

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic High School

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Document Revised 8/18/20

The safety and well-being of the SMA community is our priority. In an effort to best protect our students and staff, we are taking a conservative approach to managing the environment. A cross-functional team has prepared this document of Frequently Asked Questions to assist you. As our environment changes, we will continue to adapt according to recommendations from the CDC, Jackson County Health Department, and Children's Mercy Hospital.

Will school be in-person only?

At this time we are in a low-risk learning model, which means we will have school in session for all students, face-to-face. We are committed to managing the environment as best we can to ensure a sanitized, safe space for every student and teacher. Fortunately, we are a small school with smaller class sizes in most circumstances.

Will I have the option of hybrid or on-line learning for my child?

All students will begin school in a face-to-face learning model. Should the school, and/or the Eastern Jackson County Health Department, believe we have moved from low risk to medium or high risk then we would proceed as outlined in the [Return to School Plan](#).

Has SMA considered using a hybrid model or on-line learning?

All options were discussed as possibilities. We believe it is our best, most effective option to begin the school year face-to-face and transition to hybrid learning or distance learning if deemed necessary.

If we move to a hybrid or distance model, will I get a break in tuition?

SMA is providing a structured, standards-based curriculum in all defined learning models (low, medium and high). As a tuition based institution, tuition is necessary to provide these educational opportunities for students. If COVID-19 has affected your income, please contact the School Administration for guidance.

How many cases of a positive test diagnosis will it take to move out of low risk and into medium or high?

SMA will monitor the Eastern Jackson County Health Department and SMA Community COVID-19 cases (as reported over a 14-day period) and will use the following as a guideline:

Low Risk-Face to Face Instruction:

Eastern Jackson County or SMA positive test results less than 10% of the population.

Medium Risk-Hybrid Model:

Eastern Jackson County or SMA positive test results greater than 10% of the population.

High Risk-Distance Learning Model:

Eastern Jackson County or SMA positive test results greater than 15% of the population.

What happens if my child gets sick?

Sadly, we know this is a real possibility and concern for all of us. The SWAY App will be your first notification to the school. Follow the guidelines in the [SMA COVID-19 Policies and Procedures](#) document outlining a [Positive Test Diagnosis](#). If your child has symptoms identified with COVID-19, they will need to be tested.

If your child has seen a healthcare provider during this time and received an alternate diagnosis, they may return according to the precautions of the healthcare provider. A note from the doctor is required upon returning.

For example, your child has a fever and a doctor diagnoses your child with strep. They may return once they are fever free for 24 hours, without the assistance of a fever reducing medicine, and on antibiotics for 24 hours.

Will I be required to have my child tested for COVID-19?

If your child has one of the symptoms identified with COVID-19, they should have a Nasopharyngeal COVID PCR swab (an antibody blood test is not the same).

Follow all guidelines for a [positive test result](#) outlined in our [Policies and Procedures](#). If there is a negative test result, your student will fulfill the remainder of the 14 day quarantine before returning to SMA and resuming their normal activities. (revised: 8/18/20)

How much in-person school will my child miss if they have contracted COVID-19?

According to the CDC recommendations, your student will miss a minimum of 10 days from the first date of symptoms. This window assumes they are fever free for 24 hours, without the use of a fever reducing medication, and symptoms have improved. Students who are quarantined, and feel well enough, are expected to attend school from home.

How much in-person school will my child miss if they've been in close, physical contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case (in the classroom, practice, at home, etc.)?

The student needs to quarantine for 14 days. If the student is not symptomatic and can provide a negative test result, he/she may return to school. Students who are quarantined, and feel well enough, are expected to attend school from home.

If your child has been tested and positive, he/she will need to quarantine for a minimum of 10 days, be fever free without the use of fever reducing medication, and symptom free before returning to school and activities.

If there is a positive case, the minimum time missed is 10 days. If there is an exposure, it's 14 days of school missed. Why the discrepancy?

A positive diagnosis assumes there was a period of time before symptoms appeared in an individual. Therefore, a minimum of 10 days is required for recovery.

An exposure assumes no symptoms have appeared. Staying in quarantine for 14 days will provide time for symptoms to be identified, which may take from 2-14 days according to the CDC.

What should I expect if a student or teacher has COVID-19?

If your child has been in [close, physical contact](#) or in the [general classroom area](#) (not defined as close contact), you will receive an email from the school with further instructions. If you or your student have information of an exposure before being contacted by the school, you may follow up with the nurses for clarification. If you know of an exposure outside school, you should follow the same guidelines outlined in the [SMA COVID-19 Policies and Procedures](#) document.

If my child is quarantined due to a close, physical COVID-19 exposure can they still participate in sports and activities?

As difficult as it might be to miss these activities, they will need to stay quarantined for the required time before returning. (revised: 8/18/20)

If a member of my family has a positive test diagnosis, how does that impact my SMA student who exhibits no symptoms?

Exposed family members may return to school after 14 days of quarantine and no COVID-19 symptoms. (revised: 8/18/20)

If a family member of an SMA student (not the actual student) has a positive test diagnosis, what does that mean for the other students in the classroom they share?

Other students in that classroom should continue attending school and activities assuming they are symptom free and have not had close, physical contact with that family member.

What if a teacher has a positive test diagnosis?

Teachers and staff are required to wear a face shield or mask while teaching, wear a mask while speaking to small groups or individual students, and have been trained on how to minimize close, physical contact with students.

If your child has been in [close, physical contact](#), your child will need to be quarantined for 14 days. If you can provide a negative test result, he/she may return to school and resume sports and activities.

If your child has been in the [general classroom area](#) of exposure, and are not exhibiting any symptoms, they may continue attending school and activities as usual.

If a teacher has had close, physical contact with a family member who has a positive test diagnosis, when will they return to the classroom?

Once the teacher has been quarantined for 14 days, and is not exhibiting any symptoms, they may return to school. (revised: 8/18/20)

How are the substitute teachers being screened before being assigned to a classroom?

We will make every effort to utilize SMA personnel prior to using outside substitutes. When necessary, an outside substitute will be utilized from our pool of COVID-19 trained professionals. All SMA substitutes will complete the daily COVID-19 screening, just as all students and staff do prior to entering the building.

How will it be communicated if someone tests positive?

As outlined in the [Notice of Exposure Policy](#), the identity of the impacted staff or student will not be revealed nor confirmed. If your child has been in [close, physical contact](#) or in the [general classroom area](#) (not defined as close, physical contact), you will receive an email from the school with further instructions. If you or your student have information of an exposure before being contacted by the school, you may follow up with the nurses for clarification. If you know of an exposure outside school, you should follow the same guidelines outlined in the [SMA COVID-19 Policies and Procedures](#) document. Communication to all of SMA will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

What is the school doing to keep the students safe?

Great effort was taken this summer to prepare the school and establish policies and procedures to ensure staff and student safety. Details are outlined in our [Return to School Plan](#).

Will SMA allow 8th grade students to shadow?

While visitors will be restricted, we understand the importance of allowing incoming freshmen to tour SMA. We will follow SMA's COVID-19 Screening Procedure and temperatures will be taken before a student is allowed to shadow. They will maintain six feet distance when possible and follow our SMA mask requirements for the day.

Will my child be switching classes?

If we are low-risk and following in-person learning, all students will follow our standard academic schedule. See our policy on Building Movement outlined in the [SMA Return to School](#) document.

Where will my child have lunch?

See our policy on Lunches outlined in the [SMA Return to School](#) document. Cash payment will not be an option.

