



SAINT CATHERINE of SIENA SCHOOL

UPDATED DRAFT COVID-19 POLICY 10/8/21:

SCS looks forward to continuing to work in partnership with families to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In response to the dynamic situation presented by the transmissibility of the Covid-19 Delta Variant, SCS opened our 2021-2022 school year on September 1, 2021 with some mitigation measures. However, we hope to eliminate mitigation measures as the situation improves.

SCS Masking Policy until November 1, 2021 as determined by Cardinal Sean and the Archdiocese of Boston:

Middle School Masking

- Students to be masked indoors while at SCS
- Students can be unmasked outdoors while at SCS unless otherwise instructed by parent(s).

Lower School (Kindergarten through Grade 5) Masking:

- Students to be masked indoors while at SCS
- Students can be unmasked outdoors while at SCS unless otherwise instructed by parent(s)

Little Hawks (Pre-School and Pre-Kindergarten)

Little Hawks students are *strongly encouraged* to mask inside. (*This is the policy of the Archdiocese of Boston and so, we follow it as a school in the Boston Archdiocese.) However, families may choose the following mitigation options for their child(ren) for outside:

- Students to be masked indoors while at SCS
- Students to be masked outdoors while at SCS
- Students to be masked *both indoors and outdoors* while at SCS
- Students not to be masked at all while at SCS

**Many Little Hawks parents have questioned our masking policy for Little Hawks and asked for a masking mandate in Little Hawks. Please know that 'Masking Strongly Encouraged' is the policy of the Archdiocese of Boston for students from 2 to 5 years of age and so, we follow that policy as a school in the Archdiocese of Boston.*

COVID-19 ATTESTATION

SCS families are mandated to adhere to the ATTESTATION that they will absolutely **NOT** under any circumstances send a student to SCS with any of the COVID-19 related symptoms below until/unless they have communicated in advance with our SCS SCHOOL OFFICE.



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COVID-19 RELATED SYMPTOMS:

- Fever (temperature of 100.0°F or above) and/or felt feverish and/or had chills*
- Cough*
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea, nausea, vomiting)*
- Abdominal pain
- Unexplained Rash
- Headache
- New loss of smell/taste
- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion
- New muscle aches

STUDENTS WHO PRESENT WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL

Students sent home with COVID-19 symptoms may return to school after they are tested for COVID-19 with a PCR test or BINAX Now test, and if the COVID-19 PCR test is negative. However, students will only be allowed to return if the documentation has been sent to the School Office in advance of their return and the student granted permission to return.

STUDENTS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 AND NEED TO ISOLATE

Families of students who have COVID-19 are prohibited from having their student return to school until the student is symptom-free without medication for the past 24 hours. The school health office will then grant permission for the student to return to SCS **10 days** after the Covid positive result and symptom-free.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Students will be 3 feet from each other during meals and snacks when their masks are off unless they are vaccinated and in the SCS Middle School. *Little Hawks* Preschool & PreK students will eat meals & snacks while at least 3 feet from each other. Our Kindergartners & First Graders eat in our new Kindergarten/First Grade Cafeteria on the Garden Level (First Floor) of the Lower School Building. Students are 3 feet from each other but each table will be 3 feet from other tables. Kindergartners and First Graders will have assigned seats in their new lunch room. Second Graders to Eighth Graders will eat in our Cafeteria. Students are three feet from each other but each table will be **6 feet*** from other tables. Students in Grades 2 to Grade 8 will be assigned particular seats in the Cafeteria and will eat there each day in order for SCS to know which students have been in contact with other students.

Every effort will be made for desks and seats in classrooms for students in Grades K through Grade 8 to be at 3 feet or more from other students.



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COVID-19 CLOSE CONTACT POLICY

Close Contacts may quarantine for 10 days and then, return to school if they are symptom free or take a PCR test or Binax Now test on day #5 after the exposure and return to school on day #6 if the test is negative and they provide the results to the School Office. Close Contacts will be determined in collaboration with the Norwood Department of Health. ‘Close Contacts’ at SCS will most likely be unvaccinated students or staff who are in the same classroom with a student who tests positive for Covid-19 and were unmasked, unvaccinated & within 3 feet of the student who tested positive for more than 15 minutes. Students who were masked indoors will most likely not need to test or quarantine unless they were eating lunch or snack next to the student who tested positive.

NORWOOD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

As SCS did last year, if a student tests positive for Covid-19, the Norwood Department of Health will be notified by SCS in accordance with the Department of Health’s policy. Close Contacts will be notified by SCS and the Norwood Department of Health. Families of students who are ‘Close Contacts’ but test negative on Day #5 and provide the negative PCR test results to the School Office in advance of the student’s proposed return will be able to return to school on the following school day (potentially Day #10 after exposure). **OR** families of students who are close contacts can test with a Binax NOW each day and return to school for that day through the 10 day quarantine period. Test results will need to be shared with the school health office daily.

HANDWASHING

SCS students will be encouraged to wash hands or sanitize upon entering school each day, before or after snacks/meals and after recess.

DAY CUSTODIAN

“Mr. Mario” from Clean Co. is our day custodian at SCS. He and Mr. Farrell will fog any classroom that has a student who has been sent home with any Covid-19 related symptoms. Additionally, Mr. Mario cleans our Cafeteria spaces multiple times each day as “Mr. Dave” did last year.

TABLE CLEANING

SCS educators will work as diligently as possible to make certain that student desks are cleaned a minimum of two times per day with a cleaner/sanitizer.

AIR PURIFICATION

Each Little Hawks and Lower School classroom has a HEPA Filter in place. The new Middle School Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system is outfitted with the new state of the art REME HALO purification system.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Last year, we had a Covid-19 Response Committee. We will reconvene the committee and begin to meet monthly.



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GUIDANCE FROM THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S OFFICE

- No masks will be required for any outdoor activities or while students are eating, as DESE already stipulated previously and recently reaffirmed.
- Masks **will be** required for any students or staff on school buses at this time, pursuant to federal health order.

Vaccines

- Presently, the Covid-19 vaccination is not mandated by state law. Covid vaccination of faculty, staff or children may **not** be mandated by a Catholic school.
- Schools, at their discretion, may require proof of vaccination to determine eligibility for a vaccinated student or faculty/staff member to be exempt from masking.

Handwashing/Facility Cleaning

- Until deemed unnecessary by DESE, schools will maintain: frequent hand washing/sanitation and recently modified facility-cleaning protocols.

Daily reporting of any Covid cases

- Every Catholic school must provide a detailed daily report on any new Covid cases, on a form provided by the Archdiocese, by the close of business every day.

Required Legal Baseline (not optional):

- **ALL** schools must comply with local health orders.

Thomas W. Carroll
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of Boston