

COVID-19 Policies for 2021-2022 School Year

The information below is intended to explain the most up to date plan St. Mary's has in place to begin the 2021-22 school year. We continue to look for prudent actions to appropriately address the continuing COVID-19 concerns. **Remember these policies are subject to change with any further guidance and/or mandates provided by the Governor of Ohio, Ohio Department of Education, and/or the Van Wert County Health Department.** At the end of the day, we want to do everything we can to keep everyone safe and healthy here at St. Mary's School.

After reviewing the information and recommendations provided by Governor Dewine, the Ohio Department of Education, the Van Wert County Health Department, and the Toledo Diocese; as well as considering the recent trends in Northwest Ohio and the low-risk that COVID-19 poses for children; St. Mary's Administration and School Council have set the following guidelines for the start of the 2021-2022 School Year:

- At this time, students, faculty, and staff will **NOT** be required to wear facial coverings; however, students, faculty and staff may choose to wear facial coverings if they so desire. The school administration holds the right to mandate facial coverings be worn if the current environment or community spread of disease warrants. We will monitor the situation closely and make a decision in the best interest of our students' and staff's health and well-being.
- We are strongly encouraging all families to complete symptoms checks on their students prior to reporting to school each day. This includes taking students' temperatures. If a student has a temperature of 100F or higher, or if the student is experiencing other symptoms, the student should not report to school. If fever is a symptom, an individual should be fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning to school.
- These checks will help to ensure we keep a safe and healthy environment for everyone.
- For any case of COVID-19, the policies of the Van Wert Health Department for quarantining and reporting will be followed. Please be aware that these policies are updated frequently.
- As contact-tracing guidelines have currently been lifted, specific social-distancing requirements will not be required in the classrooms and common areas. However, we will still do our best to keep social-distancing when possible.
- Sanitizing and regular cleaning of the school will remain a priority.
- Hand-washing protocols for students, faculty, and staff will be maintained and there will be hand sanitizer stations at each entrance of the school.
- Remote Learning options will only be available during the 2021-22 school year in the event of long term absences mandated by the school, Health Department, or other unforeseen circumstance.
- The CDC continues to require that masks be worn on all public transportation, including school buses operated by public schools.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us at school either via email at dmetzger@stmarysvanwert.com or call the School Office at 419-238-5186. Some questions may not have answers at this time, but every attempt will be made to provide direction.

Thank you again for your understanding and support. There is no doubt that by helping to support one another, we will find success in providing our students with a strong Catholic Education.