



COVID-19 STUDENT POLICIES

Dear Parents/ Guardians and Students,

The welfare and health of the students and staff of St. Mary Catholic School is our highest priority. As a result, and in accordance with the State of Ohio COVID-19 Health and Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools, all students will be expected to comply with the following policies and instructions, the purpose of which is to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and to help prevent its spread. Please read this policy carefully and sign at the end to acknowledge that you have read and understand what is being expected of you and that you understand and assume the risks related to COVID-19 and returning to school.

1. **Daily Health Check at Home.**

Prior to coming to school each and every day, parents/ guardians shall conduct a health check of their child to assess whether the child is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. The daily health check shall consist of the following:

- a. Taking the child's temperature.
- b. Through discussion with the child and personal observation of the parent, assess if the child is experiencing one or more of the following symptoms:
 - i. Fever of over 100 °F
 - ii. Chills
 - iii. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - iv. Fatigue
 - v. Muscle or body aches
 - vi. Headache
 - vii. Loss of taste or smell
 - viii. Sore throat
 - ix. Congestion or runny nose
 - x. Nausea or vomiting
 - xi. Diarrhea

For up to date information about COVID-19 symptoms and for an interactive symptom checker/ self-assessment tool, parents and guardians should visit the website of the Center for Disease Control ("CDC") at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

If the child has a fever of greater than 100°F or is experiencing any other symptom listed above (or as updated from time to time by St. Mary Catholic School), the child must stay home from school and the parent must notify the school.

Pursuant to Ohio Department of Health guidelines, families, caregivers and staff shall, as soon as possible, notify the school if (i) they have been exposed to COVID-19, (ii) they, or any members of their households, have been diagnosed with or presumed to have COVID-19, or (iii) they are quarantined. Personnel and students with known exposure to someone with diagnosed or presumed COVID-19 must self-quarantine at home for 14 days or as otherwise advised or instructed by the local health department. Students who travel to a location with known community spread may choose to self-quarantine at home for 14 days.

For a list of COVID-19 testing facilities, please consult your health care professional or go to <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/testing-ch-centers/>.

2. **Temperature Check at School.**

Student temperatures will be taken midday. Students who have a fever of greater than 100°F or who have other symptoms may not remain at school. Such students will be immediately directed to a designated spot to be isolated from others except for the staff designated to monitor and care for such students until they go home.

3. **Hand Washing & Sanitizing.**

Students are expected to wash their hands frequently for at least 20 seconds, including if their hands are dirty, before and after eating, after using the restroom, at other appropriate times (e.g., after blowing their nose/ coughing/ sneezing, and after touching garbage), and as otherwise instructed. Hand sanitizer, provided by the school at various locations around the school, should be used by students to supplement hand washing, including when entering the school or entering or exiting a classroom. Parents/ guardians should discuss handwashing with their child. For instructions and information about hand washing and sanitizing, parents and guardians should visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/bam/child-development/how-to-wash-hands.htm>.

4. **Physical Distancing.**

Students must practice physical distancing whenever possible. Physical distancing means:

- a. Maintaining six feet of space between oneself and others at all times possible, including in classrooms, hallways, restrooms, cafeteria, and pick-up and drop-off areas.
- b. If maintaining six feet of space is not possible, maintaining as much space between oneself and others.
- c. Following all directions and instructions given or posted regarding physical distancing.
- d. Follow all floor or other markings indicating the designated flow of traffic in hallways, rooms, and elsewhere.
- e. Avoid when possible sharing items, materials, and spaces with others.
- f. Maintain physical distancing, if possible, on the bus to and from school.

5. **Face Masks and Coverings.**

All students in Grade 3 through Grade 8 must wear face masks, and Kindergarten through Grade 2 must wear masks or face shields throughout the school day as well as when being transported to and from school on the bus unless the student is unable to do so for health, safety, developmental, or practical reasons. Preschool students are required to wear a mask entering and exiting the school solely. To be effective, face masks should cover the nose, mouth, and chin of the student and should be made of cloth. Parents and guardians are expected to talk with their child about the importance of wearing masks and to instruct the child on the proper wearing of a mask.

6. **Students who become Sick at School.**

A student who, while at St. Mary Catholic School school, develops a fever of greater than 100°F or exhibits any one or more of the symptoms of COVID-19 (not including anything that the school administration reasonably believes to be unrelated to illness, such as seasonal allergies, or isolated incidents of coughing or sneezing) may not remain at school and must be picked up and taken home at the earliest opportunity. Such students will be immediately directed to a designated spot to be isolated from others except for the staff designated to monitor and care for such students until they go home. In the case of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case, the school will call local health department to report the matter and obtain guidance. Any student who has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 may not return to school until such student meets the CDC's criteria for returning to school. Others who may have been potentially exposed will be notified in accordance with the directives or advice of the local health department.

COVID-19 POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

We, the undersigned parent(s)/ guardian(s) and student(s), acknowledge and agree that, as a student/students at St. Mary Catholic School and as parent(s)/ guardian(s) of that student, entering the school or being on St. Mary Catholic School's premises, having personal contact with teachers, classmates, and other St. Mary Catholic School staff, involves a certain degree of risk, namely of parent(s)/ guardian(s) and/or student acquiring a communicable disease, including COVID-19, and then potentially passing it on to others, including family members. Due to the highly contagious nature of COVID-19, the characteristics of the virus, and the close proximity of students, teachers, and staff, there is an elevated risk of student contracting the disease simply by being in the building, on the premises, or at any St. Mary Catholic School's function. The same is true for parent(s)/ guardian(s) of a student at St. Mary Catholic School.

By signing below, we acknowledge and agree that after carefully considering the risks involved, and having the opportunity to discuss these risks with any healthcare professional(s) of our choosing, we voluntarily and willingly accept those risks and acknowledge that returning to in-person classes and other in-person St. Mary Catholic School functions at St. Mary Catholic School is the choice of each family, including ours. If student or parent(s) who visit St. Mary Catholic School have underlying health concerns which may place them at greater risk of contracting any communicable disease, including COVID-19, we acknowledge and agree that we will consult with a health care professional before student or parent(s) return to St. Mary Catholic School, attend any St. Mary Catholic School functions, or visit St. Mary Catholic School. Moreover, we acknowledge that while adherence to safety and precautionary measures (which may include physical distancing guidelines, facemasks, handwashing, etc.) may reduce possible exposure to the risk of contracting a communicable disease, the possibility of serious illness and death remains despite all efforts to reduce that risk. We do hereby accept and assume sole responsibility for any illness acquired by student or parent(s) while at St. Mary Catholic School or any St. Mary Catholic School function, including possible infection with COVID-19.

We further acknowledge, understand, and agree that we have obligations to St. Mary Catholic School, its faculty, students, and others to take certain precautions and make certain disclosures to prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as COVID-19. Specifically, we agree to comply with this policy and all other St. Mary Catholic School rules and requirements relating to communicable diseases such as COVID-19, including rules relating to whether or under what circumstances students, parents, and family members may come to St. Mary Catholic School or attend St. Mary Catholic School events.

Print Parent Name _____ Parent Signature _____

Date ____/____/____

Print Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

Date ____/____/____

(ADDITIONAL STUDENT NAMES)

1) Print Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

_____ Date ____/____/____

2) Print Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

_____ Date ____/____/____

3) Print Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

_____ Date ____/____/____

4) Print Student Name _____ Student Signature _____

_____ Date ____/____/____
