



**Archdiocese of Oklahoma City  
St. Mary's Catholic School – Ponca City  
Local Policies Regarding COVID-19 for the 2021-2022 School Year**

**Vaccinations**

Vaccinations for COVID-19 are not required. Currently, adults and youth aged 5 and older are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. For information on age requirements and where to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Oklahoma, go online to [oklahoma.gov/covid19](https://oklahoma.gov/covid19). For other immunization requirements, please see our school admissions policy in the Parent/Student Handbook.

**Masks**

Wearing a mask is strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals to reduce the spread of Covid-19 and its variants. Unvaccinated students, staff, and visitors are encouraged to wear a mask, however it will not be mandated, nor will proof of vaccination be required. This policy is subject to change if the Governor of Oklahoma declares a state of emergency. If a mask mandate is implemented, all students, parents, and staff will be notified and informed of specific protocols.

**Social Distancing**

A distance of three to six feet between students as well as between students and teachers will be maintained when possible.

**Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

Signs promoting handwashing have been placed in all buildings especially near all sinks to promote correct handwashing techniques. Students will be given ample

opportunity for proper handwashing throughout the school day. Students and staff are encouraged to cover coughs appropriately and to maintain space between individuals when coughing or sneezing. All classrooms and buildings have hand sanitizer available in the classroom and at various locations throughout the building.

### **Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities**

All facilities are maintained to the highest level of cleanliness possible on a daily basis by trained custodial personnel. Disinfecting wipes and/or sprays are available for use in every classroom for immediate disinfection of student spaces. All buildings are circulating the highest availability of outside air that the system allows with filters being changed on regularly scheduled intervals.

Bottle fillers will be the only function of water fountains that are accessible to students, staff, and visitors. It is required that students bring a water bottle from home to fill.

### **Diagnostic and Screening Testing**

Temperature checks will not occur upon entering buildings unless staff believe it is necessary. However, every classroom will be supplied with a thermometer for teachers and staff to use when needed.

The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) has developed a symptom assessment tool to help determine when someone should be kept home or sent home from school and/or tested for COVID-19:

<b>"A" Symptoms</b>	<b>"B" Symptoms</b>
Fever $\geq 100.4$ F	Nasal Congestion/Stuffy Nose
Sore Throat	Runny Nose
Cough	Muscle/Body Aches
Difficulty Breathing	Fatigue
Diarrhea or Vomiting	Chills
New Loss of Taste or Smell	Nausea
	Loss of Appetite

	Elevated Temperature > 100.4 F
	New Onset of Severe Headache

**\*Students should be kept home if they exhibit 1 of the “A” symptoms OR 3 or more of the “B” symptoms.**

We rely on each family to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19 by:

- keeping children home when they exhibit symptoms of Covid-19 (see chart above),
- picking students up promptly if the school calls indicating that they need to be isolated,
- quarantining a student who has had direct exposure to a family member with a lab-confirmed positive COVID-19 case, for 10 days (a directive of the health department), and
- actively participating in contact tracing investigations.

### **Everyday Occurrences**

Unless the Governor of Oklahoma declares a state of emergency, St. Mary’s Catholic School will resume the following activities:

- regular lunch schedules.
- parents, guests, and visitors will be allowed into the school.
- face to face Parent Teacher Conferences
- Field Trips
- school assemblies, performances, celebrations, etc.

\*When indoors, Students will remain with their class cohort as much as possible (lunch, assemblies, Mass, etc.).

### **Drop-Off and Pick-Up**

The school will resume normal student pick-up and drop-off procedures. Parents will have the option to park and walk up to the playground *or* to drive through the line.

### Drop-Off Procedures

Before-school supervision for grades K-5 will begin at 7:40 am M-F on the playground. Middle School students may report directly to their homeroom starting at 7:40 am.

Preschool students needing before-school supervision will need to make arrangements with St. Mary's Childcare. Preschool students who go to Childcare before school will be walked over to their classroom at 8:00 am. Otherwise, at 8:00 am, parents of preschoolers may either park and walk up to the playground gate on Walnut Street or remain in their car and let them out at the gate. No parking will be allowed on the south side of Walnut Street between 7th and 8th during the school day.

### Pick-Up Procedures

Grades K-5 will be released from the South gates of the playground at 3:30 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. They will be dismissed at 2:20 pm on Thursdays for Professional Learning Early Release (PLER). Preschool students will be dismissed from the playground gate on Walnut Street at 3:10 pm M, T, W, and F. In the event of inclement weather, Preschool students will be dismissed from the Walnut Street building exit. They will be dismissed at 2:00 pm on Thursdays for PLER. After School Care will still be available for all St. Mary's students. Students in grades 2-8 will stay at the main building, while students in grades PK-First will be walked over to Childcare.

### **Quarantine Protocols**

A Close Contact is defined as exposure to a confirmed positive infected person for less than 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer. ***We will no longer mandate close contact quarantines based on exposure to a positive case.*** However, we will continue to issue mandatory isolations for positive cases. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, all individuals identified as being Close Contacts will be notified (without identifying the individual) and given the option to quarantine following these CDC guidelines:

Any staff member or student who has had Close Contact with someone with COVID-19 is advised to stay home for 10 days without testing, *or* for 5 days after receiving a negative test result (test must occur on day 5 or later). Quarantines should start immediately after last exposure to the identified confirmed positive case. However, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who meets the following criteria does NOT need to stay home:

- Someone who has been fully vaccinated and shows no symptoms of COVID-19.

Or

- Someone who has COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months, and
- has recovered, and
- remains without COVID-19 symptoms (for example, cough, shortness of breath).

Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

- 5 full days since symptoms first appeared, and
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and
- other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving.

*\*Anyone returning to school after 5 days of isolation must wear a properly fitting mask for 5 additional days.*