



## **Saint Philip School**

*Teaching truth, building community, and inspiring service*

### Health & Safety Plan 2021 - 2022

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Governor's office, along with RIDOH and RIDE, have published guidelines for a safe and effective reopening of schools and are encouraging schools to develop their own policies, procedures, and protocols. As with all things, we ask God for the wisdom, knowledge and guidance from the Holy Spirit in all we do at Saint Philip School. The Health and Safety Plan for Saint Philip School's 2021-2022 school year has been carefully outlined after much prayer and extensive review of all relevant health and safety protocols outlined by the RI Department of Health (RIDOH), the Department of Human Services (DHS), the RI Department of Education (RIDE), the Governor's office, and other local school communities, and is subject to change.

#### **MASKING:**

\*All agencies recommend universal masking and the governor has recently mandated masks in all K-12 public schools while students are indoors. This mandate does not apply to Catholic and private schools, as confirmed by the Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools. Since each family situation is unique and parents must determine what is best for their child(ren) based on personal situation and knowledge of risks, Saint Philip School will be "mask optional" for all teachers, staff, and students when in their stable pods. Some of our teachers may be wearing masks and some may not. Some of our students may be wearing masks and some may not. Here at Saint Philip School, we respect the decision of each teacher and family and will practice love and charity at all times.

\*Students will be required to wear a mask for arrival and dismissal and when walking through the hallways in order to avoid mixing with other stable pods. This will minimize the chances of close contacts and the need to quarantine. Once the students return to their classroom they will be able to remove their masks.

\*Parents are asked to send a note with their child on the first day of school to let your child's teacher know of your wishes regarding masking. Since all agencies do not recommend masks

outdoors, parents who choose to have their child(ren) wear masks outdoors should please specify that as well. This information will remain in place unless we receive a new signed and dated note with any changes.

\*Please note that not wearing masks in the classroom may increase the risk of close contacts and quarantine, especially early on in the year until stable pods are established.

\*If you choose to have your children wear a mask, it must cover the nose and mouth, fit snugly with no gaps, vents or valves. Masks are required by federal mandate to be worn at all times when riding buses and on any field trips during the school year. Mask policies for athletics will follow the Catholic Athletic League (CAL) guidance for each sport.

### **FULL IN PERSON LEARNING:**

\*Saint Philip School will provide full, in-person learning. In order for students to optimally achieve academically, socially and emotionally, there will not be a long-term distance learning option. Children who miss work due to absences will be able to complete that work when they return to school (More information is below regarding short-term distance learning if a quarantine period were to take place).

### **HOME-BASED COVID SYMPTOM SCREENING:**

\*In order for our school to maintain a safe and healthy environment each family must monitor their child's health daily. There will be **NO DAILY ATTESTATION FORMS**. Families must keep their child(ren) home when they exhibit one symptom of COVID-like illness or any other sickness. Our school/ family partnership is built upon the virtues of honesty and trust, expecting clear communication when a child shows signs of sickness, regardless of how challenging it may be to keep them home. Follow the motto, *"When in doubt, please stay out."*

\*If your child becomes sick with any of the following symptoms listed below, tests positive for COVID-19, or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 (a confirmed or suspected case) they should NOT come to school and must notify Mrs. Graham, our school nurse.

\*If your child becomes sick at school with any of the COVID-19 symptoms listed below, the school nurse will contact you and may request that your child be tested before returning to school.

\*A separate, isolated, well-ventilated room next to the nurse's office is available for students with COVID-19 like symptoms during the school day, where they will be safely monitored by the school nurse until a parent or family member arrives. Siblings or household contacts of probable cases will need to stay home until all negative test results are received.

\*The following procedure is outlined by the RIDOH Playbook which can be found at RI.gov.

**\*New for this year, according to the RIDOH, if your child has *ANY ONE* of these symptoms, your child will need a COVID-19 test.**

|                  |        |  |          |             |         |                                      |                  |          |
|------------------|--------|--|----------|-------------|---------|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Cough            |        | Shortness of Breath/Difficulty Breathing |          |             |         | New loss of taste or smell           |                  |          |
| Fever over 100.4 | Chills | Muscle/ Body Aches                       | Headache | Sore Throat | Fatigue | Runny Nose/ Congestion (non-allergy) | Nausea/ Vomiting | Diarrhea |

\*After contacting the school, please notify your health care provider if needed. To schedule a COVID-19 test please call (844) 857-1814 or schedule on portal.ri.gov.

\*Once a negative PCR test is received, the child may return to school for in-person learning. If the child had a fever, they must be fever free, without fever-reducing medicine for a minimum of 24 hours.

\*Upon returning to school from an absence, we will continue to utilize the “Return To School (After Absence) Attestation Form.” Please see the following link:

[Return To School Attestation Form](#)

\*If a child tests positive for COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status), they must isolate for 10 days, and can return to school when this period of time is complete and they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine, if applicable.

\*If a child is truly sick, the teachers and staff ask that you let your child take a “sick day.” They will be allowed to make up all school work and should be able to rest and recuperate.

\*In the event that a student or staff member at our school tests positive for COVID-19, RIDOH will be notified immediately and contact tracing will begin by our school nurse, Mrs. Amy Graham.

**CLOSE CONTACTS, CONTACT TRACING, QUARANTINE:**

\*With any positive COVID-19 cases in the school this year, protocols will be activated to mitigate any further transmission of the virus. If the positive child is determined to have

symptoms, we will use contact tracing to determine those individuals who may need to quarantine and those who need to be tested.

\*A close contact is defined as any student who was within less than 3 feet of the infected student while indoors for a total of 15 minutes over a period of 24 hours.

\*RIDE and RIDOH are recommending that any teachers or students who are determined to be close contacts and are unvaccinated, will need to be quarantined for a period of 7 days. They can test on day 5 and can return to school on day 8 with a negative PCR test. All families should continue to monitor for any symptoms until day 14.

\*Any teacher or student who has been fully vaccinated, will not have to quarantine unless otherwise directed by the RI Department of Health.

\*Any teacher or student who tested positive for COVID-19 during the past 90 days will also not be required to quarantine.

### **SHORT-TERM DISTANCE LEARNING:**

\*Any student who is determined to be a close contact and needs to quarantine will have the ability to be a short-term distance learner. The school will work hard to make sure that your child receives their classroom materials within 24 hours so that they can continue the pace of on-going learning if they are feeling well enough to do so. This quarantine period will last for 7 days as mentioned above.

\*Any students who receive a confirmed positive PCR test for COVID-19 will be allowed to distance learn once they are healthy enough to do so. If they are sick, please permit them to take the time they need to recover before beginning distance learning. All missed work will be saved and they will have plenty of time to make it up upon their return.

\*Upon returning to school from an absence, we will continue to utilize the “Return To School (After Absence) Attestation Form.” Please see the following link: [Return To School Attestation Form](#)

### **COVID 19 TRAVEL GUIDELINES:**

\*At the present time, RIDOH is not mandating testing or quarantining after travel. This may be subject to change. When returning from travel, please be vigilant and monitor your child(ren) for any symptoms.

### **TRANSPORTATION:**

\*As previously stated, all students traveling by bus must wear a mask following the above guidelines for proper fitting. This is a federal requirement for all forms of public transportation.

\*Students using the bus are considered to be a stable pod; there are no current capacity restrictions for school bus transportation. Bus personnel may have seating charts with assigned student seats to assist with contact tracing if necessary.

\*On a bus, anyone within 6 feet of an individual that tests positive for COVID-19 for greater than 15 minutes may be considered a close contact. Close contacts are those who were seated two rows in front, two rows behind, and in the same five rows on the opposite side of the aisle of the individual.

### **CLEANING, DISINFECTION, HAND HYGIENE:**

\*Saint Philip school will continue to maintain its daily schedule for cleaning and disinfection of all doorknobs, bathrooms, classrooms, and all high-touch surface areas.

\*Every classroom contains adequate amounts of hand sanitizer and students will be instructed to frequently wash hands and use hand sanitizer when entering and exiting the classroom.

\*For elementary students, we will continue to follow bathroom schedules, one classroom at a time.

\*Classroom teachers are encouraged to open their windows to increase ventilation when and if possible. All air purifiers have new air filters and have been checked for proper functioning.

### **STABLE PODS:**

\*Schools are encouraged to follow a stable pod group model within the school building. A stable pod is one specific classroom. Grade 6 Middle School students will be their own stable pod, while grade 7 & 8 collectively will be considered one stable pod. Physical distancing is not required for stable pods.

\*Students will be able to travel within their stable pods to and from special subject classrooms (Fine Arts, Music, Physical Education, etc.). Each class will walk into sanitized classrooms that will have been cleaned by the teacher at the conclusion of the previous period.

\*At least 3 feet of physical distancing is recommended for non-stable groups when indoors for shared space activities. We will increase that to 6 feet when in the Parish Center for lunch

and large group events. Please note that physical education classes and lunch will be held outdoors as often as possible. We encourage students to bring a beach towel to use outside during lunch. In case of inclement weather, students will eat in the parish center at staggered lunch times with appropriate spacing.

\*Teachers are asked to maintain classroom seating charts to assist with case investigation and contact tracing.

\*As of March 2021, the use of physical barriers (a.k.a. desk shields) is no longer recommended by the CDC.

### **FIELD TRIPS:**

\*Field trips will resume this year as long as stable groups remain consistent. Masking policies for bus transportation remain in effect and all students and staff will follow the policy of the establishment.

### **SCHOOL VISITATION:**

\*Visitors will once again be welcomed back to the school building and church this year. We are looking for a limited number of consistent parent volunteers in Grades 2 - 5 to assist with daily lunch duties. All volunteers must go through our safe environment training and be free from any of the symptoms on the home-based covid symptom screening. All visitors are required to fill out a COVID-19 symptom checklist upon arrival as well as to sign the visitor's log in the vestibule of the school. Masks are mandatory for all visitors.

### **FINAL THOUGHTS:**

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support as we work together as a school community, bonded in faith, truth, and love. Please know that we take the health and safety of our children very seriously and will work tirelessly to ensure that they are consistently safe and well protected. May God continue to bless you and your children during this most extraordinary time in our country's history.

Saint Philip, Saint Raphael, Saint Joseph, and Our Lady of Good Success, pray for us!

***Keith R. Kline***

Keith R. Kline  
Principal

***Mary-Regina Bennett***

Mary-Regina Bennett  
Vice Principal

***Amy L. Graham***

Amy L. Graham, R.N.  
School Nurse