



**August 6, 2021**

# **MSHS Back to School Guidelines**

*Developed by: Dr. Ray Abdo, Dr. John DuBois, Dr. Tim Warren, Beth Schickler, Greg Pierson, Stephanie Kane, Jen Buehler, Gabby Visconti, Elizabeth Kiblinger, Jeanie Harper, Michelle Etter, Stacy Arft, Fr. Joe Kempf, and Monica Wilson in consultation with Archdiocesan officials.*

The information below outlines Most Sacred Heart's plan for the 2021-2022 school year and provides detailed information on how we plan to safely welcome our school community to IN-PERSON learning. (MSHS will not offer a "learn-at-home" long-term option this year. We will provide a "virtual-learning" option for students in COVID-related quarantine.)

While it may not yet be a full return to a pre-COVID "normal," we plan to honor the same beliefs, traditions, and community that make MSHS a special place. We believe excellence happens on purpose! We are following the recommendations of the [CDC](#) and the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

***As new practices are implemented and adjusted by local governmental/county health departments, MSHS will continually evaluate our protocols and make changes when possible. This would include responding to any local outbreaks.***

## **Morning Arrival Protocols**

- A. All teachers and staff are expected to screen themselves before arriving at school and all parents are expected to screen their students before arriving at school. Screening questions are:
- Do you/ your child (children) have a temperature over 100.4 degrees (F)? If YES then you need to not come to school. (All siblings in the family should stay home also.)
  - Have you/your children come in close contact in the past 14 days with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19? If YES then you need to not come to school . (All siblings in the family should stay home also.)
  - Is there anyone in your home showing any of the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, headache, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, new loss of taste or smell, new runny nose or congestion, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing or a sore throat? If YES then you need to not come to school . (All siblings in the family should stay home also.)

**It is our expectation that by dropping off your child/children at school, you have screened their health prior to doing so and have found them not to have problematic symptoms.**

1. Drop-Off will take place at the **EAST ENTRANCE** near the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom (back parking lot) just as we have been doing. Vehicles will come up the back driveway, follow the loop around the old pump house, drop off students between the cones, and then exit either through the back drive. There will be a staff member outside and students may only be dropped off when the staff member is present.
2. For the **WEST ENTRANCE**, vehicles will come up the main entrance off Hwy. 109 and park. Parents may walk their child(ren) to the courtyard doors where a staff member will be there to greet them. Parents will not be permitted into the building during morning drop off.
3. Periodic temperature screenings may be performed at all entrances.
4. Late arrivals (anyone arriving after 7:50am) **MUST** park on the front lot and accompany your students to the courtyard main school entrance.
5. Before Care users (those arriving before 7:30am) **MUST** park on the front lot and accompany students into the Dining Room entrance.
6. Because we need the cooperation of everyone for the safety of our children, anyone who does not follow the above procedures will receive a call from the school office.

## Face Masks

It is our goal to move from masks are required, to masks are situational, to masks are optional based on community levels. We will use the 3-tiered approach below:

<b>Tier 1: Masks are Optional.</b>	<p>Students and staff may choose to wear a mask, but it is not required.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community local transmissions low.</li> <li>▪ No known cases among staff and students.</li> <li>▪ Students and staff closely adhere to safety protocols.</li> </ul>
<b>Tier 2: Masks are Situational.</b>	<p>Students and staff are asked to wear a mask for specific situations.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community local transmissions showing significant decrease.</li> <li>▪ When arriving at school.</li> <li>▪ When moving through the halls.</li> <li>▪ When working closely with others.</li> </ul>
<b>Tier 3: Masks are Required.</b>	<p>Students and staff are required to wear a mask.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Community positivity levels are high.</li> <li>▪ Masks are worn throughout the school day when inside the school building.</li> </ul>

The Task Force will meet frequently to evaluate local transmissions, vaccine availability for children < 12 yrs. as well as local health mandates and move to different tiers based on the latest data. (CDC's transmission metrics.)

**As of August 17, 2021 the following guidelines will be in place due to high transmission levels in the community (Tier 3: Masks are required)**

- A. Staff members will wear face masks when not able to social distance.
- B. **Students in grades K-8 will wear face masks throughout the day.**  
Students may pull masks down to drink water, take them off for morning snack, and take them off when eating lunch. Students will not wear masks outside. Students need to provide their own properly fitted face masks and have clean ones to wear each day.
- C. Preschool students who are able to put on a face mask independently can do so. Preschool students will NOT wear face masks during nap times or if they pose a choking or strangulation hazard.
- D. ANY adult/visitor entering the building will be screened and MUST wear a face mask while in the building. Movements of visitors will be limited.

**Teaching and Maintaining Social Distancing Throughout the Day**

- A. Students will be taught protocols to develop social distancing based on age level.
- B. School furniture will be organized so that it reflects a 3 to 6-foot distance (when appropriate) between students.
- C. Physical Education classes will occur outside when weather permits.
- D. Teachers of 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will switch for Science and Social Studies.
- E. Students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> will switch classrooms for departmental classes.
- F. Teachers will use the outdoors for classes and lunch when appropriate and weather permits.

**Meticulous Attention to Hand Hygiene**

- A. Students will be taught proper handwashing techniques.
- B. Hand washing will occur before and after eating or handling food, before and after administering medication, after coming in contact with any bodily fluids, after handling any school pets, after playing outdoors and after handling garbage.

**When Someone is Symptomatic**

- A. Staff members will be sent home immediately. Student and any other family member will be isolated until arrangements can be made to pick up the student and any other family member as soon as possible by a parent or guardian.
- B. Staff members/parents of students will follow the recommendations by the St. Louis County Health Department regarding quarantines.

## **Recess**

- A. Classes will have recess each day. Masks do NOT have to be worn outside at recess. Students will wash their hands when they return to their classes from recess.

## **Dismissal**

- A. Students will gather and socially distance in various holding rooms and be dismissed to parents/carpools as parents arrive following established dismissal procedures.
- B. Students remaining at school for After Care will follow the same protocols listed here and will be socially distanced using the Dining Room and the Gym. Pick-up from After Care will follow established procedures.

## **Maintenance**

- A. Additional cleaning protocols that are in place to ensure safe environments include:
  - a. Maintenance staff have appropriate training to execute deep cleaning protocols.
  - b. Necessary supplies have been procured/ordered including sanitizer, touchless thermometers, and deep-cleaning supplies.
  - c. Routine cleaning protocols for high touch areas will occur throughout the day.

*Our current planning is based on what we know and what we can control, while remaining flexible during changing situations in order to minimize risk and continue to offer a high-quality educational experience. For MSHS the respect for life and call to protect the vulnerable is at the core of these guidelines and our shared efforts at adhering to them this year in a spirit of love and patience will be just one of the ways our community demonstrates our commitment to these important values.*

*May God bless each of us this year: our children, our families, our teachers, and staff. May God bless this world with healing and peace.*