



REVISED August 2, 2021

UPDATED Guide to School Opening Plan

St. Joseph's Academy



SJA Community,

We stated in our school opening plan sent on July 14 that we would continue to monitor the situation in our city and state and make changes, as needed, to keep our students, faculty and staff safe. With the increase in COVID cases in our city, especially the rapid spread of the Delta variant and the spread to both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons, we are announcing changes to our plan. For your convenience, all changes to our July 14 correspondence are highlighted.

There is no one plan that will make everyone happy, and that is not our goal. Our goal is to keep our students learning on campus and in the classroom; to have them remain as healthy as possible; and to lower the risk of spread.

To accomplish this goal, we are **mandating face masks for all students, faculty, staff and visitors while on campus. This is extended to anyone attending meetings, sporting events or other events at SJA outside of the school day.**

The Louisiana Department of Health released a new recommendation last week that played a role in our decision about masks, as it will impact the number of students who will need to quarantine, thus missing less class time.

Indoor classroom exception: If **both** the positive case and the close contact were engaged in **consistent and correct** use of a well-fitting face mask **and** were greater than three feet from each other, then these close contacts do not need to quarantine. This indoor classroom exception will extend to the use of the Academy Student Center and the Activity Center when gathering.

This exception only applies to students and will not be used for teachers, staff or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

We will operate completely in-person and on-campus. Full-time, remote learning for the school year will not be an option for our students. A student who must quarantine or who becomes ill due to the coronavirus will work with the Dean of Women and her teachers on a short-term plan for virtual learning. Remote learning for convenience will not be allowed. Her teachers will work with her to make up any missed work. Routine illnesses that result in a student's short-term absence from school (from one to a few days) do not meet the criteria for attending school remotely.

Our prayer is that SJA's mask mandate is short-term, as our goal is returning to mask-optional once more information is available regarding the spread of the virus and the state of our city's health. It remains imperative that our parents monitor their daughter's health and keep them home with any illness whether it is COVID related or not.

We remind you that the leadership of SJA reserves the right to change any of these policies at any time should the situation in our school, the local community or state change. This includes but is not limited to our decisions about masks, school gatherings, on-campus learning or the request to show proof of vaccination to be without a mask later in the school year. All decisions made are to protect our students, faculty and staff as we deem necessary for our school environment.

We support and encourage all eligible students and faculty/staff to vaccinate if they have not done so already.

Jan R. Breen, President

Stacia B. Andricain, Principal

Important Changes for 2021-2022

- ❖ SJA will operate completely in-person and on-campus for the 2021-2022 school year. A full-time, remote learning option is not available.
- ❖ We have eliminated the need for daily symptom-monitoring submission forms.
- ❖ Masks are mandatory for all students, faculty and staff while on campus.
- ❖ We will continue our co-curricular programs such as club meetings and events, sporting events and other traditional SJA events. The only event that has been cancelled at this time is the Back-to-School Dance.
- ❖ We plan to gather for school masses and other important assemblies, but they will be limited and done with safety in mind. Special attention will be paid to our ability to social distance as well as the size of the gathering. Information regarding any gatherings will be communicated to the school community in advance.
- ❖ At this time, visitors will be limited depending on the nature of the visit to campus. Visitors must wear a mask the entire time they are on campus. Please call the school office before you visit.
- ❖ The need and length of quarantine will depend on multiple factors. Please note that any student who becomes exposed due to close contact will be assessed by our school nurse. This assessment will include asking whether the exposed person has been vaccinated. This information will only be used to determine the need and length of quarantine.

Overview of Safety Measures

School Illness/Absences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents should continue to monitor their daughter's health every day.• If sick, all students and employees should stay away from school regardless of the kind of illness.• We expect honest reporting of your daughter's health to the school and communication with the Students' Receptionist or School Nurse if your daughter will be absent.• If a student becomes ill at school, she will be evaluated by the School Nurse and, if necessary, isolated until picked up by a parent.
Drop off and Dismissal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first bell will ring at 7:28 a.m. Masks should be on before entering campus. If students from different households are in a carpool, students should wear a mask when traveling.• 9th grade students must be dropped off at the main carpool line near St. Joseph Hall (entrance from Kleinert Avenue).• Upperclass students must be dropped off at the Academy Student Center (gym).• Dismissal is 2:54 p.m.• Students no longer need to report to their first-period classroom upon arrival but should maintain distancing once they enter campus.• There will be no staggered dismissal.
Social Distancing Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students and employees should maintain proper physical distancing whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, indoors or outdoors.
Classroom Set-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classrooms will continue to average 22-24 students.• Student desks will be spaced at least 3 feet apart to the greatest extent possible.• Assigned seating charts will be maintained for the purpose of contact tracing.• If possible, group work will be done in static groups.
Environmental Cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All classrooms will be stocked with approved cleaning supplies for daily use.• Hand sanitizer will be available upon entry into all classrooms.• Bathrooms will be cleaned throughout the day as needed.
Dining Hall Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students must wash their hands before purchasing any dining items.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While there will be seating inside the dining hall, it will be limited to maintain the distancing recommendation of six feet. • Indoor tables will be cleaned between each lunch shift. • Outdoor dining is highly encouraged. Multiple areas near and around the dining hall and courtyard will be available. • All outdoor dining seating will be six feet apart. Students will not be allowed to move tables or chairs, and masks can only be off while actively eating. • Students can bring lunch from home but are asked not to share food or drinks with others. • Students will be allowed to eat in the gym on inclement weather days.
Personal Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All persons should wash their hands at least every two hours for at least 20 seconds. • Use hand sanitizer between hand washing and as needed. • Cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow or tissue and not your hands.
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SJA Athletics will follow guidelines and procedures set forth by the Louisiana Department of Health for K-12 sports. • Student-athletes who are in quarantine are not allowed to participate in any athletic activities where distancing is not maintained (contact vs. non-contact sports), including practices (indoor or outdoor), strength training or competitions for 14 days from the last date of exposure. • See below for the school's quarantine policy for all students.

COVID-19 Symptoms

According to the CDC, those with COVID-19 have a wide range of symptoms ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Every day before school, please assess your daughter. If she is exhibiting any of the following symptoms, she should remain at home: 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, diarrhea.

Positive Cases and Quarantine Procedures

We expect and will be prepared for cases of the virus as well as exposure for both students and employees. With this knowledge, we first remind everyone to remain away from school regardless of the type of illness. Ill students may be allowed to return if cleared by a doctor, have greatly reduced symptoms and work in consultation with SJA's school nurse.

- Students or employees who have COVID may not return to school until recovered and have been determined to no longer be infectious according to CDC's end of isolation criteria. Any person who tests positive for COVID must quarantine a full 10 days from the onset of symptoms or from the date of the test if there are no symptoms.
- To the best of our ability, the school will identify those in close contact. Close contact is still defined as a person who was less than six feet away from an infected person for more than 15 minutes within a 24-hour period.
- Having direct contact with an infected person includes touching, hugging, sharing utensils or drinks and if an infected person sneezed, coughed or somehow got respiratory droplets on another person.
- **Indoor classroom exception:** If **both** the positive case and the close contact were engaged in **consistent and correct** use of a well-fitting face mask **and** were greater than three feet from each other, then those close contacts do not need to quarantine. This indoor classroom exception will extend to the use of the Academy Student Center and the Activity Center when gathering.
This exception only applies to students and will not be used for teachers, staff or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
- If a person identified as a close contact is fully vaccinated (more than two weeks after the second dose in a two-dose phase or two weeks after the receipt of the one dose in a single-dose vaccination) or has

had a positive diagnosis in the last 90 days, quarantine is not necessary. Students and employees may be asked to show proof of vaccination to make this determination. While quarantine is not needed, one should watch for symptoms for 14 days from the last exposure to the positive contact.

- All other close contacts must adhere to the following procedures:
 - An individual's quarantine may end after day seven with proof of a negative antigen or PCR/molecular test collected no earlier than five days after the last exposure
 - OR**
 - Quarantine may end 10 days from last contact if no symptoms develop during quarantine and no testing is done.
 - All individuals must continue daily symptom checks for a full 14 days.

The need for and length of quarantine will depend on multiple factors. Please note that any student who becomes exposed due to close contact will be assessed by our School Nurse. This assessment will include proof of vaccination to determine quarantine requirements. This information will be confidential to the nurse and administration only.

Additional Information

Water fountains: Drinking fountains are not available; however, students can use the water bottle filling stations.

Transition time between classes: We will return to a five-minute transition time between each class period. There will be no staggered dismissal at the end of the day. The final bell rings at 2:54 p.m.

School masses, large gatherings and dances: For the foreseeable future, we will limit school-wide assemblies. As a Catholic school, gathering for mass will be our priority. For mass, our plan is to gather two grade levels in each gym for their own masses, but this will be based on the availability of priests. **Since students will be masked, we plan to have some school assemblies if social distancing can be maintained.** Some assemblies may be livestreamed to the classroom or offered creatively in a different way. School dances are under consideration and will depend on the circumstances of our school and in the community. Please note that in agreement with the administration of Catholic High School, we will not have a back-to-school dance. Look for more specific details each month in our parent newsletter.

Co-curricular club meetings and activities: Clubs will begin meeting in September as is the norm at SJA. Moderators are asked to provide opportunities for students to participate and engage following the safety guidelines detailed in this document.