

St. Joseph's Reopening Plan FAQ Sheet

Q: What happens on the days the students are not in school during the first 2 weeks? Will they be taking virtual classes via Zoom?

A: No. The students will be working on assignments but will not have virtual appointment times with teachers on the days when they are home. The first two weeks will be similar to a university model where students attend class every other day and use the time at home to complete assignments.

Q: How will SJCS ensure social distancing in hallways and at lockers?

A: We have adjusted the bell schedule to add more time between each class period to allow for a staggered release of students from classes in order to reduce the number of students in the hallways at any given time. We are also planning to increase supervision of the hallways in between classes in order to keep students separated and moving. We are taking the first two weeks when only half the students are in the building to establish the most effective hallway traffic patterns and procedures for accessing lockers safely.

Q: Where will the students eat lunch? Will there be multiple lunch periods so students will be able to maintain social distancing while eating in the cafeteria? Will students be allowed to eat outside?

A: We have reduced the number of lunch periods from two to one, but we have also expanded the number of locations where students will be eating to include the tents outside, the gymnasium and select classrooms. Students will pick up lunches according to a staggered schedule so as to limit the number of students in the cafeteria at any given time and then they will proceed to their assigned, supervised lunch areas.

Q: Will classrooms be cleaned in between each class?

A: Yes, all desks will be wiped down with disinfectant between classes by teachers and students. Every classroom will be disinfected each evening using the school's electrostatic spray machines.

Q: How often will bathrooms be cleaned?

A: The bathrooms will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at the end of the day and as needed during the school day.

Q: What do I do if I think that my child has been exposed to the disease?

A: Call or email SJCS' Contact Tracer. She will guide you through the steps of determining if testing is recommended and social distancing is required.

Q: What do I do if my child feels sick and is exhibiting symptoms?

A: Keep the child home from school and notify the school's Contact Tracer to inform her of the situation. If the student is already at school, he or she should ask to go to the nurse's office and strictly maintain physical distancing in the process. The nurse will isolate the student in her office until he or she can be picked up by a parent.

Q: What is the plan if a student, faculty or staff member tests positive for Covid? What will happen in terms of the rest of the school?

A: Infected persons and those deemed to be in close contact (defined as within 6ft for 15 minutes or more) will be quarantined according to SCDHEC and CDC guidelines. The school's Contact Tracer will notify families and work with school personnel to determine when the quarantined persons can return to school.

Depending on the severity of their conditions, a faculty member may be able to teach virtually from home with a substitute teacher supervising students in the classroom. Or, a qualified substitute will be hired to teach the class in the event the teacher is not able to teach virtually during his or her quarantine period.

Q: How exactly will students continue with their classes if they have to be homebound for a period of time?

A: Students who are quarantined will be assigned to a Remote Learning Specialist who will coordinate their learning while the students are away from school. The Remote Learning Specialist will work with the students' teachers to ensure that the students receive the class materials they need so that they can keep pace with their classes. Academic content will be delivered through a variety of media according to the nature of each class. This may include, but not necessarily so, viewing video recordings of the classes the student missed while not at school.

Q: Will students be required to wear masks all day while in the building?

A: Students will be required to wear masks at all times while in the school building. This is a non-negotiable condition for returning to and remaining in school. Students who refuse to keep masks on will be sent home. We will look for opportunities to give students a break from wearing masks by taking them outside from time to time, for example, while keeping them apart from each other when they are not wearing masks.

Q: Will students be required to wear masks in the outdoor tents?

A: This will be at the discretion of the teacher in the tent provided that the students can maintain physical distancing and dependent upon the activities they are engaged in.

Q: If my student has already had Covid-19, does he or she still need to wear a mask at school?

A: Yes. All students will be required to wear a mask while in the school building.

Q: What kind of PPE should students bring to school?

A: Students will be required to bring their own masks to school. Masks should cover the mouth and nose and be without vents. The same restrictions that apply to t-shirts worn to school apply to graphics and logos on masks. While the school will have hand sanitizing stations throughout the building, it's also strongly recommended that all students carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer that they can easily access to clean their hands.

Q: With the delayed start of August 24th will the first semester still end before Christmas break?

A: Yes, our plan is for first semester exams to be completed before Christmas break.