



# SAINT LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Saint Louis, Michigan 48880

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## St. Louis Public Schools

### 2021-2022 COVID-19 Policies

Below are the plans for the 2021-2022 school year. While we are very excited for a return to normal, please note that these plans may change in the event we receive future health department mandates.

#### **Will face masks be 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.

Please note, the CDC is requiring face masks to be worn on all public transportation, including school buses and vans. Therefore, all staff and students will be required to wear a mask on the bus. Disposable masks will be available for students when boarding the school bus or van.

#### **What will school look like?**

Our plan is to return to a normal school year beginning August 30, 2021. Students are will attend in-person school five days a week. The 2021-2022 school calendar is published on the SLPS homepage (<https://www.stlouisschools.net/>).

A third-party virtual option is available for our medically vulnerable students.

#### **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 or staff, as it is not required by MHSSA or MDHSS at this time.

#### **The following mitigation measures will remain in place:**

- **Daily Screening** – SLPS appreciates the partnership with our families and expect 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 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. Masks will continue to be available for students and staff as needed.

- **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** – 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), however the MMDHD may issue additional requirements.
  - SLPS will notify families if their child was identified as a close contact in order for the family to closely monitor symptoms, the student/family will be highly recommended to quarantine, but are permitted to return school if asymptomatic.
  - If the student identified as a close contact becomes symptomatic, then they will need to follow the MMDHD quarantine guidelines of 10 days. They can return after 10 days and 24 hours free of symptoms. If there is a positive case in the home and the student can not be isolated the student will need to be out for 10 days.
  - SLPS will continue to notify the school community of positive cases on school grounds on the district homepage.

Additional building specific information will be shared with families.

Go Sharks!

Jennifer McKittrick, Superintendent