



ST. MARY'S SPRINGS
Academy

Return to the Ledge

Health and Safety Protocols 2021-2022

1

Masks Optional

At SMSA, we believe parents/guardians know what is best for their individual child's well-being. Masks will be optional for the academic year and we prayerfully ask that you, parents/guardians, remain socially responsible. If your child(ren) is exhibiting symptoms of any illness, keep them at home until symptoms subside and they are fever free for 24 hours.



2

Contact Tracing

Students will be quarantined if they, or household members, have tested positive for COVID-19. Families with students in close contact with anyone testing positive on campus will receive an exposure letter (similar to a lice exposure). The family will then decide what option is best for their child(ren) (i.e., test, quarantine or return to school).



3

Quarantine Household Contact

If a member of your household has tested positive for COVID-19, please alert SMSA, (smsacademy.org/reportcovid), stay home and follow the Fond du Lac County Health Department's guidelines for return to school.



4

Isolate Non-Household Close Contact

(symptomatic)

If your child(ren) are showing symptoms of COVID-19, please keep your child(ren) home until fever free for 24 hours. COVID-19 testing is recommended, but not required, before returning to school.



5

Quarantine Non-Household Close Contact

(asymptomatic)

If your child(ren) was exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 outside the home and school, please notify SMSA (smsacademy.org/reportcovid), monitor for symptoms and keep your child(ren) home if they are exhibiting any symptoms.



Additional steps being implemented to ensure a safe and healthy academic year:

enhanced facility cleaning, water fill stations to re-fill water bottles, masks/face shields available to students, full-time System-wide Coordinator of Health Services, internal tracking and tracing protocols monitoring for increased spread/in-school transmission, hand sanitizing stations, fostering a mask/non-mask and vaccinated/non-vaccinated inclusive environment and further protocols should transmission become persistent.

St. Mary's Springs Academy reserves the right to adjust protocols should it become necessary.

Considerations for Returning to School 2021-2022



Supporting Data:

- Children between 1-18 years of age have lower rates of hospitalization, severe hospitalization and deaths than do other age groups
 - Severe/critical illness and death are rare and occur most commonly in children with underlying health conditions
- SARS-CoV-2 appears to act differently in children and adolescents than other common respiratory viruses, such as influenza
- Children and adolescents play a major role in amplifying influenza outbreaks, to date, this does not appear to be the case with SARS-CoV-2
- Evidence indicates that children and adolescents can become infected and are less likely to be symptomatic and less likely to have severe disease resulting from SARS-CoV-2
- COVID-19 polices are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk
 - Implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk

Source: American Academy of Pediatrics – COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools

Definitions:

- Quarantine
 - for exposed, unvaccinated individuals to stay home and away from all people and activities such as: school, work, sports, parties, events, etc.
- Isolate
 - for sick individuals to stay home and away from all people and activities such as: school, work, sports, parties, events, etc.
- Close Contact
 - an exposed individual to a confirmed or probable case, masked or unmasked, within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more, cumulative
- Cohort
 - to group students into smaller pods, so that you limit the amount of possible exposure
- Asymptomatic
 - showing no signs or symptoms of illness

