



ST. JOHN'S PREP

COVID Guidelines Opening of School Year 2021-2022

The Prep Community Covenant Continued

Introduction:

When we opened the 2020-2021 school year, we grounded our work and protocols in the concept of covenant. We noted that a covenant emphasizes our interconnectedness. As an inclusive, Catholic, Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School our focus is on community and advancing the common good, this focus has been a hallmark of St. John's since our founding in 1907. As we open this school year we continue to reflect on the concept of covenant and its importance and centrality in guiding our efforts to mitigate risk and promote the health and well being of our community.

Our commitment for this school year is to offer full time, in-person teaching, learning, co-curricular and interscholastic athletic programs for the St. John's Prep Community. In working with our Medical Advisory Group, consulting with professional associations and engaging with a panel of experts in weekly webinars we continue to learn a great deal about COVID-19. To achieve our goal of in-person teaching, learning, co-curricular and interscholastic athletics we are employing a layered approach to mitigate risk. We will be assessing and adapting the layers we employ on a regular basis. Our protocols to begin the school year will be centered around three layers:

- Masking - when appropriate
- Encouraging vaccination
- Testing

We ask all faculty, staff, parents and students to take time to familiarize themselves with the contents of this document.

As we embark on the 2021-2022 school year, we continue to carry on the vision of the Prep Community Covenant and share our layered approach to risk mitigation and the promotion of the health and well being of all members of our community.

Contents:

The following topics are addressed in this document:

- Face masks
- Vaccination
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- Close Contacts / Quarantine
- Academics
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- Athletics / Intramurals
- Guests and Spectators
- Virtual Programming
- Travel
- Dining and Food Service
- A.E. Studzinski Library

Face Masks

- As of Monday, August 30, 2021 masks will be required for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, in indoor spaces on campus. Masks will not be required outdoors. This requirement will be assessed on a regular basis and adjusted based on the prevalence of COVID in our community and the positivity rates in the cities and towns that are part of the St. John's Community.
- Acceptable masks are two-ply cotton face masks or single-use disposable face masks. Masks must cover the mouth and nose. More information on appropriate masks can be [found here](#).
- Per Federal guidelines, masks must be worn on all school buses, SJP mini-buses and school vans. Windows will be open on buses, mini-buses and vans to mitigate risk of transmission.
- Masks must be worn for indoor physical education classes, when training in the Joe Levis '60 Fitness Center or using the Carey Field House or Memorial Gym.
- Faculty and staff who are alone in an office or classroom space with the door shut are not required to wear masks.

Vaccination

The single most effective means of preventing the harmful effects of COVID and minimizing the potential for disruptions for individuals and the community is to have a high vaccination rate within the Prep community. The School strongly encourages vaccination for all eligible individuals. Currently, vaccinations are approved under emergency use authorization (EUA) guidelines for individuals aged 12-15. When vaccines are fully licensed, the School reserves the right to require vaccination for all eligible individuals.

Families, faculty and staff were asked to submit an electronic form indicating vaccination status. If an individual's vaccination status changes, families are asked to send information to nurses@stjohnsprep.org and faculty / staff are asked to send information to tschaeublin@stjohnsprep.org.

Testing

St. John's Prep is implementing a testing protocol and working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to provide in-school testing. DESE has contracted with CIC to provide pooled short swab testing.

Additionally, St. John's will be using the BinaxNow Rapid Antigen Testing in our School Health Office and Athletic Training Office.

Our testing program has three components:

- Symptomatic Testing for those who show COVID symptoms at school (via BinaxNow)
 - If a faculty, staff or student feels that she or he is experiencing COVID symptoms while on campus she / he should report to the Health Office for a BinaxNow rapid antigen test. If the test is positive, the individual will be required to leave campus and follow the appropriate quarantine guidelines.
 - If the test is negative, the individual will be allowed to return to activities after a PCR test to verify the negative test result.
- Weekly COVID Testing for unvaccinated individuals and those involved in interscholastic athletic programs is required. Random testing for co-curricular programs and vaccinated individuals will also take place.
- Pooled small nasal swab or saliva testing will be performed for unvaccinated individuals and those who participate in programs / interscholastic activities that engage with other schools as well as a small random sample of other faculty and staff.

Parents will be asked to complete a release form for their students' first COVID test. The release will apply to all additional COVID tests administered to the student during the year. Results of testing will be shared with parents. In the event of a positive test, a school nurse will be in contact with the student and parents/guardian to outline quarantine guidelines.

Testing protocols are in place for the first four (4) weeks of the school year. We will reassess testing protocols at that time.

Distancing

Based on recent guidance issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) St. John's will no longer mandate 6' or 3' distance. Common areas and dining halls will be restored to their traditional set ups.

As part of our covenant and interconnectedness we need to realize that different individuals have different comfort levels with regard to distancing. It is imperative that we be respectful of those who wish to maintain some distance.

Our ability to have as normal a school year as possible depends on student, faculty and staff compliance with all requirements.

Close Contacts / Quarantine

St. John's is following the recommendations [issued by DESE on August 13, 2021](#) regarding close contacts and quarantine. The text in the following section is based on the DESE document.

Definition of a Close Contact:

According to the DESE policy: "Close contacts are defined as individuals who have been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual while indoors, for at least 15 minutes during a 24 hour period."

Close Contacts Who are Exempt from Testing / Quarantine

The following individuals are exempt from close contact testing and quarantine protocols:

- Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts.
- Close contacts wearing masks on school buses with windows open.
- Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the last 90 days.

The following protocols are in place for quarantine for COVID positive individuals and close contacts who are not exempt, as defined above.

COVID Positive Individuals:

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, are required to inform the School Health Office (nurses@stjohnsprep.org) upon receiving a positive test result.

On December 28, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shortened the recommended time for isolation for individuals with COVID-19. If the individual shows no symptoms, the recommended isolation period is shortened from 10 days to 5 days, followed by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others.

Individuals must receive clearance from the SJP Health Office prior to returning to campus.

COVID Symptomatic Individuals

Individuals experiencing COVID symptoms are required to report symptoms to the School Health Office immediately. If on campus, the individual is **required to report** to the Health Office for a BinaxNOW test. In the event of a positive BinaxNOW test the individual will be required to leave campus for a PCR test to confirm results and follow the correct self-isolation protocol. In the event of a negative BinaxNOW test the individual will be required to obtain a PCR test to confirm antigen test.

If off campus, the individual is required to obtain a PCR test and remain off campus until results are reported. If the test is negative, the individual is asked to share the results with the Health Office and may return to campus. If positive, the individual is required to remain off campus, share results with the Health Office and follow the protocol outlined by the School Nurse. St. John's will initiate contact tracing following the report of a positive case in our community.

Test and Stay for Close Contacts that are Not Exempt (as previously defined)

Individuals that are not exempt from close contact policies can remain on campus through the test and stay program. Strict adherence to the following protocols must be maintained to participate in the test and stay program:

- Non-exempt close contacts may participate in the test and stay program for seven (7) days from the date of exposure under the following guidelines:
 - Individual is asymptomatic
 - Individual wears a mask at all times, unless eating and drinking on campus.
 - Individual reports to the Health Office each morning before school to take a BinaxNOW rapid antigen test and receive a negative test result. For weekend interscholastic athletic events / practices the BinaxNOW test will be administered by an Athletic Trainer.

Traditional Close Contact Quarantine with Testing

If an individual opts not to participate in the test and stay protocol she / he must abide by the following protocols:

- Quarantine for at least seven (7) days from the day of exposure.
- Return to school on day 8, provided that they:
 - Remain asymptomatic
 - Receive a negative COVID PCR test result on day 5 or later.
 - Conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 14 and self-isolate if symptoms develop.

Traditional Close Contact Quarantine with No Testing

- Quarantine at least ten (10) days from date of exposure.
- Return to school on day 11, provided that they:

- Remain asymptomatic
- Conduct active monitoring of symptoms through day 14 and self-isolate if symptoms develop.

Academics

We are excited to offer normal in-person teaching and learning in our classrooms, lab spaces and performance spaces.

Remote Learning

St. John's Prep works to create a school environment that allows students, faculty and staff to build the *enduring personal relationships* that are a hallmark of a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School. We have learned many lessons since spring 2019. As we embark on the 2021-2022 school year, St. John's Prep will focus on re-establishing the in-person teaching and learning model that has been at the core of the Prep experience. If students are called out sick, arriving late/leaving school early and/or traveling, they will not be expected to attend class remotely.

Teachers will design lessons and implement assessment strategies that are focused on in-person participation/engagement. Faculty and staff will continue to utilize Canvas as our learning management system and leverage educational technology to aid in student learning and engagement. The use of "Zoom Rooms" for students to access classes remotely will only be approved for extenuating health and/or family circumstances. Teachers will not be admitting students into the "Zoom Room" unless they have received notification from an academic administrator that a student has been granted permission to access class remotely. Please contact the following administrators to discuss accessing classes remotely:

- Families in grades 6, 7 and 8 seeking permission to access class remotely should contact Mr. Jason Larocque, Associate Principal for Grades 6, 7 & 8.
- Families in grades 9 and 10 should contact Ms. Stacy Banos, Assistant Principal of Academics for Grades 9/10.
- Families in grades 11 and 12 should contact Dr. Mark McManmon, Assistant Principal of Academics for Grades 11/12.

Seating Charts

Faculty are asked to create and maintain a seating chart for each class and students are asked to remain in their assigned seats. Teachers may move desks and conduct small group activities but seating and grouping charts must be kept for contact tracing purposes. Teachers may be contacted outside of regular school hours in the event of a need to trace contacts for a COVID+ individual.

Shared Materials | Paperless Workflow

Classroom papers (handouts, assessments, etc), lab materials, art materials and other items may be shared. When feasible faculty are strongly encouraged to maintain a paperless workflow utilizing CANVAS.

Lockers

Students will have access to school lockers in Br. Benjamin Hall (MS), Br. Keefe and Xavier Hall.

Faculty Workspace

Faculty workspace will return to 2019-2020 set up and masks will be worn in all areas unless an individual is eating/drinking or alone in an office space with the door closed.

Music / Chorus / Drama

Music, chorus and drama classes will take place as scheduled. Chorus and drama are able to perform / practice indoors while wearing masks. Brass and woodwind instruments will use instrument/bell covers that were used during the 2020/2021 school year.

Athletics | Intramurals | Recreational Sports

St. John's will offer our full program of interscholastic athletics and a wide array of intramural activities. Off-campus indoor intramural sports will be curtailed for the initial part of the school year.

We will follow all MIAA guidance for our student athletes, coaches and staff.

The School will welcome spectators to interscholastic athletic events. Spectators for indoor fall season sports (Water Polo) are required to wear masks indoors.

Middle School should report to school in the physical education uniform on days they have physical education.

High School students will have access to locker room changing facilities during physical education classes.

Guests on Campus

On-campus guests will be asked to be masked when indoors. Guests should schedule appointments and not randomly arrive on campus. A log of visitors should be maintained for contact tracing purposes. Logs should be maintained by individual areas (Eileen Larkin Main Office Staff, Br. Benjamin Hall Office, Xavier Hall Office, Advancement Office, Admission Office, Finance and Operations Office). All guests are required to wear masks indoors at all times.

All exterior doors to all buildings will remain locked, except during passing time. Students and staff are required to have their SJP ID visible throughout the school day.

Virtual Programming

In many instances St. John's hosted highly successful virtual programming during the 2020-2021 school year. St. John's will continue to sponsor both live and virtual events for our community.

Travel Policy

For Families / Faculty / Staff

At this time there are no restrictions on domestic or international travel for students with their families. However, please note that we are in person / on campus and that attendance is essential for success. We ask any student who travels, domestic or international, with their family to follow [CDC guidance](#). Families should contact the school nurse to inform them of domestic or international travel. Faculty and staff should contact Human Resources to inform them of domestic or international travel.

St. John's Sponsored Travel

At this time we have not scheduled any domestic or international travel programs. We will continue to monitor recommendations from the CDC.

Staff Travel on Behalf of St. John's

Domestic travel on behalf of St. John's is permitted with approval of a supervisor. Supervisors must review CDC recommendations for destinations and create a plan to mitigate risk for the individual while traveling as well as a plan to mitigate risk once the individual returns to campus.

Campus Ministry Retreat Programs

We will assess the feasibility of PULSE and Sophomore Overnight Retreats on a regular basis. We will communicate any changes with participants at least one week prior to the scheduled event.

Dining and Food Service

We are working with our food service provider, SAGE, to offer breakfast, lunch and afterschool snack options. Dining will return to Memorial Dining Hall (high school) and the Middle School Dining Commons (middle school). Staff will limit the amount of students in the servery area for the high school program. Food will be available for purchase in Memorial Dining Hall and the Middle School Dining Commons after school until 3:30 pm. The Mahoney Wellness Center Snack Bar will not be open for the fall season. Snacks and beverages will NOT be available for sale in the bookstore. We will reassess after September 30.

Vending machines are temporarily unavailable. Food will be available for purchase in Memorial Dining Hall and the Middle School Dining Commons after school until 3:30 pm.

Water bottle filling stations will be accessible on campus.

We will create outdoor seating areas for those who wish to eat lunch outside.

A.E. Studzinski Library

The A.E. Studzinski Library will be open for normal operations. Some spaces may have limited capacity.

Data | Dashboard

The School will continue to publish a weekly dashboard tracking COVID cases and close contacts on campus as well as the positivity rates for the Massachusetts cities and towns that are part of the Prep community. A link to the Dashboard will be published in the Principal's Weekly Bulletin for parents and the Community Bulletin for faculty and staff.

We will continue our practice of providing accurate, transparent and timely communication on an as needed basis. The weekly dashboard will provide an update on identified COVID+ cases and close contacts.