

12/31/2021

Dear Families,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's Eve! We hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful, restful break.

At this time, we would like to share important updates to our health mitigation protocols in light of recent policy changes announced by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). While we acknowledge the recent increase in COVID cases across the Northern Virginia area and across the country and the challenges the surge brings, we also want to stress that our school is committed to full-time, in-person learning. We feel that our mission of delivering a Christ-rooted education of the whole person is best fulfilled with in-person instruction.

Earlier this week, on December 27, 2021, [the CDC guidelines for quarantine and isolation were updated](#). The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) announced alignment with these changes on December 29, 2021 and [their website is being updated at this time to reflect the newest mitigation strategies](#).

Maintaining a healthy environment for our students, parents and staff depends on our community working together. Most importantly, it is imperative that students and staff stay home when sick. This cannot be stressed enough. It is also important that we continue to adhere to best practices in health mitigation (hand washing, physical distancing when possible, and correct mask wearing).

Changes to the Saint Luke School Health Mitigation Policy

Effective December 31, 2021

Isolation Period - for individuals who test positive for COVID:

- Following CDC recommendations and VDH guidance, the isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID is reduced from 10 days to 5 days.
- Individuals can return on Day 6 if they have no symptoms and have been fever free for 24 hours. As is currently required of all students, it is imperative that these individuals wear a well-fitting mask through Day 10.

Close Contacts - for individuals who are identified as a close contact to a COVID positive individual:

- Close contacts will follow [the current CDC guidelines](#).
- Individuals and the parents of individuals identified as a close contact will be notified by the school via email.
- As is currently required of all students, it is imperative that any student identified as a close contact wears a well-fitting mask in the school for 10 days from the date of exposure (regardless of vaccination status).
- If an individual is a close contact and the exposure involves immediate family members, then the family should contact the school nurse before returning to school.
- Individuals who develop symptoms must stay home and obtain a COVID test.
- Close contacts who test positive for COVID during this 10-day period, should contact the school and follow the isolation guidance above.

We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday, Jan. 3. We will continue to monitor CDC guidance and work closely with the Department of Health to maximize our ability to provide in-person instruction in the safest way possible for all in our school community. We ask families to emphasize with students the importance of following the health mitigation plan, particularly as it applies to staying home when sick and correct mask wearing in the building.

In partnership,

Tanya Salewski, Principal

Father Richard Guest, Pastor