

Saint Malachy Catholic School



Health and Safety Re-Entry Plan

Saint Malachy Catholic School will be welcoming our students and staff back to campus on schedule this fall. Below is a list of what you can expect at that time. COVID-19 is an ever-evolving and changing situation; therefore, this re-entry plan will be reviewed and updated as necessary to be in accordance with the most appropriate information available. With every change made, there will be communication to our staff, students, families, and community. Any changes that occur over the summer will be shared prior to the return to school. These changes are based on the IN-CLASS Document provided by the Indiana Department of Education, along with guidance from the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and consideration from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis' Office of Catholic Schools.

To ensure the health and safety of the Saint Malachy Community, it is critical that we work together, school staff and parents, to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19.

The St. Malachy school building floor plan, the vast grassy areas, as well as the numerous outside entrances to the building, lends itself to traffic patterns and social distancing policies that maximize the health and safety of its students. The physical outlay of the campus will allow for traffic patterns that enhance student activities with the least amount of physical interaction between grades and provide a more than reasonable measure of social distancing.

In this context, St. Malachy School will utilize the physical layout of its campus to promote learning in a way that is the least restrictive to our students and ensure the safety and health of the student body and staff.

Prevention

- The priority for preventing the spread of disease in the school setting is to insist that sick employees and students stay home. Additionally, students and employees should remain home if someone in the household has tested positive for COVID-19. Please inform Mrs. Bostrom immediately if this is the case: abostrom@stmalachy.org
- For asymptomatic persons, the three most important mitigation strategies include adequate social distancing, hand washing and sanitizing, and face coverings.

- Avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth are also important steps a person can take to avoid becoming sick or spreading germs to others.

Screening

St. Malachy students and staff should self-screen on a daily basis. Self-screening consists of being aware of elevated temperature and other symptoms while at home. Please see the below information regarding symptoms of COVID-19. Students and employees exhibiting symptoms are prohibited from coming to school, and if they do come to school, will be sent home immediately.

For families or staff who have a pending COVID-19 test or test positive for COVID-19, please make Mrs. Bostrom aware and follow the guidelines provided below before returning to school.

Attendance will be handled on a case-by-case basis to ensure the safety and health of our students and staff.

Symptoms that may cause Absence from School

If a student or employee exhibits any of the following symptoms, he/she must be absent from school until evaluated by a provider. A note must be provided to the school before returning to school.

1. Temperature of 100 degrees or greater
2. Cough
3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
4. Diarrhea and/or vomiting
5. New loss of taste and/or smell
6. Any two of the following symptoms: chills, runny nose, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain without a clear cause, stomach discomfort, headache, sore throat

If your child has two or more symptoms they may be isolated for 10 days or requested to be tested.

Return to School after Absence

Per the CDC and ISDH, there are certain criteria that must be met for return to school after an illness-related absence. A note from your child's provider must be provided to the school.

If you choose not to be seen by your provider, your child must remain home for 10 days AND until symptoms have resolved. If your child has a fever, they must be fever free for 72 hours without fever reducing medications prior to returning to school.

Students and employees should be absent from school if they have a pending COVID-19 test. A doctor's note must be provided to the school following COVID-19 testing.

Quarantine Due to COVID-19 Exposure

Quarantine can remain at 14 days but new alternatives are outlined:

1. Quarantine can end on day 10 (return on day 11) if the person has not developed any symptoms.
2. Quarantine can end on day 7 (return on day 8) if the person has a negative SARS-COV2 test, however the test must be performed on day 5, 6 or 7 after exposure. The person must not have developed any symptoms. Both alternative options require that the person continues practices of masking, social distancing, handwashing and watching for symptoms through day 14.

Here is a recommendation on where to obtain SARS-COV-2 tests:

<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2524.htm>

If your child has two or more symptoms they will be sent home along with any family members. All family members at the school will be isolated until a negative test is returned. Once the negative test returns the child and family members may return to school.

If your child is not tested for COVID-19 and has an alternate explanation for symptoms as determined by a provider (ie strep throat, influenza, etc): Your child may return to school after 24 hours fever free without fever-reducing medications AND you provide a note for your provider stating the child has an alternate diagnosis and the provider believes it is appropriate to return to school.

If your child is not tested for COVID-19 and does not have an alternative explanation for symptoms: Your child may return to school after 10 days from the first day the symptoms appeared AND he/she has been fever free for 72 hours without fever reducing medications AND has improvement of his/her symptoms returning on the 11th day. Unfortunately, we must treat these students as if they may be covid positive.

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 and has a positive COVID-19 test: Your child may return to school after 10 days from the first day the symptoms appeared AND he/she has been

fever free for 72 hours without fever reducing medications AND has improvement of his/her symptoms. Alternatively, your child may return to school after two negative COVID-19 tests 24 hours apart. If your child has siblings in the school, those children will need to stay at home as well. Please see the section on close contacts for more details.

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 and has a negative COVID-19 test but does not have an alternate explanation for symptoms: Your child may return to school after 10 days from the first day the symptoms appeared AND he/she has been fever free for 72 hours without fever reducing medications AND has improvement of his/her symptoms returning on the 11th day. The test may have been a false negative.

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 and has a negative COVID-19 test and does have an alternate explanation for symptoms: Your child may return to school once administration and the medical team review a note from his/her provider stating they believe the patient has an alternate diagnosis and it's appropriate for the patient to return to school.

If your child has never had symptoms of COVID-19 but has a positive COVID-19 test: Your child may return to school after 10 days from his/her first positive COVID-19 test AND you provide a note from your provider stating it is appropriate for the child to return to school.

Close Contacts that are COVID-19 Positive

Per the CDC, a close contact is defined as anyone your child has been within 6 feet of for greater than 15 minutes without masks present. If your child is exposed to a person who has symptoms and subsequently tests positive for COVID-19, your child must be absent from school and quarantined for 10 days. This includes children with a COVID-19 positive sibling or parent. If your child does not develop symptoms, they can return to school after 10 days quarantined, returning on the 15th day. If they do develop symptoms, the above criteria apply.

Single Class with Multiple Cases

With all students and teachers masking when they are not able to maintain six feet of distance, the spread within a class should be minimal. However, if two or more students are COVID-19 positive within a two weeks time frame, raising concern for classroom spread of the disease, the students and teacher will be quarantined at home for fourteen (14) days to ensure no further spread. This decision will be reviewed by the Medical Review Committee and administration.

The School Day

Face Coverings

1. All children grades Pre-K-8 will wear a face covering while in the school building and church. Masks must be worn during arrival and dismissal
 - a. Face coverings may be removed during outdoor recess, PE, outdoor classroom time or lunch time, or when otherwise instructed by a teacher or staff member.
 - b. Surgical masks or 2-ply cloth masks are acceptable. Scarves, bandanas, vented masks, and loose fitted masks are not allowed.
 - c. Students should have an extra mask stored in their backpack at all times.
 - d. If a student loses their mask or has an unacceptable mask as listed in section 1c, a surgical mask will be provided at a \$1 charge to your school account.
2. All teachers, administration and staff will wear a face covering while in the school building and church
 - a. Face coverings may be removed during the lunch break, during outdoor recess, outdoor classroom time, outdoor lunch time
 - b. Surgical masks or at least 2-ply cloth masks are acceptable. Scarves, bandanas, vented masks, and loose fitted masks are not allowed.
 - c. All medical exemptions from a doctor for masks will be held on file with the nurse.
 - d. Staff must wear their masks when in an empty classroom except after students have left the building for the day.
 - e. During specific speech instruction or as determined by the administration, teachers may use clear masks that have been approved by the re-entry committee.
3. All visitors will wear a face covering in the school building
 - a. If a visitor does not have a mask, a surgical mask will be provided at a \$1 charge.
4. Water fountains will not be available to students and staff since they are high touch areas
5. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottle. Only staff will refill water bottles.
6. Students traveling around the building will be minimized
7. Any shared classrooms will be disinfected between use.

Morning Drop-Off

FRONT DOOR

Staff will be outside to monitor arrival; however, they will not be opening car doors, unbuckling students, or helping with backpacks.

DOOR # 4(Behind school)

If your child needs help getting out of the car, you must park behind the school and walk him/her up to the door. Please do not enter the building. A staff member will be at the door to accept your student.

DOOR # 2 (Gym Entrance)

If a parent needs to enter the office, he/she must park in the parking lot by Door #2 (gym entrance) and enter through the front door.

Recess

Grades will be separated to avoid large gatherings and provide for the maximum amount of social distancing for students. Teachers will be encouraged to provide a second recess during the school day. Grade levels will have their own recess equipment to reduce sharing items between classes. Hand sanitizer stations will be outside.

Classrooms

Classrooms will be organized in such a way that allows for the maximum amount of social distancing for the protection of students. Masks will be in use by all and all students will face the same direction when at their desks. Teachers will utilize outside instruction as much as possible. Parents should consider applying sunscreen to their children on sunny days. All efforts will be made to reduce shared items; items shared will be cleaned after each use. Hand sanitizer stations will be outside each classroom in addition to inside.

Specials

We will continue to provide specials. Masks will be in use by all except for PE. Music and technology specials will be coming to homerooms for class rather than students traveling to the special class. We will utilize traffic patterns and social distancing that allows for the least amount of interaction. PE classes will utilize outside for classes as much as possible. During indoor PE classes, social distancing will be maintained as much as possible.

Lunch

Only two grade levels will be in the cafe at a time with only homerooms sitting together. All students will face the same direction, have assigned seats, and will be spaced apart to maximize social distancing. We will take students outside for lunch whenever possible. Eco-takeout containers will be used to continue to offer a hot lunch style of lunch. Students will wash hands before lunch and there will be hand sanitizer stations in the cafe.

Dismissal

Cars will be parked the same way as in the past. Please try to park close to the same spot each day if possible so that your students have an idea where to find you. If you are going to leave your car, we ask that you socially distance and/or wear a mask. The students will be sent out in a staggered order based on grade level. Gate will close at 2:55

Visitors

Visitors, including parents, will not be allowed in the school buildings unless special arrangements have been made with the Principal and will be asked to wear a face mask.

Cleaning and Maintenance of St. Malachy School

Cleaning of School (During School Hours)

- Clean and disinfect all restrooms at 12:00 and 3:00
- Hallway floors will be cleaned once a day
- Nurse's station will be monitored throughout the day; Mrs. Bell can call the maintenance team at any time to clean up messes.
- Cafeteria tables will be wiped down after lunch

Cleaning of School (After Hours)

- Clean and disinfect all restrooms, offices and classrooms with electrostatic sprayer; dry and wet mop every night
- Vacuum carpets each day

Cleaning of room when a positive test confirmed

- Clean and disinfect the classroom with electrostatic sprayer
- Dry and wet mop
- Wipe all desks down with Clorox wipes
- Wipe all light switches and door handles with Clorox wipes
- Vacuum all carpets

Heating and Air

- Coil cleaning on each unit: Total of 6 units on rooftop (2 times a year)
- Air filters: Changed 3 times a year, January, May and September
- HVAC units: Greased and belts checked for wear and replacement
- Air vents are wiped down bi-weekly

These protocols may evolve as they are implemented and as more information is obtained about COVID-19.

FAQ and refresher

1. Terms: COVID -19 is the disease caused by the novel coronavirus SAR-COV-2
2. Isolation is the period of time away from others a person has when they are symptomatic and known COVID-19 positive or suspected COVID -19 positive.
3. Quarantine is the period of time away from others to see if an asymptomatic person develops symptoms after an exposure to a known COVID-19 person.
4. Why are we changing the quarantine recommendations?

The ISDH and CDC have updated their recommendations for how long to quarantine. People may choose to continue the 14 day quarantine but if they are asymptomatic they may now return to school after 10 days of quarantine (return on day 11). Another alternative is to shorten the quarantine duration to 7 days (return on day 8) if you have a negative test for SAR-COV-2. The test must be taken **no earlier than DAY 5** of quarantine.

5. When does quarantine start?

It starts the day **AFTER** last known exposure to a COVID-19 positive person. The day of exposure is **DAY 0**. If no further contact with the COVID-19 positive person, then the calendar starts the following day for **DAY 1**.

6. So if I have a negative SARS-COV-2 test on day 5, 6 or 7 after a known close contact with a COVID-19 exposure, I can return on day 8 after the 7 day quarantine period is over?

Yes. If you would like to do this option we recommend a few things:

- a. Schedule the testing as soon as possible to be performed on **DAY 5** or later. With the increase in cases and testing requests, scheduling may take several days.
- b. Turn around time for the test can be several days so scheduling for **DAY 5** is the best chance of getting test results before the 7 day quarantine period is over.
- c. If by some chance the test comes back before day 7 you cannot return until the 7 day quarantine period is over (return on day 8).

7. What if my child has a positive test on day 5, 6 or 7?

If the test returns positive then the quarantine period stops and the patient starts an isolation period. **DAY 1** of isolation period would be the day after the test was taken.

8. Where can I get a SAR-COV-2 test?

<https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2524.htm>

9. Remind me what counts as a close contact?

Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more within a 24 hours period starting from 2 days before the COVID – 19 exposure had symptoms (or if the person is asymptomatic, 2 days before their test was positive for COVID-19).

10. What about a close contact of a close contact? Example Student A is COVID-19 positive and student B is a close contact of Student A. Student B has a sibling who is also in school.

A close contact (sibling) of a close contact (Student B) does not need to be quarantined assuming both Student B and sibling are asymptomatic. However, if Student B develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, then the sibling must also be quarantined.

11. My child has no symptoms but was exposed to a family member who tested positive for COVID-19. What should I do with my child who is asymptomatic?

The asymptomatic child would start their quarantine period **AFTER** the last known contact with the positive person. See above for new guidelines with quarantine. If unable to isolate the positive family member in the house, then the asymptomatic child would start their quarantine period **AFTER** the family member's 10 day isolation period. So quarantine day 1 for the child would start after 10 days of family member's isolation period. If the COVID-19 family member is able to isolate away from the child, then the child's quarantine period would start the day after the last exposure to the family member.

12. My child tested positive for COVID-19 already. Do I need to get them retested again?

No. The CDC does not recommend retesting or quarantining within 90 days of a positive test for persons who have already been diagnosed with COVID-19.

13. What If a teacher tests positive for COVID-19?

We would have to quarantine the entire classroom since the assumption is that a cumulative 15 minutes of exposure happens with all the children in the classroom over an entire school day.

