

Parents and guardians,

After much deliberation and discussion, I have decided that when we return to session on Monday January 3rd, St. John the Baptist will move to “Mask Strongly Recommended” instead of required. This decision was based on many factors, including alignment with surrounding schools, accessibility of the COVID 19 vaccine for all students age 5 and up, and consultation with our school nurse. While I understand that we are still in the middle of a pandemic, I believe this is the right decision for our school. As we return to school, I have created the following plan that was approved by the School Board at the last meeting.

Below is how we will handle future COVID 19 cases after January 3rd:

- If a student or staff member tests positive, we will immediately send a whole school notification and a notification to the entire grade of the positive case.
- According to the Mask to Stay Guidelines, any student who is within 6 feet of the positive case is considered a close contact. After watching gym class, lunch, recess, and bell changes, I have decided that all students will be considered a close contact when we have a positive case in a grade.
- Due to this policy, the entire grade will need to wear a mask for 10 days from the last exposure and monitor for symptoms. Any student that is fully vaccinated will still be required to wear a mask for 10 days.
- Parents can still choose to have their child complete the traditional 10 day quarantine at home if their child is considered a close contact; however, when he or she returns to school, he or she will need to wear a mask until the end of the 10 day mask requirement.
- Any student who is considered a close contact and refuses to wear a mask will be required to take the traditional 10 day quarantine at home.
- If we have multiple kids test positive in one classroom and we feel the spread is a direct result of the classroom exposure we can decide to send the entire class home for a traditional at home quarantine.

Please note, that these new guidelines only apply if they were a close contact at school. If your son or daughter is considered a close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID 19 outside of the school setting, they will be required to complete a 5 day quarantine period at home unless they are fully vaccinated. All fully vaccinated students who have been classified as a close contact from an outside exposure will be allowed to still attend school; however, they will be required to wear a mask at school for 10 days. If your son or daughter is fully vaccinated and you would like to notify the school of his or her vaccination status, please send a copy of their vaccination card to mgreer@stjohnsdrschoo.org

Thank you for reviewing this policy and understanding the changes. We will keep parents posted if anything regarding our new policies changes.

Sincerely,

Courtney Weinheimer
St. John the Baptist, Principal

Updated 1/4/22