



SAINT LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Saint Louis, Michigan 48880

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St. Louis Public Schools 2021-2022 COVID-19 Policies

Effective: March 1, 2022

Are face masks required in our schools?

Face masks are highly recommended indoors for staff and students, however the wearing of face masks during school and extracurricular events is a family's choice. Masks will continue to be available for students and staff as needed. (See further guidance under *Positive COVID-19 Procedures*). Disposable masks will be available for students when boarding the school bus or van.

Is COVID-19 vaccination required for staff and students?

Staff and eligible students are highly encouraged to get vaccinated, however SLPS does not require COVID-19 vaccination to attend school.

Will COVID testing be conducted at school?

SLPS does not plan to initiate any mandatory COVID testing of students. However, SLPS does offer voluntary testing for staff and students. Please contact the building administrator to set up a time to be tested using an antigen rapid test.

The following mitigation measures will remain in place:

- **Daily Screening** – SLPS appreciates the partnership with our families and expects our families to perform at-home self-monitoring reporting. This continues to be a critical component of mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Please do NOT send students to school when they are sick. All staff will continue to conduct daily screening and will be advised to stay home when they are sick.
- **Social Distancing** – When possible, we will maximize the distance between student stationary seating without impacting instruction.
- **Hand Sanitation Stations and Cleaning Protocols** – Hand washing and sanitizing will continue to be encouraged and easily accessible for students and staff. Additionally, the district will maintain enhanced cleaning and high touch disinfection strategies.
- **Close contact identification** – SLPS will conduct close contact tracing on all positive cases reported on school grounds or during school events. SLPS will notify all identified close contacts. The identified close contact and/or his/her family will need to closely monitor symptoms. The identified close contact will be highly recommended to quarantine, but are permitted to return to school if asymptomatic.

- If the student identified as a close contact becomes symptomatic, then they will need to follow the CDC isolation guidelines (see further guidance under *Positive COVID-19 Procedures*).
 - If there is a positive case in the home and the staff or student cannot isolate from the positive case, the staff or student will need to adhere to the following guidelines: isolate at home for a minimum of 5 days, If they are asymptomatic after 5 days, the staff or student will be permitted to return to school if they test negative the morning of day 6 and wear a mask for the remaining 5 days. Please contact your building to set up a time to test. If the staff or student does not test and is not able or willing to wear a mask, they will need to be isolated from school for the full 10-day period.
- All schools are required to report any communicable disease to their local health department within 24 hours. SLPS will be required to report close contacts (within 3 feet of a positive case for 15 minutes or more) to the health department. The health department may issue additional requirements.
- **Symptomatic Students** – In the event a student is presenting COVID-19 like symptoms (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea) and the student does NOT have an alternate diagnosis they will be sent home. If there is no known close contact to a positive COVID-19 case the student may return after 24 hours symptom free or an alternate diagnosis.
- **Positive COVID-19 Procedures/Isolation Guidelines** – If a student/staff have symptoms of COVID-19, whether awaiting test results, or have not been tested, or tests positive on a viral test (PCR or antigen test) for COVID-19, whether or not they have symptoms SLPS will follow the updated CDC guidelines for isolation:
 - The staff or students will be required to be excluded from school and school events for at least 5 days.
 - After 5 days, if the illness was not severe and there is no fever present for at least 24 hours, and symptoms have improved the staff or student may return to school if they properly wear a mask for the remaining 5 days of their 10-day isolation period.
 - They should NOT participate in any elective activity that cannot be done while properly wearing a mask.
 - If the staff or student is unable or unwilling to wear a mask at all times, or if they have severe illness, or have a weak immune system they will be required to be isolated for 10 days. They are not permitted to return to school when symptoms have improved and have not had a fever for at least 24 hours.

SLPS will continue to notify the school community of positive cases on school grounds on the district SLPS Active COVID-19 Data webpage: <https://www.stlouisschools.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=2466>