Symptoms have passed or are resolving since symptom onset or test date
- No fever within the past 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications

## ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDANCE

- Staff and students are not required to provide a negative test result in order to return to school.
- When returning to school after 5 full days of quarantine, staff and students are required to wear a mask days 6-10. (\* If you cannot wear a well-fitting mask: You should complete a full 10-day isolation at home.)
- Individuals who choose to test towards the end of the full 5 days of isolation and receive a positive test result are **required** to complete 10 full days of isolation. Testing beyond day 10 is not necessary.
- St. Catherine School will not be conducting contact tracing nor notifying families if their student has potentially been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 per updated DOH guidelines. Staff and students who may have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 may request a rapid test (must have an updated [consent form](#) on file in the office.)
- If your child is symptomatic or suspects exposure to COVID-19, please follow the [DOH COVID-19 Symptom and Exposure Flow Chart for Schools](#).

St. Catherine School will continue to update its [COVID-19 dashboard](#) to reflect ongoing case counts within our school.

Please communicate all positive COVID-19 cases to Amanda Lucero, Office Manager.

Email: [alucero@stcatherineschool.net](mailto:alucero@stcatherineschool.net)

Office: 206-525-0581 x125

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

### **Face Coverings and Masks**

Masks are optional for students and staff. There will be situations when the use of well-fitting masks may be temporarily required for individuals by DOH and/or local public health. Masks may also be required universally during clusters and/or outbreaks in classrooms or with groups of students (e.g., a drama/musical class or a sports team), or within school settings, to limit disease transmission and ensure in-person instruction and care.

Students and staff will have the choice to wear a mask at school and in school settings, with the expectation that others' choices will be respected. Some may need to wear a mask because they or a member of their household is at high risk for severe COVID-19 disease. Students and staff who are immunocompromised, medically fragile, and/or otherwise at high risk for severe disease should consult their health care provider about whether or not to continue wearing well-fitted masks.

*NOTE: There may be occasions when masks will be required that have yet to be determined.*

### **Handwashing and Sanitizing**

Staff will continue to encourage frequent handwashing and good respiratory etiquette to prevent contracting and spreading infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

### **Ventilation**

We have individual ventilation units for each classroom and shared space. These units help to improve air circulation. During the school days, windows will also be open throughout the school for increased ventilation.

### **Participation in Learn to Return**

St. Catherine is partnering with the Washington State Department of Health and Health Commons Project to offer free COVID-19 testing at St. Catherine. This program provides students and staff with quick and highly accurate COVID-19 PCR and antigen testing as symptoms arise or following known exposure. This is an optional program in which a PCR [student consent form](#) or antigen [student consent form](#) must be completed prior to testing and submitted to the office ([alucero@stcatherineschool.net](mailto:alucero@stcatherineschool.net)). We are able to conduct tests during school hours (at mutually agreeable times).

### **Responding to Cases or Potential Exposure**

Any student, teacher, or staff who reports COVID-19-like symptoms will be **immediately isolated from others and sent home**. While waiting to leave the school or program, the individual with symptoms is required to be isolated in a designated isolation space. They are required to wear a well-fitting face mask (school can provide). They should seek diagnostic testing as soon as feasible. Any student in isolation must be picked up by a parent, guardian, or emergency contact on file. The child may not leave school otherwise, even if they have a walking permission slip on file.

In each situation, the school COVID coordinators may need to make individual decisions regarding protocols depending on circumstances, test availability, and other factors.

### **Vaccinations for Eligible Students and Volunteers**

In accordance with the Governor's August 18<sup>th</sup> proclamation (and the DOH and L&I guidelines), all schools must verify vaccination status of staff, eligible students, and volunteers/visitors. **Parents or guardians are required to confirm their student's COVID-19 vaccination status to our office.** Please email a photo of your student's vaccination card to Amanda Lucero (alucero@stcatherineschool.net) or complete [this form](#) indicating your student is not currently vaccinated.

Volunteers/visitors/indoor contractors will need to communicate and verify their vaccination status when they are in the school building. If vaccination verification was completed in the 2021-22 school year with the school office, then you're good to go to volunteer for the 2022-2023 school year. If not, all volunteers, regardless of vaccination status, must complete this [form](#) and submit to the office prior to volunteering.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best,

Kathy Cox