

St. Francis Borgia Regional High School

2021-22 Covid Response Plan



We begin the 2021-22 school year more prepared for Covid-related issues compared to the start of the previous school year, while simultaneously facing unknowns in the coming weeks and months. It is our hope that we will be able to maintain a full school year of in-person learning in a mask-optional environment, but it is important for our community to understand that changes in Covid numbers in our school and/or our community may compel us to make changes to this policy. As in the past, we continue to seek guidance from the Franklin County Health Department, CDC, Archdiocese of St. Louis, and medical professionals and will adapt our policy accordingly.

Respect for the choices made by families is important to us. Whether a student and family choose to mask and/or vaccinate or not, we will be respectful of the choices made and we ask our school families to do the same.

Ongoing, regular communication between home and school will be imperative to keeping our school community safe and healthy this school year.

The school-parent partnership is more important than ever as we deal with the pandemic. Students who attend school while being symptomatic, or are sent to school despite a positive test, put the entire school community at risk. We urge you to keep your students at home in these situations.

MASKS

The wearing of masks will be optional and at the discretion of each individual family. This applies to all faculty and staff as well as students. If the Franklin County Health Department or the St. Louis Archdiocese does implement a mask mandate at some point in the school year, SFBRHS will comply with that requirement for as long as the mandate is in place. Please note that in special circumstances, masks will be required (for instance, masks are required in the Food & Nutrition classes in the food prep area).

Students, coaches, and drivers riding **busses** to/from school or for school-related activities such as athletics are required by the CDC to wear masks while onboard.

In the case of close contact with a positive case where both students are wearing masks, quarantining will not be necessary (see below).

Students will follow one of the following three options as determined by the administration.

1. Masks are **optional** | Students may choose to wear a mask, but it is not required.
2. Masks are **situational** | Students will be asked to wear a mask for a specific situation.

3. Masks are **required** | All students, vaccinated & unvaccinated, are required to wear a mask.

VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations are not mandated for students and staff. However, SFBRHS and the St. Louis Archdiocese strongly encourage all eligible individuals in our school community to receive the vaccine in order to protect themselves and those around them from the virus and its variants. Please see this Vatican statement regarding vaccination against the Covid-19 virus.

If your student is fully vaccinated, we recommend that he/she takes a photo of their vaccination card on their phone or iPad. If your student is listed as a close contact of a student who has tested positive with Covid, showing his/her vaccination card to the administrator handling contact tracing will be able to leave him/her off the quarantine list.

QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS

Quarantining remains one of our tools to combat the spread of Covid and its variants. In the event of a positive test, we will notify the Franklin County Health Department and share the contact tracing information.

- For students and/or staff members who **test positive**: quarantine requirement.
- Students and/or teachers who are **exposed but vaccinated**: no quarantine necessary (with proof of vaccination) as long as the individual remains asymptomatic.
- Students and/or teachers who are **exposed and not vaccinated**: quarantine requirement.

In the case of student-to-student contact, if both students are properly wearing masks, the close contact/non-positive student would not be required to quarantine, regardless of vaccination status.

Quarantines will be 10 days from the date of contact, with a test-out option for non-symptomatic individuals after 7 days (with a negative test not before 5 days from close contact with +). "From date of contact" means from the last contact, so it is important to isolate from someone as soon as possible upon learning of a positive test result if possible.

Four Rivers Career Center students: Please note that the test-out option is not applicable for FRCC students; you must complete the 10 day quarantine and be asymptomatic before returning to that facility.

Please see the Missouri DHSS flyer at the end of this document for more information.

COVID TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Per the CDC recommendations, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

GENERAL PRACTICES

- Parents should conduct daily wellness checks, monitor potential symptoms of COVID-19, and keep students home if sick.
 - Symptoms which should keep a child or faculty member home include:
 - Fever of 100 degrees or higher
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Muscle aches
 - Chills
 - Lost of taste and/or smell
 - Gastrointestinal symptoms (i.e. nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, etc.)
- Practice a measure of social distancing.
- Maintain cleaning and disinfecting protocols, including frequent hand washing.

ATTENDANCE

While we value presence in class, we recognize the importance of staying home when showing any symptoms of Covid, but also of any traditional illness (e.g., the flu). If your son/daughter is showing signs of illness, please keep him/her home. Call Mrs. Quattlebaum at 636-239-7871 x130 or email rhonda@borgia.com to excuse an absence.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

In the event of your child testing positive for Covid or being identified as a close contact needing to quarantine, teachers will provide a work-from-home virtual option. Utilizing Google Meet or Zoom, students will be invited to participate as much as they can in the learning process. Virtual learning will not be available as a semester-long option or for those students out for a short-term absence. Examples of reasons virtual learning will not be approved include family travel, club sports travel, and short-term non-Covid illness. Students will be marked absent for these reasons.

When to Quarantine After Exposure to a Case of COVID-19 (K-12 Schools)

Is the exposed student/staff member vaccinated?

Yes

Exposed person is not required to quarantine and can attend both in-person learning and sports/extracurricular activities

CDC guidance (8/5/21) suggests getting tested 3-5 days after exposure, correctly wearing masks in school, AND wearing a mask indoors for 14 days or until negative test results are received

No

Was the person exposed at school?

Yes

No

Quarantine at home

If individuals were less than 3 feet apart,
were they properly masked?

Yes

No

Exposed person may attend in-person learning while monitoring symptoms, wearing a mask consistently, and quarantining outside of school; attending sport/extracurriculars is not permitted

(per state modified quarantine guidance, 08/2021)

Quarantine at home

If the individual starts experiencing symptoms, they should get a COVID test and isolate while awaiting results.

What is the COVID test result?

Negative*

Positive*

Return to school when able, based on school/district policies (i.e. symptom-free or fever-free for 24 hours)

Isolate at home

*There will be situations where additional recommendations, testing, and control measures are needed. At-home tests will not be accepted for decisions on isolation and quarantine recommendations.

COVID-19 Exposure

Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more throughout a 24-hour period starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two days prior to test specimen collection) until the infected individual meets criteria for discontinuing home isolation. Per revised guidance, individuals who were within 3–6 feet of a person diagnosed COVID-19 in a K–12 indoor setting are not considered close contacts if both the infected individual and the exposed individual correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

Quarantine

The practice of separating individuals who have had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 to determine whether they develop symptoms or test positive for the disease. The CDC recommends staying home for 14 days the after last exposure. Vaccinated individuals and those who have recovered from COVID-19 within three months do not need to quarantine while asymptomatic.

Isolation

The practice of separating individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 from others who are not sick to prevent further exposures and/or the spread of the disease. The CDC states isolation can end 10 days after symptom onset and 24 hours after being fever-free with no fever-reducing medications. Other COVID-19 symptoms should also be improving.

Schools should work with local public health officials in executing these steps locally.

dese.mo.gov/covid19