



2021-2022 St. Henry's Area School Opening Plan

St. Henry's Area School will be opening school under the following guidance in response to Covid 19. The current plans are subject to change pending new federal, state, or diocesan mandates or guidelines. These guidelines provide a framework for St. Henry's Area School to develop safe and responsive prevention practices that support in-person instruction and activities in the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

These prevention strategies have been created based on recommendations by the Minnesota Department of Health, consultation with Minnesota nonpublic school leaders, experts in Minnesota health care networks and specific needs of our parish and school communities.

In an effort to support in-person instruction and activities, the following guidelines will focus on the following:

1. keeping COVID-19 infections out of schools
2. preventing spread within school
3. serving the needs of employees, students and families through minimizing disruptions due to exposures, infections and recovery times.

These efforts will require all members of the St. Henry's Area School community to share responsibility and accountability to allow for success and continued building of the Kingdom of God in our school community.

Vaccinations

- Information regarding the availability of vaccines for eligible groups will be shared with staff and parents. St. Henry's Area School will provide support to students, families, and employees who seek vaccination and may need accommodations to do so.
- Vaccinations are not required for adults and students in diocesan Catholic schools, but are strongly encouraged for those eligible to receive them.
- Vaccinated employees and students are not required to quarantine for close contact exposures.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings are optional at this point. The CDC, MDH, and MDE are recommending face coverings, but not requiring them at this time. This guideline will be reviewed regularly with recommendations from the CDC, MDH, MDE, County Public Health, local health professionals and the Diocese being taken into consideration.

- Students will need to have face coverings while on the school bus per federal mandates regarding public transportation.
- Face coverings may be required in situations where school services have been provided by staff from the public school if our policies don't match theirs.
- In close contact situations, students are not required to quarantine if the student with the confirmed infection and the close contact were both wearing properly-fitting masks.
- School employees are responsible for supporting a culture of understanding and respect among themselves, students, and parents.

Physical Distancing

- St. Henry's Area School will strive to maintain adequate physical distancing practices. Seating charts will be strongly recommended to track possible close contact.

Visitors

- All persons who enter the school building must comply with health and safety procedures, including self-screening for symptoms of illness and exposure to COVID-19.
- Self-screening information and instructions will be posted at all entrances for use by visitors.

Ventilation

- St. Henry's Area School ensures that all ventilation systems are operational and support exchanging air in indoor spaces.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

- St. Henry's Area School teachers will teach and promote routines of proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes).

Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested

- St. Henry's Area School will provide self-screening information and instructions to employees and families that includes the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Employees or students experiencing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 may not come to school. They may return to school when symptom-free, and without using medication to reduce symptoms for a minimum of 24 hours.
- Employees or students who test negative for COVID-19 may return to school when symptom-free, and without using medication to reduce symptoms for a minimum of 24 hours.

- Employees or students who have a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 may not return to school until all of the following are true:
 - They feel better. Their cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms have substantially improved.
 - It has been at least 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive.
 - They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medication that lowers fever.

Sending Sick People Home

- In the event that an employee or student becomes ill with signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they must immediately be sent home, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status or prior history of illness. While waiting, the students will be separated from others and provided a face covering, if not wearing one already.

Reporting Cases, Close Contacts and Quarantines

- In accordance with Minnesota Rule 4605.7070, St. Henry's Area School will report a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health.
- To identify potential exposures, St. Henry's Area School will gather and review the employee or student's activities during the time they were infectious, two days prior to the date the symptoms started, or two days prior to the positive test if no symptoms. Close contacts include those who were within 6 feet of the infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- In a classroom setting, close contacts DO NOT include students who were properly wearing well-fitting masks.
- Household members (siblings, e.g) attending the school are considered close contacts of the infected person.
- St. Henry's Area School will notify anyone who is identified as close contact as soon as possible.
- St. Henry's Area School will utilize quarantine measures for employee or student close contacts to suppress potential transmission of COVID-19.
- Unvaccinated close contacts must quarantine for ONE of the following:
 - 10 days, if no symptoms develop and no COVID-19 test is pursued
 - 7 days, if no symptoms develop and the close contact has a negative lab-confirmed (PCR) test no sooner than 5 days after the date of exposure
- Fully vaccinated persons and those that have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days, including household members also in the school, are not required to quarantine, unless they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Proof of vaccination will be required to not be required to quarantine. The vaccinated person must have reached fully vaccinated status at least 14 days prior to exposure.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- St. Henry's Area School will continue with increased cleaning and disinfecting of all areas in the school.

Operational Practices

- Distance learning will only be available for those missing extensive school due to illness or quarantining.
- Lunch will continue as last year with grades K-3 eating at one period, grades 4-6 at another period, and Pre-K at a final period.
- St. Henry's Area School will celebrate all-school Mass on Thursday mornings at 8:45. Students will be required to sit with their class as usual.
- Decisions on special activities and gatherings will be made throughout the year based upon infection levels at those times.

This plan will be regularly reviewed and adapted as needed throughout the school year.

St. Henry's Area School provides academic excellence while following the teachings of Christ and Catholic Church.