



Dear Our Savior's Families,

We pray this email finds you healthy and having a wonderful start to the new year. We want to extend thanks for your continued patience and understanding as we have navigated through the many challenges presented to us by the presence of Covid-19. As always, our paramount concern is the safety and well-being of our students and staff as well as do our best to keep students consistent with in person instruction. We also remain determined to keep our families informed with clear information on the latest guidance as it relates to testing, quarantine, and isolation. Along with this email is a chart for your own quick reference to determine how to proceed should your family encounter the virus in any capacity. Again, our goal is safety for everyone concerned and a sense of normalcy for our students to keep them in person as much as possible.

One of the biggest changes you can expect is that the New York State Department of Health will **no longer conduct contact tracing.** Moving forward, we will no longer be collecting information about contacts to report to county health departments. Consequently, if your student tests positive, you should no longer expect a call from your health department.

We will continue our due diligence with regard to notifying impacted staff or families if we learn about a positive case. We ask that parents/guardians remain diligent to monitor their children for symptoms and not send students to school if they are sick. If your student is exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms please consult the attached chart for guidance and consider the following:

- If symptomatic, your child requires a negative test to return to school. All students presenting any symptoms related to Covid -19 are encouraged to test. If you decide not to have your child tested, your child must remain out of school for 5 days from the onset of symptoms. Student's symptoms must have resolved after the 5 days in order to return to school.
  - Remote learning will be offered to any student who is formally under quarantine or isolation.
  - If a Covid test is not taken and reported to the school office, your child's 5 day absence will be handled in accordance with our sick day policy.
- The test may be a PCR, lab Antigen or an Antigen (at home) test.
  - If an at home test is administered, it requires a second at home test to be administered 36 - 48 hours of the first test given, before the child may return to school.
  - **If parents/guardians are presenting the school with two at home negative test results, they must document them via the following link:**  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqJB9-luWjh8wIRO24Ny1mf33PAnJoJRkYco3BqZ1TPr6tLg/viewform>
  - At home Antigen tests are available upon request through the main school office (1 per family).
  - If you would like your child tested at school, please contact the school office.
  - Additional tests (1 per household) may be ordered at <https://special.usps.com/testkits>
- The student's symptoms must be resolved before returning to school.

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- He or she must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
- The student must be able to wear a well-fitting mask throughout the school day without inhibition.
  - Not have rhinorrhea (runny nose) or cough severe enough to make mask wearing difficult or unhygienic
- If the student tests positive via lab test or at home test, please report to the school office. Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 requires a 5 day isolation period (see attached chart).
- If the student is exposed in close proximity to a positive covid-19 case, they must quarantine for 5 days unless fully vaccinated (see attached chart).

Please also note:

- Students with symptoms that are attributable to pre-existing medical conditions (ex. Migraines, allergies) and are not new or worsening do not require school exclusion or testing.
- Siblings of symptomatic students will be treated in the same manner as their siblings with one important distinction: they may attend school if their symptomatic sibling has tested negative and they have tested negative for COVID-19. The asymptomatic student will be asked to retest in 36 hours from the time of the first test (as long as they remain symptom free) to confirm the student attending school is negative.
- If a healthcare provider makes a diagnosis of a confirmed non-COVID-19 acute illness (ex. Strep throat) and Covid-19 is not suspected, then a note signed by the healthcare provider explaining the alternate diagnosis may be provided to allow a student, teacher, or staff member to return to school without a Covid-19 test, once the acute illness is resolved.

Thank you again for your partnership as we strive for excellence in education despite the present challenges. We remain thankful that despite our current circumstances, we are encouraged in scripture to persevere. As 1 Corinthians 15:58 reminds us, "Be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord's work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." Our partnership with you for your student's well-being is not only to teach their minds and shape their futures but certainly to reach their hearts so that they may excel in the Lord's work. Let's keep going Our Savior's!!

Sincerely,

*John D. Richardson*

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