



SAINT JOHN the EVANGELIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL

111 JOHN E MANN STREET, WARRENTON, VA 20186

Friday, February 25, 2022

Dear SJES/SJPS Families:

The Virginia Department of Health updated the guidance for K-12 schools on January 26, 2022 ([VDH FAQs 01262022](#)). At this time, Saint John the Evangelist School (SJES) and Saint John the Evangelist Preschool (SJPS) will be following this updated guidance for quarantine and isolation and will implement the guidance immediately.

- Per VDH guidance, schools will not be asked to report cases or perform contact tracing. SJES and SJPS will no longer perform contact tracing for COVID-19 cases in school. Close contacts will not be identified in school. Class wide emails will no longer be distributed providing notification of a positive case within the classroom. SJES and SJPS will continue to track positive cases. Positive cases will not be reported to the Health Department except in the case of a possible outbreak (3 or more cases in the same class over 14 days or 10% of a class population over 14 days). **When an individual tests positive for COVID-19 the school Health and Wellness Coordinator, Shannon Lomax (slomax@sjesva.org), still must be notified for the purpose of tracking potential outbreaks and for upholding the return Day 6 requirements and policies.**
- When an individual tests positive for COVID-19, they must isolate at home for 5 days from symptom onset or testing positive. They may return on Day 6 if symptoms are significantly reduced, they have been fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and if they comply with the fully masking requirements for Day 6 through Day 10 (this includes masking during recess and PE). Students will also need to eat their lunch at tables specifically setup that provide 6 feet of spacing, instead of the regular 3 feet spacing tables during this time. These additional requirements will end on Day 11. A negative test is not required to return. If an individual does not comply or prefers their child(ren) not to mask while in school from Day 6 through Day 10, they must complete their isolation at home through Day 10. Please see the [VDH flowchart](#).
- Individuals that have a family member test positive within the home are required to remain home for 5 days from the date of last exposure. They are permitted to return Day 6 as long as they remain asymptomatic and uphold the fully masking requirements for Day 6 through Day 10. If any symptoms develop prior to Day 10 the individual will be expected to return home immediately to isolate, with the start of symptoms counting as their Day 0 of their new 5-day isolation. Please see the [VDH flowchart](#). The Health Department strongly recommends vaccinated or unvaccinated individuals exposed to COVID-19 wear a mask for 10 days after exposure in all public settings.



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Our schools **School Wide Sick Day Guidelines** and **Health Plan Overview** will be revised to state the following going forward.

School Wide Sick Day Guidelines

o The most important way to help stop the spread of infectious illness is to stay home when sick. Reporting illnesses and health status to the Health and Wellness Coordinator, Shannon Lomax (slomax@sjesva.org), when absent is required.

According to school policy, a person should stay home when:

- A temperature of 100.4 or higher is present
 - Vomiting and/or diarrhea has occurred at least 3 times in a 24-hour period
 - The occurrence of excessive and constant coughing or sneezing and/or nasal congestion as often this spreads sickness to others.
 - Symptoms are present that will keep them from participating in learning or completing their work, such as:
 - Very tired
 - Lack of appetite
 - Uncontrollable cough
 - Frequent Sneezing
 - Headaches
 - Body aches
 - Earaches
 - Sore throat - minor sore is OK for school if no other symptoms mentioned above are present
 - Severe/Bad sore throat - should be assessed for strep throat
- o **24 Hour Rule**
- Fever - attendance at school is not permitted until a symptomatic person has been without fever for 24 hours without medications to lower fever, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen.
 - Vomiting/Diarrhea – attendance at school is not permitted until a person has been without vomiting (at least 3 times in 24 hour periods defines vomiting) or diarrhea for 24 hours without medications such as Imodium
 - Antibiotics – attendance at school is not permitted when being treated with an antibiotic until at least 24 hours of the medication has been received.
- o **Influenza**
- Individuals with suspected or confirmed flu, including those who do not have a fever, should stay home at least 4-5 days after the onset of symptoms. Persons with the flu are most contagious during the first three days of illness. (CDC Influenza guidelines, 8/2020).



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- **COVID-19**
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PLEASE NOTE: NO MATTER THE SEVERITY OF SYMPTOMS, IT IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH & WELLNESS COORDINATOR AND/OR ADMINISTRATION IF A STUDENT WILL NEED TO BE SENT HOME OR EXCLUDED FROM THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT DUE TO ILLNESS.

Saint John the Evangelist Catholic School provides a Christ-centered atmosphere that recognizes the God-given gifts inherent within each child on the journey toward spiritual and academic excellence.