

# ST. MARY'S VISITATION

Catholic School  Elm Grove, WI

St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School exists to direct children toward God and toward Christian service to society through Catholic religious formation, academic challenge and continuous improvement.

## SMV Illness Policy

SMV illness policies are based on CDC guidelines for COVID-19, and CDC guidelines for a safe return to school. At the end of this document are links to specific policies referenced in the plan. Complete information and guidelines for COVID-19 response can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Students should stay home from school if they have any of the following symptoms of COVID-19<sup>1</sup>

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If a student develops symptoms, parents should call their healthcare provider (HCP) for advice regarding possible COVID-19. The HCP should evaluate the child for possible COVID. Testing is not required, but is strongly suggested.

## Positive COVID-19 test, or Presumed COVID-19 per HCP

If the HCP evaluates the child and either through testing or by presumptive diagnosis feels the child likely has COVID:

Contact SMV and let them know of the positive test result or presumed diagnosis of COVID-19.

Stay home until:

- At least 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
- At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication **and**
- Symptoms have improved<sup>2</sup>

## Negative COVID-19 test

- The child may return to school when their fever has resolved, and their symptoms are improving.

## Alternative diagnoses, such as Hay fever/Allergies, Strep throat, etc.:

- If a HCP has evaluated the child and has made an alternative diagnosis, testing is not required.
- An HCP note with alternate diagnosis and clearance for return to school is required.
- The child may return to school when their fever has resolved, and their symptoms are improving.

## Test / HCP Evaluation Refusal

Children who have symptoms of COVID-19, and are not tested or not evaluated by a HCP and cleared for return to school with an alternative diagnosis will be considered positive until proven otherwise, and guidelines for a positive test will be followed.

## Asymptomatic COVID-19

If a child is tested for exposure reasons, and is diagnosed with Asymptomatic COVID-19, the child should stay home, and may return to school when:

- 10 days have passed since the positive test, OR
- The child receives two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart.<sup>2</sup>

## Symptomatic Children at School

Any child who screens positive for fever (temperature  $\geq 100.4^\circ$ ) on arrival or is noted to have possible symptoms of COVID-19 (see above) while at school will be separated from their classmates for safety purposes. A parent will be required to pick up their child promptly.

Children will be presumed COVID-19 positive until evaluated by a HCP, and cleared for return, either through negative testing or alternative diagnosis.

Parents may avoid their children being sent home by screening their children daily for any of the above COVID-19 symptoms, and taking temperatures each morning prior to sending their child to school.

## COVID-19 Exposures

COVID-19 is very infectious and may take up to 14 days to show symptoms after exposure.<sup>6</sup>

Children who have had a close contact exposure to COVID-19 should quarantine at home.<sup>5</sup>  
Quarantine means:

- Stay home until 14 days after the exposure, and maintain social distance (at least 6 feet) from others at all times
- Self-monitor for symptoms
- Check temperature twice a day
- Watch for fever (temperature  $\geq 100.4^\circ$ ), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19
- Avoid contact with people at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19

## Close Contact

*Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated<sup>3</sup>.*

If your child has had a close contact exposure, notify SMV, and keep your child at home.

Close contacts include co-habiting family members, i.e., if a family member who lives with the child is diagnosed with COVID-19, the family should alert school that the child(ren) has had an exposure, and all family members should quarantine at home.

Due to our social distancing and mask use, a sick classmate would NOT be considered a close contact – i.e. a single case in a classroom does not mean the entire class needs to stay home.

If multiple cases in a classroom occur, this will be re-evaluated, and cohort isolation may become necessary. Using cohort isolation means that if more than one member of a class becomes ill, the entire class may be required to isolate at home.<sup>4</sup>

After a close contact exposure, if the child develops symptoms at any time during quarantine, parents should contact their HCP for evaluation. If the child tests positive for COVID-19, or is diagnosed as Presumed positive, please see the guideline above for Positive COVID-19 test, or Presumed COVID-19 per HCP.

The 10 day isolation period begins as soon as the child becomes symptomatic.<sup>5</sup> i.e. if the child is exposed on the October 5<sup>th</sup>, he/she should quarantine until October 19<sup>th</sup>. But, if the child becomes symptomatic and tests positive or has a presumptive positive diagnosis on October 18<sup>th</sup>, the child would not be eligible to return to school until October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Absence	What is the Rule?
I have been quarantined but not exhibiting symptoms.	Stay home. Report absence to the office. Arrangements will be made to get work to and from school. Your designated teacher will contact you.
I have been quarantined and am exhibiting symptoms.	Stay home. Report absence to the office. Rest. Get well. Arrangements will be made to get work to and from the school. Your designated teacher will contact you.
I have a non-coronavirus illness	Stay home. Report absence to the office. Rest. Get well. Arrangements will be made to get work to and from the school.
I am missing school to visit my family. I have an injury and need to stay home	Report absence to the office. Enjoy your time with family. Teachers will catch you up when you return.

### Recovery from COVID-19

There is little data on long term immunity after recovery from COVID-19 infection, i.e. we do not know if prior illness protects a person from becoming ill a second time.<sup>6</sup> In addition, some viruses may change over time, resulting in loss of immunity due to virus mutation.

Students who have had COVID and recovered will NOT be considered immune.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, recovers and returns to school, the above policies will still apply for quarantine and isolation in the event the child shows symptoms of possible COVID-19 in the future.

## COVID-19 Vaccine

A COVID-19 vaccine is not yet available. When an effective vaccine is available, though it cannot be required by state law, it is highly suggested students receive the vaccine when it is deemed safe.

The vaccine safety & effectiveness will be considered by the school, and if effective, students who have received a documented vaccine for COVID-19 may be exempt from the policies above.

Students who do not receive the vaccine may still be required to follow policies above.

## Policy changes

Information about COVID-19 is rapidly changing on a regular basis. SMV reserves the right to change the policies above based on guidance from the CDC, WI Department of Health, Waukesha County Health Department and forthcoming research.

Referenced CDC guidance:

- 1: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
  - 2: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprevent-getting-sick%2Fwhen-its-safe.html)
  3. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>
  4. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/prepare-safe-return.html>
  5. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>
  6. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html#:~:text=Based%20on%20existing%20literature%2C,2-14%20days.>
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