

Return to St. Vincent Schools 2020/2021

To maintain consistency among our community schools, documents were viewed from the Archdiocese Transition 2020 Task Force Report, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Perry County Health Department Planning and Responding to COVID-19 to develop the following return to school protocol guidance. We recognize that every school district faces very unique situations specific to the school community. There is no one standard plan that will fit the needs of every school. The protocol guidance is for the St. Vincent school settings and may differ from guidance provided to the general public. The protocol guidelines for St. Vincent are subject to adjustments as conditions warrant through Perry County Health Department and the CDC.

This document is to help establish a safe learning environment for the students and staff at St. Vincent. St. Vincent is a small school and feels we can implement a safe return for our students based on the Pastor's leadership and/or St. Vincent's School Board and leadership decisions or guidelines established by local government authorities. This draft was established with current factors as of August 3, 2020.

Introduction:

Schools in our community were impacted in an unprecedented way by the emergence of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), the causative agent of COVID-19. As we have moved through this pandemic, we have learned that children appear to be less vulnerable to infection and are unlikely to become seriously ill with COVID-19. We have to keep in mind however that under our collective roof we have teachers and support staff with a range of ages from their twenties to over age sixty. The profound negative impact of loss of in-person schooling on the wellbeing of children has been well documented and thus we are preparing for the return *of everyone* to school on August 18th for the 2020-2021 school year.

However, we should be attentive that this public health crisis has not ended. Adults, particularly those who are older and those with underlying health conditions, are at increased risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Our schools need to be prepared to reduce the chance that anyone will acquire this infection during the school day and armed with a protocol to respond to a case of infection. Schools must be poised to adapt to new emerging information in order to create a safe and robust educational experience. Although planning for this "new normal" may create some inconveniences, if we work together as a community, we will help ensure that our students, staff and faculty will stay healthy and will reduce the chance of significant educational disruptions.

Returning Goals for 2020-21

- Always asking "What is in the best interest of our school family?"

- For students to return to school on campus August 18th as scheduled
- To create a healthy, safe and happy learning and working environment for students and staff
- To keep school as normal as possible
- To guide consistent necessary measures across all programs
- To reduce the impact of probable temporary closures
- To effectively share information with our St. Vincent school families and community
- Provide interactive education to parents and students about effective methods to stop the spread of COVID-19, how to prevent the spread of germs along with proper handwashing techniques throughout the school year and physical distancing
- Communicate to staff, parents and students responsibilities prior to the first day of classes
- Monitor changing local crisis level and adjust school status accordingly using the local health department color chart (posted daily on the Perry County Health Department Facebook page)

At SV schools, we will spot check those home screens done on students by their parents and spot check staff before entering the

building. (We will not check 100% daily, but anyone could be checked every day.)

As always, but particularly this year, we will all have to rely on the honesty and integrity of each other with regard to the health status of students and staff. It is of utmost importance that your child STAY HOME if they are symptomatic. We will require staff to do the same. (There are new Archdiocesan guidelines in the student/parent handbook regarding illness and requirements when returning to school.)

St. Vincent will implement:

- **Daily Symptoms Screening**
 - All **staff** members will screen themselves prior to arriving at school using the same COVID-19 screening guidelines as students listed below
 - **Parents** will take their student's temperature prior to arriving at school and answer the following questions. If the answer to any of these questions is yes, the student needs to stay home.
 - Is your child's temperature 100.4 degrees or higher?
 - Has your child had a fever within the last three days?
 - Has your child experienced any COVID-19 symptoms (fever or chills, cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, or sore throat)?
 - Has your child been in close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days and/or someone pending COVID-19 testing results?
 - If a **student** should exhibit any of the above symptoms, please refer to the below information titled, "Health Guidance: Return to School After Exclusion"
 - **Staff** will do random temperature checks during morning drop off of students in vehicles
 - **Staff** will have driver park to the side, for a recheck of a temperature if it is questionable
 - **Nurse** will retake student temperature orally
- Each classroom will have access to a touchless thermometer to monitor symptoms prior to notifying the office if they show signs of illness

St. Vincent will implement:

- **Social Distancing strategies based on the feasibility according to the school building characteristics**
 - Classes will **move as a group** throughout the school day when possible

- Students and staff will **enter** the building using outside classroom doors or designated entries of the buildings
- **Exiting** the building: all students leave the building from their outside classroom doors or designated exits of the buildings
- Keep students and staff physically distanced in the classroom, to the extent possible with staying 6 feet of distance from other people
 - Less than 6 feet will need to wear a mask
 - **At the HS/JH square footage dictates, that if you have more than 12 students, masks must be worn**
- Maintain social distancing during **hallway** usage to the extent possible
- **Mass** will take place according to the following:
 - Teachers will set up the liturgy with their students according to the DRE's schedule
 - The teacher and students scheduled for the liturgy will attend Mass at Church and the rest of the teachers/students may view the live stream on the SV Tribe Facebook page and participate as much as they can within their classrooms
- PE will take place outside to the extent possible for noncontact activities
- Music/Art will take place within the Music/Art classroom maintaining the guidelines for social distancing
- Band will take place maintaining social distancing guidelines and Archdiocese guidelines
- Library
 - No mixing of students outside of their organized class unit in elementary
 - At the HS/JH, students will maintain social distancing when using the library
- Locker usage
 - Stagger locker usage by class when possible
 - Students should only access his/her assigned locker
- Restroom usage limited to one class
- Recesses will be assigned at designated times to restrict multi class contact
- Health Office: Will operate under normal circumstance, except students with flu like symptoms will be isolated
- Cafeteria: stagger lunch by class or eat in classrooms
- IEP services may be limited using distance learning delivery of instruction
- Departmentalized grade levels will sanitize before and after exchange of students

St. Vincent will implement:

- **Health Office/Mask Usage**

Individuals will wear a mask when social distancing cannot be accomplished. This is defined as within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes.

- Masks must be brought to school daily for use when social distancing is not possible.
 - This will include hallway transitions, entering the building, and exiting the building.
- Class size will often allow masks to be put away during instructional time and square footage/student numbers will determine when that is possible
- Efforts should be made to destigmatize the wearing of face masks
- Cafeteria staff will be required to wear masks and gloves

When a student/staff member has a temperature

- If temperature is 100.4 degrees:
 - Student will wear a mask to go to the nurse for assessment
 - Student will be put into isolation if temperature is 100.4 or above and parents will be called to pick the student up within 30 minutes of school contacting parents
 - Advise parents to contact a healthcare provider
 - The healthcare provider will be able to determine whether the symptoms are a result of COVID-19 infection or if there are other health issues
 - Please refer to the below information titled, “Health Guidance: Return to School After Exclusion”
 - Staff member will return home
 - Students/School personnel will follow the guidance of the local health department regarding contact tracing/probable cases, classroom or school closure, notification of community, sanitizing protocols, etc. if a case of COVID-19 is identified within the school

St. Vincent will implement:

When a student or staff member is confirmed to have COVID-19

- Immediately notify local health officials to determine a course of action
 - Local decision could include closing a building for deep cleaning
 - Local Health officials review the COVID-19 situation and the impact on the school
 - Local Health officials provide guidelines for custodial staff to clean and disinfect the affected facilities
- Continue previous strategies
- Please refer to the below information titled, “Health Guidance: Return to School After Exclusion”

St. Vincent will implement:

- MSHSAA Guidelines and Recommendations for Opening Sports/Activities
 - <https://www.mshsaa.org/resources/PDF/2020-2021%20MSHSAA%20Guidelines-Recommendations%20for%20Opening%20Sports%20and%20Activities.pdf>

St. Vincent will implement:

Transportation Procedures

- Reducing the number of students on the bus by allowing only one student per seat and/or alternating rows of students or each student wearing a mask while riding when social distancing cannot be maintained
- Assign seats to reduce transmission and assist with contact tracing if necessary
- Stagger for loading and unloading of buses to minimize student contact such as loading the rear of the bus first
- Sanitizing each bus before/during/after school activity

St. Vincent will implement:

● **Other Safety Considerations**

- Limit parents and nonessential visitors
 - Staff members may meet parents at the door when checking students in/out during the school day
 - Face masks will be required by visitors entering both elementary and high school buildings for an appointment. This will add an additional layer of protection for our students and staff at St. Vincent.
- Non-essential visitors, classroom parties, guest speakers, mystery readers, etc. are suspended until the infection rates have flattened as reported by our local Health Department
- Students will use hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting all classrooms
- Routine sanitization of student work spaces will occur throughout the day as necessary
- Regular hand washing will be taught, promoted, and utilized
- Teachers will reinforce good cough etiquette and the benefits of face coverings and social distancing
- On a daily basis students should provide their own clean water bottles with their names clearly marked
- Only bottle filling water fountains will be open
- Daily routine for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting surfaces that are frequently touched
- Alert local health officials about large increases in student and staff absenteeism due to respiratory illnesses
- Determine cancellation of events through the help of local health official

● **In Person vs. Virtual Instruction/Distance Learning**

In the event that school cannot be in person, all SV teaching staff will be on campus and available for email, phone, or virtual communication and instruction.

It is our sincere desire to have in person instruction throughout our entire 20-21 school year.

- In person instruction will have to yield to virtual instruction and/or distance learning under the following circumstances:
 - Direction from our government officials and/or the Archdiocese of St. Louis
 - Excessive absenteeism from our students and/or staff as determined by the Superintendent
 - Cleaning/Sanitation needs due to staff or students testing positive for COVID-19
 - A combination of other unforeseen factors

- **Health Guidance: Return to School After Exclusion** (From the St. Louis Archdiocese as of July 9, 2020)
 - Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC and the local Health Department
 - Current guidelines are:
 1. I think or know I had COVID-19, and I had symptoms
 - You may return to school after:
 - 24 hours with no fever AND
 - symptoms improved AND
 - typically 10 – 14 days of quarantine since symptoms first appeared
 2. I tested positive for COVID-19 but had no symptoms
 - You may return to school:
 - if you continue to have no symptoms AND
 - 10 days have passed since test
 - Depending on your healthcare provider's advice and availability of testing, you might get tested to see if you still have COVID-19. If you will be tested, you can be around others after you receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.
 - Students may also return if they are approved to do so, in writing, by the student's health care provider.
 - **Siblings or Other Students in the Household**
 - If a student is excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms or has had a positive COVID19 test, his or her siblings or other students living in the same household will also be excluded from school.
 - **Self-Quarantine**
 - Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or is pending test results for COVID-19.
 1. What counts as close contact?
 - You were within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes
 - You provided care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19

- You had direct physical contact with the person (touched, hugged, or kissed them)
 - You shared eating or drinking utensils
 - They sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you
2. Steps to take
- Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19
 - Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19
 - If possible, stay away others, especially people who are at higher risk for getting very sick from COVID-19

St. Vincent will implement:

Cleaning and Disinfecting

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided guidelines <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html> regarding cleaning and disinfecting school buildings and other areas.

- Require the use of disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting
- Clean and disinfect surfaces per CDC guidance
- Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
 - More frequent cleaning and disinfection may be required based on level of use
 - High-touch surfaces and objects (such as tables, doorknobs, light switches, desks, phones, keyboards, faucets, etc.) should be cleaned and disinfected regularly
- Disinfect using EPA-registered household disinfectant, properly diluted bleach solutions or alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol
- Implementing sanitizing procedures using alternative means provided by the Archdiocese
- Check with the effectiveness of cleaning with local health department

Resources

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/FAQ-schools-child-care.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools-faq.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>