

## **Saint Vincent Pallotti COVID – 19 Mitigation Plan 2021 – 2022**

In consulting with the City of Milwaukee Health Department, various members of the community, and other key stakeholders including parish and school administration, staff, and board members we present a COVID – 19 Mitigation plan to the Saint Vincent Pallotti School Community.

Currently, the City of Milwaukee Health Department is recommending, not requiring, that we follow a variety of guidelines regarding the COVID – 19 pandemic. The task that we have in front of us is to balance the academic, emotional, and social needs of our students with the overall health plan of the greater Milwaukee community. We understand there are many perspectives about how to provide safety for all in the pandemic.

### **Background and Context**

When the COVID -19 pandemic began in March of 2020, many of us anticipated a month or so of virtual learning for our students so people could shelter in place. The reality of the situation was much different. Students in Milwaukee were not able to return to school at all that year and were forced to learn virtually. Many students fell behind using this method despite the best efforts of students, parents, and SVP staff.

For school to begin in the fall of 2020, we were mandated by the City of Milwaukee Health Department to submit a plan that included proper social distancing, a set number of students (12 or less) that could be in each class at one time, a daily amount of cleaning, tracking of illness, complete reorganization of the lunch and recess cycle, the elimination of sports and clubs, along with mandatory quarantines for students who had any exposure to the virus, whether it be at school or home. Our time in church was even disrupted to the point where we could not gather for Mass.

Meanwhile in many other areas of the state, including suburban areas just a few miles away from the city, children were able to attend school for most of the year, play sports, join clubs, and have a somewhat regular school experience.

Our students were required to follow the plan we had approved by the Milwaukee City Health Department in order to open in the hybrid/virtual model we all experienced.

Needless to say, all of this has taken an extreme toll on the mental well-being of our students as well as the academic levels at which they currently operate.

### **The Current Situation**

Over the summer, our team has continued to monitor and follow the recommendations of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, the City of Milwaukee Health Department, and the DHS (Wisconsin Department of Health Services). Currently, there are no mandates that *require* students or families to comply with the recommendations set forth by these agencies. The issues surrounding the COVID - 19 pandemic led us to adopt a mitigation strategy that we hope will work, but may not please all.

Due to the fact that the City of Milwaukee is *recommending* that we follow certain procedures regarding COVID -19, we are doing our best to follow. Keep in mind that any guidance coming from the DHS or the Milwaukee Health Department is rooted in CDC guidance.

### **Highlights from Recent CDC Guidance:**

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.
- Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- Regarding Vaccinations: COVID-19 vaccination among all eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and household members is the most critical strategy to help schools safely resume full operations.

Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection. A [growing body of evidence](#) suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to become infected and develop symptoms and are at substantially reduced risk from severe illness and death from COVID-19 compared with unvaccinated people.

Only a small proportion of fully vaccinated people get infected (breakthrough infections), even with the Delta variant. Moreover, when these infections occur among vaccinated people, they tend to be milder than among those who are unvaccinated. However, preliminary evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people who are infected with the Delta variant can be infectious and can spread the virus to others. To reduce the risk of becoming infected with the Delta variant and spreading it to others, students, teachers, and school staff should continue to use layered prevention strategies including universal masking in schools.

- Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect students, teachers, staff, visitors, and other members of their households and support in-person learning.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).

In light of the current situation, the following are our *current* mitigation protocols. Please keep in mind that these protocols may change depending on how the pandemic evolves. If the DHS or City of Milwaukee Health Department issue any future mandates, we will follow those mandates.

### **Facemask Policy**

- The CDC and the Milwaukee Health Department strongly recommend universal masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.

- All teachers, staff, and students are to wear facemasks or shields during the school day at Pallotti. Pallotti students will wear masks in the school building and in the church. Under conditions where we have no positive COVID cases in the community, the school may enact an opt out policy, but for the time being all students are to wear facemasks in the school building and in the church.
- Currently, the data suggests that the risk of someone transmitting COVID -19 in an outdoor setting is minimal. In any outdoor setting, such as recess, gym class, or community prayer mask wearing will be optional, as well as in the gym.
- There will be times during the day when a student may take their masks off in the school building. Students may take their masks off when they are eating and drinking. This includes periods of time at breakfast in the classroom, as well as in the cafeteria for lunch. If a person is working in an area where there is a clear six-foot space delineation, that person may work without a mask.

### **Distancing**

- Whenever possible students will be distanced 3 feet apart.
- Lunch and indoor gym takes place inside a highly ventilated large gymnasium. The HVAC system is less than two years old and thus uses current air dispersal technology.
- During lunch, students sit at tables that have single seats attached to the table so each student has a proper amount of space to eat and students are not able to jam together.
- Gym classes are designed to minimize the amount of time students are in close contact with one another.

### **Individual Student and Multiple Grade Level Exposures in a Classroom/Testing Positive for COVID-19**

- If a student tests positive, all of the parents on that student's grade level will receive a Gradelink communication noting the positive exposure. This communication will include recommendations that families monitor closely for COVID-19 symptoms.
- That student and any siblings/close contacts will be required to quarantine at home for a period of ten days.
- If there are multiple students in a particular grade who test positive, or the classroom teacher, we will consider a grade level quarantine. In the case of a grade or school level quarantine, we will shift into virtual school mode where teachers are communicating daily with their students using Zoom and other software curriculum options.
- We are committed to keeping our students in school. That being said, we are closely monitoring the COVID-19 evolution in the Milwaukee area community. Any grade level or school level quarantine will be determined at the discretion of parish and school administration.
- In the event that there is a positive case in a classroom but not deemed close contact with a student it is up to the family's discretion to quarantine as appropriate. Arrangements can be made with the school/teacher for classwork.
- If a student needs to check out a Chromebook in order to access class materials during an individual or community quarantine, Saint Vincent Pallotti will arrange a loan through our Title vendor, Catapult.

## **Duration of Student Quarantines**

- The duration of student quarantines at Saint Vincent Pallotti depends on a variety of factors.
- For a student who has tested positive, vaccinated or unvaccinated, he or she will have a ten-day quarantine, which includes weekends and any off days. If at the end of ten days, the student is symptom and fever free, the student may return to school. The ten-day clock begins when the student's family receives the notice of a positive test.
- For a student who lives in the same household as a person who has tested positive and is unvaccinated, the student may come back to school after five days with a negative test. Without a negative test, the student will have a ten-day quarantine.
- For a student who lives in the same household as a person who has tested positive and is vaccinated or has tested positive in the last 90 days, they may come to school as long as they are asymptomatic.
- For a vaccinated student who is identified as a close contact of a person who has tested positive, yet does not live with that person, he or she may come to school after receiving a negative test with no apparent COVID -19 symptoms.
- For an unvaccinated student who is identified as a close contact of a person who is positive, yet does not live with that person, he or she may come back to school after five days and also receiving a negative test with having no apparent COVID – 19 symptoms.
- A close contact is defined as anyone who is within 6 feet of a positive case for 15 minutes or longer. The classroom school setting carries with it an exception that states a student will not be considered a close contact if both students correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time and were between 3 and 6 feet apart.
- All students who are quarantining for any reason will receive timely instructions from their teachers regarding classwork that is ongoing or has been missed. Students and parents should expect to communicate in some way with their teachers daily, whether it is to turn in work, ask questions about the curriculum, or to get help with a difficult concept. This will not be considered virtual school, and all students who are in a quarantine are considered present students as they complete their daily classwork in collaboration with St. Vincent Pallotti.

## **Parent Responsibility to Monitor Student Health**

- Students and staff should not attend school when they are sick.
- It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school when a family experiences a positive COVID-19 diagnosis in their household.
- If a student is experiencing symptoms, parents are encouraged to get a COVID-19 test for the student and come to school only after receiving a negative result.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated and to have their students vaccinated, if they are eligible to do so.
- Vaccinations have been proven to lessen the duration and intensity of the illness should a person contract the COVID-19 virus. Getting the vaccine can prevent a person from having to go to the hospital, or in extreme cases, die.
- The City of Milwaukee Health Department has resources to assist with vaccination information.

## **Other Mitigation Strategies at Saint Vincent Pallotti**

- Medical grade air purifiers are located in every single room in the school.
- We encourage vaccination for those who are eligible.
- New powerful HVAC system is in the gym/cafeteria.
- We teach students about effective handwashing, encourage proper handwashing, and maintain effective supplies of soap.
- Hand sanitizer stations are available in all public locations of campus.
- We pay special attention to ventilation, having windows open when possible, running ceiling fans and air conditioners, having doors open whenever possible to encourage airflow.
- We routinely clean with disinfectant in high-touch areas and on surfaces.
- We prioritize knowing our students and watching for when they look like they might be ill. If symptoms are suspected, we take a temperature and ask questions. Students with a fever (> 100.4 degrees), body aches and chills, headaches, or a loss of taste and smell likely should be candidates to get an immediate test, and will be sent home for that purpose. Similarly, if a family contacts school to report illness that includes a fever, a test result will be requested for that student to come to school.

## **Free COVID-19 Testing Sites**

### **Northwest Health Center, 7630 W. Mill Road**

*Drive-thru garage – Enter at Mill Road Library, 6431 N. 76th St.*

- Monday & Fridays, 9am-3pm
- Tuesday & Thursdays 12-6pm
- Saturdays 9am-1pm

### **Southside Health Center, 1639 S. 23rd St.**

*Drive-thru heated tent in North parking lot - Enter on 24th St.*

- Monday & Fridays, 9am-3pm
- Tuesday & Thursdays 12-6pm
- Saturdays 9am-1pm

### **American Family Field, 1 Brewers Way**

*Drive-thru or walk up. No appointment needed.*

The testing location is in the east parking lot, which is designated as the “Yount” lot.

- Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 9am-3pm

### **Multiple CVS Locations Across Milwaukee**

<https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>

Go to website and fill out form to schedule an appointment for testing or vaccination

### **Multiple Walgreens Locations Across Milwaukee**

<https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing>

Go to website and fill out form to schedule an appointment for testing

# COVID-19 Guidance Chart

While recognizing that each particular medical situation could be different in some way, Pallotti will use this chart to guide recommendations for quarantines and COVID PCR testing.

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Student Asymptomatic</u>	
	<b>Vaccinated</b>	<b>Unvaccinated</b>
Close Contact to:		
<b>COVID positive student in the classroom</b> with all students masked and at least three feet apart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No quarantine</li> <li>No PCR test</li> <li>Watch for symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No quarantine</li> <li>No PCR test</li> <li>Watch for symptoms</li> </ul>
<b>COVID positive adult in the classroom</b> where both individuals were masked and 3 feet apart or greater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No quarantine</li> <li>No PCR test</li> <li>Watch for symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No quarantine</li> <li>No PCR test</li> <li>Watch for symptoms</li> </ul>
<b>COVID positive student in the classroom</b> where students were less than 3 feet apart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No quarantine</li> <li>Watch for symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarantine for 10 days, return on day 11</li> </ul>
<b>COVID positive person is a non-household member</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No quarantine</li> <li>Watch for symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarantine for 10 days, return on day 11</li> </ul>
<b>COVID positive person is a household member who lives in the student's home</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No quarantine</li> <li>Watch for symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarantine for 14 days, return on day 15</li> </ul>

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Student Symptomatic</u>	
	<b>Vaccinated</b>	<b>Unvaccinated</b>
Close Contact to:		
<b>COVID positive student in the classroom</b> with all students masked and at least three feet apart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCR test</li> <li>Quarantine while awaiting results</li> <li>If negative, return to school when symptoms improve</li> <li>If positive or refuse to test, isolate for 10 days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCR test</li> <li>Quarantine while awaiting results</li> <li>If negative, return to school when symptoms improve</li> <li>If positive or refuse to test, isolate for 10 days</li> </ul>
<b>COVID positive adult in the classroom</b> where both individuals were masked and 3 feet apart or greater		
<b>COVID positive student in the classroom</b> where students were less than 3 feet apart		
<b>COVID positive person is a non-household member</b>		
<b>COVID positive person is a household member who lives in the student's home</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCR test and quarantine while awaiting results</li> <li>If positive, isolate for 10 days and return on day 11</li> <li>If negative, return to school when symptoms have improved</li> <li>If refuse to test, quarantine for 14 days, return on day 15</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PCR test and quarantine while awaiting results</li> <li>If positive, isolate for 10 days and return on day 11</li> <li>If negative or refuse to test, quarantine for 14 days, return on day 15</li> </ul>