



St. Rose Catholic School

**IN-PERSON LEARNING PLAN**  
*IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19*

*Updated August 1, 2021*

## Introduction

This plan has been written to inform school parents and the wider community of the procedures that will be in place to add layers of protection for students and school employees as students return to campus for full time, in-person learning. As of July 12, 2021, the CDC and The California Department of Health respectively, issued updated Health Guidance for K-12 Schools for the 2021-22 School Year. This framework is available through the links listed below.

[COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22](#)

[Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)

## Guiding Principles

St. Rose Mission

In the midst of a Catholic faith community, students at St. Rose learn that God loves each of us and our loving response to God leads to a more fulfilling life. The administration and staff in partnership with the parents who are the primary educators of their students are committed to assisting students in developing their full potential through a program that stimulates spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development.

The best way to realize our mission is through in-person instruction with our students on campus. In order to facilitate this and ensure the continued well-being of our employees and students during the COVID-19 Pandemic the following guiding principles have been put in place:

- Layers of safety precautions listed in the St. Rose COVID Safety Plan
  1. Cal/OSHA Covid Prevention Program
  2. Covid-19 School Guidance Checklist
- Spiritual, Social, and Emotional Well-Being Practices

St. Rose School will use the CDPH Guidance for K-12 Schools in California along with guidance from the Sonoma County Public Health Department, and the Sonoma County Office of Education, to create a safe and healthy environment for students and employees.

## **SECTION 1: ON CAMPUS SAFETY**

### **Student Health Screening**

With the Delta Variant being the prominent strain of COVID in our community at this time, parents are asked to be vigilant in assessing their children's health every day before sending them to school, and asked to never send a child to school who is not feeling well, or who has any symptoms noted below. The Health Screening check list is made available to parent in the school newsletter and in the Parent/Student Handbook. The morning health screening should be accompanied by a vigorous washing of hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before the child leaves for school.

### **Student Health Screening at Home**

We ask that parents monitor their children for COVID 19 symptoms at home. Children who exhibit any of the symptoms listed should stay home. Vigilance with keeping all sick children at home is imperative. Watch for symptoms such as:

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Cough
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- Known close contact with a person who is suspected by their physician of having COVID-19 but is awaiting lab results.

### **Student Compliance with Safety Measures**

It is essential that students comply with all of the measures that have been put in place for their safety and the safety of the adults who work at St. Rose. Living by *The St. Rose Way* requires all of us to care for one another using Jesus as our model. We will emphasize with our students that many of the safeguards are in place to protect ourselves *and others*.

St. Rose students in all age groups have demonstrated their resilience and ability to abide by safety measures like mask wearing. They readily adapted to the rules and regulations that were put in place when in-person learning resumed last school year. Students who have repeated difficulty abiding by the on-campus protocol will be sent home.

## **Employee Screening and Protocols**

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reduce the potential risk of exposure to our students and employees, employees will complete the same daily self-screening each morning that we ask of all families before coming to campus. Employees have been instructed to remain home if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 including those on check list on the previous page.

**Any student or employee who has had close contact with a person with a COVID-19 positive test or a pending COVID-19 test result will be required to stay home according to the applicable 7-10 day quarantine policy.**

## **Arrival and Dismissal**

**School day begins at 8:10 AM each day.**

All students will enter campus from the traffic circle, through the front of campus. Students must exit the vehicle with their mask on. Masks will remain on until their first recess.

Teachers will give instruction regarding removal of masks at recess and lunch, and which activities may require mask wearing.

Until further notice, we ask that parents not leave their vehicle when dropping off.

Dismissal will be staggered, in 10 minute intervals. Staggered dismissal times will be posted in the school newsletter. All students will dismiss out front in the traffic circle, and will line up with minimal spacing between students. Students will be required to wear masks as dismissal until they enter their vehicles.

Parents are asked to remain in their vehicles as they pull through the traffic circle. We ask that parents refrain from gathering outside on school campus to socialize until further notice.

## **Mask Requirement**

*'Masks are one of the most effective and simplest safety mitigation layers to prevent in-school transmission of COVID-19 infections and to support full time in-person instruction in K-12 schools.'*  
(CDPH Guidance, July 12, 2021)

Therefore, to best promote both safety and in-person learning, all school employees and K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to have masks on before they leave their vehicle. Employees and students will wear masks before school and while indoors. Students will be allowed to remove masks during recess and lunch time.

There may be some outdoor activities that will require students to wear a mask, i.e.; close contact – high risk sports like basketball.

We ask that parents provide a mask that is well-fitted and most comfortable for the child. Masks must be at least two-ply, fitting over the nose and under the chin with no valves. Gator-style masks or masks with inappropriate graphics are not allowed.

The school has a supply of replacement masks for any child who may need one. Students who refuse to wear masks may not remain on campus.

## **Social Distancing**

*'In California, the surest path to safe and full in-person instruction at the outset of the school year, as well as minimizing missed school days in an ongoing basis, is a strong emphasis on the following: vaccination of all eligible individuals to get COVID-19 rates down throughout our community; universal masking in schools, which enable no minimum physical distancing, allowing all students access to full in-person learning, more targeted quarantine practices, keeping students in school.'* (CDPH Guidance, July 12, 2021)

We have strong mitigation strategies in place:

- Plastic desks shields will be used when students are in smaller confined group activities
- The classroom ceiling height is 16 feet with high transom windows that create excellent cross ventilation with windows on the opposite wall.
- In addition the classrooms all have a state of the art HVAC system, installed in 2018, that includes high quality MERV 8 filters and an ERV system which will be on high speed unless the outside air is smoky.
- Masks will be worn by all while indoors.

A good faith effort has been made to adhere to Public Health guidance.

## **Visitor / Volunteer Restrictions**

The CDPH recommends that schools review rules for visitors and family engagement activities and limit nonessential visitors, volunteers and activities involving external groups, and with those who are not fully vaccinated, particularly in areas where there is moderate-to-high COVID-19 transmission.

As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, St. Rose will be limiting parent volunteers and visitor access on campus unless special arrangements have been made and the visit is absolutely necessary. Any visitors must follow the same protocols that have been put in place for employees. There is signage at the front doors of the school to discourage unexpected visitors from entering the building.

Parents should send a note or call the school office ahead of time for early pick-ups or to schedule appointments with teachers or administration. Parents who have school business are asked to check-in at the office window before coming into the building.

We will continue to provide a cart in front of the school office during school hours for easy drop-off and pick-up of school related correspondence.

We understand how important social interaction is for parents as well as being able to fully participate in volunteer opportunities that support our students. St. Rose will continue to re-evaluate and update our guidance following public health guidance.

## **Ventilation and Cleaning**

In 2017, our classrooms were fitted with high-quality ERV systems MERV 8 filters, which will be operated on high throughout the pandemic (unless the outside air quality becomes unhealthy due to fires). Outside doors and windows can be opened for fresh ventilation as well. Inside hallways doors will be kept closed. In the event of smoke filled skies, the ERV system will be turned off and the regular air circulation system will be used that has high quality filters.

Professional cleaning and sanitizing will happen in each classroom every evening. The school will continue to use the sanitizing mister for this purpose. Student and staff restrooms will be cleaned professionally each evening.

## **Hygiene during the School Day**

Whenever possible students will be promoted and reminded to wash hands with soap and water. Students will use hand sanitizer every time they enter the classroom. Hand sanitizer is available in every classroom with wall-mounted and pump dispensers.

## **Water Bottles**

Students are encouraged to bring reusable PLASTIC type water bottles. St. Rose classrooms are equipped with a filtered water station. Only plastic type water bottles are allowed. No metal, no glass.

## **Recess/Lunch Time**

All students will have regular recess and lunch periods.

## **After School Sports and Other Extra Curricular Activities**

Following CDPH and CDC guidance, choral, music, band or wind instrument use, may be modified or postponed until updated guidance is provided by the health department. After school sports and some other after school activities could possibly resume following rigorous safety protocols. The COVID-19 vaccine is currently available for people 12 years and older. St. Rose School along with the other member schools of the Diocese athletic league agree to begin the school year offering indoor sports for the Junior High grades, but only if it is logistically and financially feasible.

To participate in indoor sports, there will be added layers of safety protocols put in place, which may require weekly testing of athletes and coaching staff. We may ask parents to voluntarily notify us if their student athlete is fully vaccinated. In the event of a COVID exposure while playing sports, being able to quickly identify those who are vaccinated is vital and necessary. Student and/or parent vaccination status is confidential information. St. Rose School will not share student health, COVID or vaccination status with others except for local health department. It is up to a student or parent to choose to share their vaccination status with others. Isolation and quarantine measures are different for those who are vaccinated vs those who are not. To ensure the utmost safety for all our student athletes 12 years and up, we encourage all those who are eligible to get vaccinated.

## **Social and Emotional Well-Being of Students and Staff**

We will continue to provide resources through our school counselor. Teachers will be prepared to support students with age-appropriate socialization activities, classroom discussion about current community conditions /student concerns, and activities to reduce stress. Parents will be notified by the teacher, counselor, or principal if their child is exhibiting a level of concern that requires follow-up at home.

## **Faculty & Staff Training**

All school employees have been abiding by the Cal OSHA CPP for months now and understand those protocols. Faculty and staff will receive additional training as necessary or required. Our faculty and staff are trained in student safety protocols and will be provided with written guidelines. Ongoing adjustments to protocols will be a frequent subject of discussions, directives and written communication.

All safety topics will be reinforced with appropriate signage.

### **Topics to be covered in Training:**

- Enhanced Sanitation and Hand-washing Practices
- Use of Face Coverings
- Health Screening Practices
- Covid-19 specific symptom identification
- Practices specific to St. Rose School on conducting school safety, including drop-off and pick-up procedures, recess procedures, classroom safety, etc.

## **SECTION 2: HEALTH PROTOCOLS**

### **COVID Screening and Testing**

The CDC and CDPH continue to promote vaccination for all who are eligible to receive the vaccine. St. Rose will continue collaborate with local public health agencies to promote and encourage all those who are eligible to get vaccinated.

COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated, and especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.

#### **These prevention strategies include:**

- Promoting vaccination
- Consistent and correct mask use
- Physical distancing when possible
- COVID testing especially of the unvaccinated, to promptly identify cases, cluster sand outbreaks.
- Ventilation
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Staying home when sick and getting tested
- Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine
- Cleaning and disinfecting

As of August 1, 2021, all St. Rose Faculty and Staff are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Any employee who thinks they may have been exposed to someone who is infectious will be directed to get a test through their health care provider. St. Rose will follow current CDPH and local health department guidelines for screening, quarantine and testing protocols, for those who are fully vaccinated. (See link for CDPH provided on page 2)

### **Contact Tracing, Case Reporting and Investigation**

Members of the St. Rose administrative staff have completed several COVID-19 related Contact Tracing, Quarantine and Investigative courses, webinars and Zoom meetings with local public health officials, the Sonoma County Health Department, the Sonoma County Office of Education, John Hopkins University, and the California Department of Public Health. We have a dedicated liaison who will work with SCOE, CDPH and our local Sonoma County Health Department as needed.

St. Rose asks parents to partner with us in following the strategies listed within this document and those of the CDPH. Getting tested for COVID-19, through your health provider or local health agencies have proven consistent to stop the spread and to limit quarantine or isolation if there is exposure. If it is not possible to get tested through a health care provider or if needed, the school will assist in directing the family to a testing agency and the cost would be covered by the school.

The CDPH has quarantine recommendations, adapted from the CDC K-12 guidance and CDC definition of a close contact and specific recommendations differ for:

- Unvaccinated students who are close contacts, indoor classroom setting, wearing a mask
- Unvaccinated close contacts who were not wearing masks, or an infected individual who was not wearing a mask
- Asymptomatic
- Vaccinated exposure

St. Rose will report and follow all local public health department directions and CDPH recommendations regarding any potential exposure on campus. For more information on quarantine and isolations recommendations, refer to the links provided here or contact the Sonoma County Health Department.

### [CDPH Fully Vaccinated People Guidance](#)

CDPH quarantine guidance for unvaccinated persons may require longer quarantine and/or isolation, and testing. Recommendations for unvaccinated close contacts, defined as being within 6 feet or less for more than 15 minutes exposure over 24 hours.

Exposure for unvaccinated students, both wearing masks, can continue attending in-person instruction IF they are asymptomatic, continue to appropriately mask, undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 'modified' quarantine, and will be exempt from all extracurricular activities at school, including sports and activities within the community.

## **Exhibiting Symptoms while at School**

Any employee or student, who becomes ill or is exhibiting symptoms of COVID19 while at school, will be asked to leave campus. Parents will be required to pick up the student within 40 minutes of notification of illness.

Depending upon symptoms, the employee or student may be asked to submit a healthcare providers' note before returning to school, identifying symptoms are related to another medical condition and not contagious, or submit results for a negative Covid test.

If an unvaccinated student has had a positive COVID19 test result, he or she may return to work when all three criteria are met:

1. 24 hours have passed with no fever above 100.4 F without the use of fever-reducing medications); and
2. Respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, etc.) have improved and
3. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first occurred

All Employees and students are actively encouraged to stay home if they have any symptoms of Covid 19 or if they have had close contact with someone who tested positive. In either case the parent of student or employee should notify the school principal or office manager as soon as possible.

## Confirmed Illness of Covid-19 in a Student or Employee Who May Have Exposed Others at School

These steps will be followed by school personnel:

1. Inform Sonoma County Health Department for guidance
2. If the student or employee has been at school within the proceeding 24 hours, then any areas frequented by the infectious person will be closed off, cleaned thoroughly, and disinfected.
3. Contact tracing will be conducted by certificated school personnel.
4. Incidents of a confirmed Covid-19 illness in an employee or student who was recently present at school will be communicated to the school community. Such communication will protect the privacy of the individual and names of those who test positive will not be released.
5. Incidents of possible exposure will be documented while maintaining confidentiality as required by state confidentiality laws.

## Considerations for Partial or Total Closure of School due to COVID

Sonoma County Department of Health will make the determination if school closure is necessary and will advise on the probable duration of school closure. In the event St. Rose School is ordered to close for on-campus instruction, the school will immediately transition to distance learning.

**School closure may be appropriate if:**

- a. There are multiple cases at school
- b. There is at least 5% of the total number of teachers/students/staff cases within a 14-day period, depending on the size and physical layout of the school.
- c. Public health investigation or other local epidemiological data results in the County Health Officer recommending school closure

### Reopening

Public health and the school will be in communication throughout this process. Schools and school districts can typically reopen after 14 days and the following:

- a. Cleaning and disinfection have occurred
- b. The Public health investigation is complete
- c. Local public health has been consulted and has no concerns with re-opening

## Communication Methods

St. Rose School already has strong communication methods in place. Parents should check their email often, read the weekly school bulletin carefully, and watch for emails and text messages. In the event of a suspected or positive COVID test by a child or adult in the same stable group, parents will be notified and given instructions. The names of the person with the confirmed or suspected COVID illness will be kept confidential. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

In order to minimize exposure to COVID-19, PPE will be used to prevent certain exposures. PPE can include:

**Masks:** Face masks are an important part of employee and student protection, as well as personal hygiene, social distancing, and frequent cleaning efforts. The requirements for face masks are listed on page 6.

**Gloves:** Touching your face with contaminated hands, whether gloved or not, poses a significant risk of infection. Wearing gloves does not diminish the need to wash your hands. Please remember to wash your hands properly as it is the number-one defense against any virus. Additionally, the proper removal of gloves reduces the risk of being exposed to contamination.

### **Face Shields**

These may be worn by primary teachers for brief periods in order to conduct particular lessons in phonics and literacy. Teachers/aides may choose to wear a face shield along with their cloth masks. However face shields do not take the place of required cloth masks.

### **Facilities Cleaning**

The safety of our employees and students is our first priority. Upon reopening, our schools will have been completely cleaned and disinfected, and we will continue to adhere to all necessary safety precautions.

## **GENERAL DISINFECTION MEASURES**

### **Deep Cleaning and Disinfection Protocol**

Deep cleaning will be triggered when an active employee or student is identified as suspected infection or has a positive test for COVID 19 within 24 hours of being present on campus.

### **Signage**

Signage on safe practices during the pandemic are placed throughout the offices and school.

### **When A Student or Person Is Sick**

If an employee or student becomes ill while on campus, all safety precautions will be taken to help protect other employees and students and prevent the potential spread of the virus.

- Those attending the suspected infected person should also wear a protective mask, and gloves while working with the suspected infected person.
- The ill employee will be directed to leave work or the parent of the student will be called to be picked up and taken home within 40 minutes.
- The administrator must identify persons who may have come in contact with the suspected infected person. *Unless required by the local health authority, the name of the person should not be provided.*

- If indicated, employees and school families will be advised that they may have been in contact with a suspected employee and to continue to perform self-screening every morning while they are at home.
- The isolation area and suspected employee's or student's work area/classroom will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, in addition to all other common surfaces recently touched by the employee or student.

**As with everything concerning Covid-19, these plans are subject to change.**