

## St. Francis Cathedral School 2021 – 2022 Health and Safety Guidelines

St. Francis Cathedral School will provide full-day, full-time, in-person instruction in the 2021- 2022 school year. Virtual learning is not an option. Provisions will be made in cases of exposure to COVID-19 or positive testing for the corona virus.

SFCS has incorporated the NJ Department of Education and Department of Health document, *The Road Forward: Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021 -2022 School Year* as well as the most current updates into our plans. It is the goal of SFCS to keep our students and staff safe and healthy throughout the year. We ask for your cooperation and support. These health and safety guidelines may be amended during the school year as needed.

### Vaccination

We recognize that most of our students are not eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination at this time. While the COVID-19 vaccine is not mandated, we do promote the vaccination for students and staff who are eligible.

We ask our families to complete a voluntary, anonymous survey on vaccination by clicking [here](#)

### Masks

- All students, staff members and visitors are required to wear masks in school per the governor's order on August 6, 2021. The order includes the following exceptions:
  - When wearing a mask would inhibit the individual's health, such as when the individual is exposed to extreme heat indoors
  - When the individual has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance
  - When a student's documented medical condition or disability, as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (in non-public schools this is an ISP, Individualized Service Plan)
  - When the individual is under two years of age
  - When an individual is engaged in an activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask, such as eating and drinking or playing an instrument
  - When the individual is engaged in high-intensity aerobic or anaerobic activity.
- Mask are mandated by the CDC to be worn on school buses.
- At this time, masks are not required when outdoors.

### Physical Distancing

- The guidelines state that schools should consider implementing physical distancing measures while still providing regular school operations in-person. At SFCS:
  - Classes will return to pre-pandemic classrooms.
  - K – 8 students will have specials in the computer room and the gym. Art, Library, Music and Spanish classes will take place in homerooms.
  - All desks in Kindergarten - 8<sup>th</sup> will have desk shields.
  - Desks will be separated as much as possible and facing the same direction unless the teacher is doing group work.
  - Physical distancing will be maintained when students are in the hallways, when singing in Music class and at lunch.
  - Classes will be separated by homeroom when outside during recess.

### Hygiene

- Students will continue to wash hands or use hand sanitizer throughout the school day.
- Staff will continue to enforce covering coughs and sneezes as well as dispose tissues properly.

## **Lunch**

- SFCS will offer a hot lunch program through Pomptonian Food Service in the cafeteria.
- A limited menu will be offered in the beginning of the school year and may be expanded as the year continues. Safety measures and social distancing will be enforced.
- Tables will be extended throughout the whole cafeteria so students will sit apart and not across from each other. Tables will be cleaned and sanitized between lunch periods.

## **Cleaning, Disinfection and Airflow**

- We will limit the use of shared supplies and equipment. Parents are asked to send in school supplies for their child. Items provided by the school will be designated per student.
- The maintenance and cleaning staff will continue with daily cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects frequently touched.
- Windows and doors will be open as much as possible.

## **Screening, Exclusion and Response to symptomatic students and staff**

- It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to screen their child for signs of illness every day. Please do not send in a child who is sick. Children must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of a fever reducing medication before returning to school. Students who come to school sick will be sent home.
- The parent/guardian must call the school nurse at 732-548-3162 no later than 9:00 a.m. to report a student's absence. Please send in an absence note when the child returns to school.
- Students who exhibit possible COVID-19 symptoms when in school will be placed in the isolation room and must be picked-up. These symptoms include:
  - At least two of the following: fever, chills, shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or running nose
  - Or, at least one of the following: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder or new taste disorder
- Unvaccinated students who were exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the previous 14 days are considered to be a close contact and must stay home following the current NJDOH School Exclusion List timetable. Please call the school office to report the exposure.
- Any student exhibiting COVID symptoms must stay at home, be tested and follow the recommended exclusion timetable. The student may return to school after testing negative for COVID and the results submitted to the school office. Please call the school with details.
- Fully vaccinated students who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 and have no COVID-like symptoms do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school or be tested. The student should be monitored for COVID symptoms for 14 days.
- SFCS will continue to inform the Middlesex County Health Department of positive COVID-19 results and close contact exposure.

## **Virtual Learning for COVID related illnesses only:**

- Virtual learning will be made available only to students who test positive for COVID-19 or in quarantine due to close contact with a positive case. The parent/guardian must call the school to report the situation and provide the positive test result or the detailed explanation of the close contact. The student will be provided with the virtual learning link only after the documentation is received.
- Students who are sick with non-COVID related illness must take sick days. Missed school work can be requested prior to lunch and picked-up at the end of the school day.