



UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDELINES AND STUDENT HEALTH POLICIES

Dear St. Martin's Families,

We are pleased to begin the year under much the same conditions as we ended the 2021-22 school year. Taking into account CDC guidelines, state and local requirements, Diocesan requirements, and the collective good judgment of the St. Martin's leadership team, we have set general standards for the upcoming school year.

These standards represent the thoughtful work of our Administrative Team as well as the input of our medical consultants and guidance from our Health Assistant. Our standards and plans are designed to allow us to adapt when conditions change in order to ensure successful and continuous learning for students.

As you would expect at St. Martin's, the health and well-being of our students and employees is our highest priority. We understand that assessment of each family's risk is a personal judgement. At times we may put procedures in place that some members of our community view as excessively restrictive, while others believe that the same procedures do not go far enough. We request and expect that all members of our community will engage in respectful dialogue when there is a difference of opinion.

We have learned that infectious diseases can hold many surprises and can change the conditions under which we operate our school, and so our standards are intended to balance the community's need for predictability with the School leadership's need to have the flexibility required to respond to changing conditions. As we have seen reinforced in recent years, children flourish when students and teachers interact in person. We therefore keep our focus on the need to keep our community safe while doing what is best for kids.

Families play a vital role in maintaining a safe and healthy campus. The number one safety measure we expect families to take is to keep children at home if they are sick, whether COVID is suspected or not. There may be times when we ask families to comply with broader safety measures, and we appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

Looking forward to a safe and healthy school year,

Tony Shaffer
Head of School

Procedures and Expectations

Student Testing Positive for Covid-19

The school must be notified as soon as possible when a child tests positive for COVID-19 regardless of vaccine status. Please contact **Jan Wilder, Office Manager and Health Assistant**, at jwilder@stmartinsmd.org to report all positive cases. When the School is notified that a student has tested positive, the School will notify the Delegating/Consulting Nurse, as well as the AA County Department of Health in accordance with the MDH. Jan Wilder is the liaison with the county health department.

When a student has tested positive and the School has been notified, the student should expect to remain home during the 5-day period after the date of the positive test. The student should expect to wear a properly-adjusted mask during the 5-day period following the return to school. These procedures may be modified if conditions warrant.

Mask-Optional Campus

The School will begin the year with a mask-optional campus. Students and staff may elect to wear a properly-fitted mask if personal or family judgement so dictates. This will be modified if conditions warrant (as when following a positive test).

Student Illness During School Day

As has traditionally been the School's practice, a student who is not feeling well will be brought to the school Health Assistant (Jan Wilder) or the School Administrative Assistant (Beth Howard) for assessment and observation. Students who present with a fever of 100.4 or more or who are exhibiting other signs of illness will be sent home. Parents must provide emergency contacts of people who are able to pick up their children within one (1) hour of receiving a call from the school if the child becomes ill within the school day. Students who are seriously ill will be isolated in the school Health Room until a parent or emergency contact person arrives.

Please DO NOT send children to school if they are not feeling well or if they have received fever-reducing medication (*e.g. aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen*). Please alert the School's Office Manager (Jan Wilder) and the child's teacher if a student is going to be absent.

Outbreaks on Campus

If entire classrooms or cohorts must be closed, students will pivot to distance learning and the School community will be notified of the closure. Students will return to the classroom after clearance from the AA County Health Department. Classrooms affected will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized while students are out of the building.