



St. Mary's Academy
Charter School
Parent and Public
Covid-19 and Safety
Notice

SMACS will designate a group that is responsible for responding to COVID-19 and Safety concerns. Individuals should call 361-358-5601 extension 1000 (school office) during normal business hours to be connected with the appropriate designated staff member. If you cannot wait for the school business hours, please call your family medical provider or 911 if an emergency.

Every decision made will take into consideration the latest guidance and direction from local, state and federal authorities.

Updated: 7/28/2022

Dear St. Mary's Academy Charter School Families,

Based upon guidance and direction from the Texas Education Agency and local and state officials, we are moving forward with plans to open our school for the fall semester and want to provide you with our commitment to student and staff safety.


This document provides guidance to school day operations and instructional guidelines. This system includes adjustments to arrival and dismissal procedures, child nutrition services, and campus organization. We will continue intense health and hygiene practices, along with cleaning, and reminders about safe and healthy practices, including protocols on campus visitors and deliveries that are in place for the protection of all students and staff.

We ask that you take time to read this guidance document and reach out with your feedback or questions.

Thank you and stay safe!

Hirma Elizondo, Principal

Stan Simonson, Superintendent



The image shows a circular gauge with four colored segments representing COVID-19 levels. The segments are: 1 - SEVERE (red, 'Stay Home Work Safe'), 2 - SIGNIFICANT (orange, 'Minimize ALL Contacts'), 3 - MODERATE (yellow, 'Stay Vigilant'), and 4 - MINIMAL (green, 'Resume Normal Contacts'). The needle points to level 2. Below the gauge is the text 'St. Mary's Academy Charter School COVID-19 LEVEL'.

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Health Protocols

SMACS continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 and receives regular guidance from Texas Governor Greg Abbott, Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath and other local, state and federal agencies regarding response, prevention and mitigation efforts. This guidance will continue to evolve based on COVID-19 conditions across the state and our local community. We will educate our students, staff, and community members about the importance of social distancing; frequent hand washing; covering a cough or sneeze; not touching one's eyes, nose, or mouth; staying home when sick; and other measures to help prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Hand sanitizer will be available. SMACS Custodial Staff will continue to routinely clean and disinfect all facilities, including frequently touched objects and surfaces with CDC approved germicidal agents which are effective against multiple disease causing viruses and bacteria.

Covid-19 Daily Self-Screening

All parents, students and staff will be required to self-screen daily prior to entering any SMACS facility.

Parents/Guardians can help by keeping children who are sick home. If a child has COVID-19 symptoms, under TEA guidelines, the child cannot return to school until at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared, and at least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, etc.)

Social Distancing

Students and staff will be asked to maintain a distance of 3 feet when feasible.

Face Coverings

Masks are optional and it is up to the individual or parent/guardian of minor children if a mask will be worn. If State, Local, or Federal guidelines change to require Face Masks, SMACS will enforce the wearing of Masks.

Registered Nurse

There is a part-time registered nurse on campus.

Response to COVID-19 Cases

SMACS staff will initiate the SMACS Isolation Plan in the event of a suspected COVID-19 case on campus. In working with federal, state, local health ordinance, and district authorities, a course of action will be determined regarding necessary communication, required sanitation, possible closures, and contact tracing. Upon notification of a lab confirmed COVID-19 case on a campus, the district will communicate with teachers, staff, and families of students who were potentially exposed.



School Day Operations

Campus Cleaning

- Campuses will be cleaned throughout the instructional day
- Classrooms will be equipped for cleaning between transition of students
- Age appropriate signage for proper hygiene practices will be posted throughout the buildings.

Doors

- All exterior doors of Instructional buildings will be locked at all times when students are present.
- All interior instructional doors will remain locked when students are present.

Student Arrival

- Kindergarten students will report to their Kindergarten building in the morning.
- Student in grades 1st-6th will report to the school cafeteria in the morning.

Student Dismissal

- Kindergarten students will dismiss from the Kindergarten building.
- Students in grades 1st-3rd will dismiss from the 3rd grade building.
- Students in grades 4th-6th will dismiss from the 4th-6th Upper Hall building.

Transitions

- Established traffic patterns throughout the campus will separate individuals to the greatest extent possible.
- Signs posted to reinforce physical distance expectations.

Meal Service

- Students will eat meals in the cafeteria building. Meal times will be staggered.
- Student meal areas cleaned as students' transition throughout mealtime.
- Campuses will use a variety of options for seating arrangements to maximize social distancing.

School Calendar

The district plans to utilize the Board approved 2022-2023 calendar. However, the district is prepared to modify the calendar. Ample notice and communication will be provided if a calendar change is needed.

Recess/Outdoor Time

Outdoor play and outdoor learning will be encouraged.

Visitors/Deliveries/Miscellaneous

- SMACS will restrict visits in the school to only those essential to school operations
- Essential meetings will be by appointment or a virtual format.
- All approved visitors must self-screen prior to entry, their temperature may be taken before they are admitted.
- To ensure the safety of students and staff, no outside deliveries for students will be accepted. (i.e. gifts, etc.)
- **No outside food will be brought in.**
- **Parent access will be limited to the main school building and the school business office.**

Health Screening

All staff must self-check for symptoms daily before coming to campus. The self-check for staff includes a daily temperature check and evaluating if they have come into Close Contact. Any yes answers should be immediately reported to your supervisor before coming on campus.

Parents will be required to check their students for symptoms daily before coming to campus.

[Your Health | COVID-19 | CDC](#) (Symptoms)

Supporting LINKS:

The Texas Education Agency has not released update guidance for COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for the 2022-2023 School year. SMACS will follow this guidance as it is updated.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Support and Guidance | Texas Education Agency](#)

The Texas Education Agency Public Health Guidance is linked to Department of State Health Services (**DSHS**):

[COVID-19 School Readmission Criteria \(texas.gov\)](#)

The Texas Education Agency Public Health Guidance is also linked to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC**):

[Appendices | CDC](#) (Close Contact)