

COVID MITIGATION STRATEGIES

St. John Lutheran School is taking a comprehensive approach to Covid mitigation, which includes cleaning, physical distancing, hand washing, encouraging vaccination, encouraging facial coverings, readily available testing, staying home when sick, household quarantining, and close monitoring of classrooms with a positive individual.

The learning environment protocols and procedures regarding the Covid-19 virus must be fluid with relation to community transmission levels. We have monitored local data trends and past outcomes to create our 2021-22 plans. We have learned that local trends may change quickly and result in changes to mitigation strategies. We will notify families of changes as they occur, and ask for your patience and understanding.

Vaccinations

- In alignment with the CDC stance that vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy, St. John Lutheran School will continue to promote vaccination for students and staff.

Facial coverings

- Recommended but optional for all students and staff.
- Highly encouraged for unvaccinated individuals.
- Required for riders on all school buses per federal mandate.

Covid-19 testing

- St. John Lutheran will participate in the free testing made available by the WI Department of Health Services.
- Our testing site is Cedar Grove - Belgium High School - the concession stand by the baseball field.
- Free testing will be available for all staff, students, and immediate family members that students or teachers reside with. Testing is voluntary. Students must have a consent form signed by a parent or guardian before being tested.
- Individuals can test if they have symptoms or possible exposure, or after large school events.

Illness

- All students & staff who are sick should stay home until symptoms improve.
- Those with fever of 100°F or greater, vomiting, or diarrhea should stay home at least 48 hours. They can return when symptoms have improved and they are fever-free for 24 hours (without the help of fever-reducing, or antidiarrheal medications).

- Also do not come to school with any of these other symptoms of Covid-19:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Loss of smell or taste
 OR 2 or more of the following:
 - Chills or shivering
 - Sore throat
 - Fatigue (unusual)
 - Muscle pain (unexplained)
 - Headache (new or not typical)
 - Nausea
 - Congestion / runny nose
- Covid-19 testing is recommended for unvaccinated individuals who are ill with Covid symptoms.

Quarantine of students and staff

- We carefully track all Covid-positive activity in our school and closely monitor the health of all students.
- In the event that we have a student or staff member test positive, the student or staff member is to self-isolate for 5 days from the onset of symptoms.
- If a family member of a student or staff member tests positive, the student or staff member is to self-isolate for 10 days. If the student or staff member then develops symptoms and tests positive they are to quarantine for 5 days from the onset of symptoms.
- Individuals with a positive test result may return after 5 days of self-isolation if symptoms are improving. If symptoms are not improving, please continue to self-isolate until symptoms improve.
- When returning to school after self-isolation due to a positive test result, teachers, staff, and students should wear a face covering for an additional 5 days.
- The Public Health Department continues to isolate Covid-positive individuals and quarantine their household members and close contacts for 10 days.
- However, vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine, as long as they do not have symptoms.
- Vaccinated individuals may return once symptoms have improved and they are fever free (without fever-reducing medicine) for at least 48 hours.
- The school will quarantine if more than 50% of the student body is ill and/or 50% of the teaching staff is ill.

Student instruction

- Instruction will be provided in classrooms using regular class size guidelines.

- Optimal use of physical distancing in classrooms and use of outdoor learning spaces will be a priority.

Transportation

- Normal bus routes and capacity levels will be implemented.

Lunch

- Students will sit at lunch tables with their class members.

Child Care [After School and Infant Care]

- Child Care will be available unless the school is quarantined, there are not enough teachers for staffing, or enough students.

Visitors in building

- Visitors will have limited access to the building and classrooms, and should report to the office.
- Pre-planned meetings may occur.
- Non-parent volunteers are required to wear a mask and access will be limited to areas of need.

Parents in the building

- It is recommended that parents wear a mask.
- Parents are encouraged to walk their children into the school building each day.