



# St. John's School

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## **St. John's School-Hemet 2020-2021: COVID-19 Safety Plan**

St. John's School is committed to the health and safety of your child, your family, and our staff throughout the Coronavirus pandemic. We are also committed to a safe and successful educational experience for your child. St. John's School is open for full in-person instruction, operating under a Riverside County Department of Public Health school reopening waiver since August 25, 2020.

### **Educational Framework 2020-2021**

- St. John's tradition of excellence in Christian education will continue with on-campus instruction to St. John's students who opt for in-person learning.
- Students who opt for distance learning will engage in a productive, robust digital learning environment fulfilling all California Distance Learning requirements.
- Physical education, enrichment classes, and extracurricular activities will continue as guidelines allow.
- St. John's School will offer athletic training and conditioning until intramural athletic competition resumes
- Chapel will continue weekly, whether in classrooms or the church.
- Students will be immersed in a faith-filled school culture centered on Jesus Christ and His promises for us

### **Health and Safety Protocols 2020-2021**

St. John's School will adhere to all national, state, and local orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This plan will be subject to change as federal, state, and CDC guidelines, in addition to executive orders are updated. We must continue to plan for the various educational models and be prepared for fluid changes. St. John's School will rely on national, state, and local guidelines when making decisions on how to best mitigate risk and best protect our school and community. St. John's School acknowledges that COVID-19 policies are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk. No single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk. *(AAP, COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry)* This plan was developed using information from the American Academy of Pediatrics, Center for Disease Control and California Department of Health.

#### Cleaning and Disinfection

- Staff will sanitize high-touch surfaces at scheduled times through the school day.
- Disinfecting of classrooms and other spaces used during the day will occur after hours nightly.
- Student belongings will be stored in individual containers or cubbies and will be sent home daily for cleaning.

- Sharing of resources will be limited. When supplies are shared, they will be sanitized with alcohol based wipes or a spray containing at least 70% alcohol between uses.
- St. John's School will follow disinfection guidelines developed by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for school campuses, including classrooms, workspaces, outdoor spaces, and playgrounds.

#### Small, Stable Cohorting

- Elementary class size will be no more than 25 students. All desks will face the front of the classroom, and students will wear appropriate face coverings.
- All instruction will take place in a single classroom (2nd grade in the 2nd grade classroom).
- St. John's students will continue to strictly limit interactions between cohort groups (Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary). Students stay in their cohort with their teacher throughout the day, limiting cross interaction.
- Lunch and recess will be staggered and students will interact with students in their small cohort group.

#### Entrance, Exit and Movement Within The School

- Parents/caregivers will drop children off outside. All adults on campus are required to wear a mask or face covering.
  - Adults dropping children off at school are not allowed to enter classrooms.
- Student pick-up will take place outdoors at designated, socially distanced areas for each grade level.
- Movement patterns will be adjusted, so children do not cross paths as they move throughout the campus.
  - Social distance dots and arrows will delineate foot traffic so as to maintain appropriate 6 ft parameters.
- Initially, parents and visitors will have limited access to St. John's School campus as volunteers are considered nonessential and will not participate in campus activities. This may change throughout the upcoming school year depending on the health of our surrounding community. "Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible – especially with individuals who are not from the local geographic area (e.g., community, town, city, county)," (CDC Considerations for Schools).

#### Face Coverings

- Under the current California masking mandate, all staff and teachers will wear face coverings in the classroom per California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Guidelines.
- Masking is required for students in TK-8th grade.
  - All students will receive a face covering as part of their registration.
  - CDPH recognizes there are some people who cannot wear a face covering for a number of different reasons. People are exempted from the requirement if they are under age 2, have a medical or mental health condition or disability that impedes them from properly wearing or handling a mask, or when it would inhibit communication with a person who is hearing impaired. This medical condition must be communicated to the school by way of a physician's order.
- According to CDPH guidelines, if a student refuses to wear a face covering, the student must be excluded from on-campus instruction, unless they are exempt, until they are willing to wear a face covering.
  - Students excluded on this basis should be offered other educational opportunities through distance learning.

#### Health Screenings for Staff and Students

- Parents will check their children for symptoms of sickness in the morning at home before leaving for school. Parents are to keep their children at home if they are showing any signs and symptoms of sickness, especially COVID-19, which includes fever, chills, cough, difficulty breathing, uncharacteristic

fatigue, sore throat, muscle or body aches, loss of taste or smell, runny nose, nasal congestion, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea, rash, or headache.

- Children who exhibit any of these symptoms while at school will be sent home immediately (emergency contact is to arrive within 30 minutes of call).
- Students will also be screened as they enter their classroom; this includes a daily temperature check. Anyone with a fever of 100.4 or higher will be excluded from school. Students cannot return to school for 72 hours, and must be fever free upon arrival.
- Students, teachers, or staff who have a travel history over the course of the last 14 days to an area identified by the CDC as Level 3 Travel Health Notice will be excluded from school.
  - Additionally, those who have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 must be excluded from school for 14 days from the day of their last exposure.
- Students, teachers, and staff who present with fever and/or respiratory infection symptoms will be sent home immediately. They will be separated from others until they go home in our designated “sick room” in the office.

### Healthy Hygiene Practices

- All students and staff are encouraged to wash/clean their hands regularly.
  - In addition to all existing (13) restroom sinks, St. John’s installed an additional (4) two-bay outdoor hand washing stations throughout the campus in order to accommodate all necessary hand washing schedules.
- Students use hand sanitizer containing at least 70% alcohol upon entering and exiting the classroom.
- All CDC required signage is posted throughout the school, reminding everyone of good hygiene practices. Examples include, masking, hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, “stop the spread of germs”, maintaining social distancing.
- Classroom doors and windows will be open except in extreme weather conditions.
- All St. John’s students will bring a water bottle to school to be refilled at a bottle filling station, as drinking fountains will not be used.

### Identification and Tracing of Contacts

- St. John’s School COVID-19 Response Team will communicate with Riverside County of Public Health about reported cases of COVID-19. This response team consists of (2) school directors and (1) designated office staff member.
  - A list of exposed students and staff will be created and submitted to RCPH and we will notify our community about possible exposure.

#### **St. John’s School COVID-19 Response Plan**

- Symptom: COVID-19 Symptoms (e.g., fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, difficulty breathing)  
Action:
  - Send home
  - Recommend testing
  - School/classroom remain openCommunication: Not needed
- Symptom: Close contact with a confirmed COVID- 19 case (Close contact: a person who is <6 feet from a case for >15 minutes.)  
Action:
  - Send home
  - Recommend testing
  - School/classroom remain openCommunication: School community notification of a known contact
- Symptom: Confirmed COVID-19 case infection

Action:

- Notify the local public health department
- Isolate case and exclude from school for 10 days from symptom onset or test date
- Identify close contacts, quarantine & exclude exposed contacts (likely entire cohort) for 14 days after the last date the case was present at school while infectious
- Recommend testing of contacts, prioritize symptomatic contacts (but will not shorten 14- day quarantine)
- Disinfection and cleaning of classroom and primary spaces where case spent significant time  
School remains open

Communication: School community notification of a known case

- Symptom: Tests negative after symptoms

Action:

- May return to school 3 days after symptoms resolve
- School/classroom remain open

Communication: School community notification if prior awareness of testing

This plan is based on the California Department of Public Health Guidance for Reopening K-12 Schools.

### Physical Distancing

St. John's School will maximize space between classroom seating, such as student desks, teacher desks and other furniture. For example, St. John's School will place teacher and other staff desks at least six feet away from student desks and establish separation of students through other means if practicable, such as, six feet between desks, where practicable, markings on classroom floors to promote distancing or arranging desks in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact.

- Social distancing will help limit the spread of the virus.
  - Keep students in a cohort group setting.
  - Space classroom desks as far apart as possible (ex: six feet between student and teacher desks, marking classroom floors to promote distancing)
  - Use outdoor classrooms as much as possible.
  - Keep student cohorts from mixing as much as possible.
  - Limit or eliminate large group gatherings and provide creative video streaming or outdoor chapel participation for classrooms.
- Every day children will get fresh air outside (weather permitting) on the playground and shaded outdoor class spaces.
- Recess and lunch schedules will be staggered to keep cohort groupings separated.
- Children will eat lunch outside in their cohort groups and will be kept 6 ft apart whenever practicable.
  - In the event of extreme weather conditions, children will eat lunch in their classrooms.
- Students can bring their lunches or purchase a hot lunch. Hot lunch will be served as individual "grab and go" meals and use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes).

### Staff Training and Family Education

- St. John's School will provide a digital copy of this plan and digital education resources regarding COVID-19 to families regarding physical distancing, enhanced sanitation practices, proper use, removal and cleaning of face coverings, how COVID-19 is spread, screening practices and home screening practices and identifying signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- All staff will be trained regularly on proper sanitizing and daily health screening procedures, as well as all applicable safety protocols. Some of these topics will include:
  - Enhanced sanitation practices
  - Physical distancing guidelines and their importance

- Proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings
- Screening practices
- How COVID-19 is spread
- COVID-19 specific symptom identification
- Preventing the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick, including the importance of not coming to work if staff members have symptoms, or if they or someone they live with has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- For workers, COVID-19 specific symptom identification and when to seek medical attention
- The employer's plan and procedures to follow when children or adults become sick at school.
- The employer's plan and procedures to protect workers from COVID-19 illness.

### Testing of Students and Staff

- In the event of a positive test result for COVID-19 within our school community, the affected area(s) will be immediately closed, cleaned, and disinfected according to health department guidelines.
- St. John's School will coordinate with local health officials. These officials will help administrators determine a course of action for our school. Local health officials' recommendations for the scope and duration of school dismissal will be made on a case-by-case basis using the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the specific cases in our community.
- Notification of the school community would happen in accordance with Riverside County Office of Public Health guidelines and as appropriate to student privacy law. St. John's School has alternate learning spaces available to provide for the continuous instruction of students in case of an unplanned room closure and sanitation.
- St. John's School will ensure testing of staff periodically, as testing capacity permits and as practicable.
  - Examples of recommended frequency include testing all staff every 2 weeks when Riverside County is designated as Purple/Red tier.
  - Staff will be tested by their primary care provider or at a community testing site.
- Current guidelines require that the following people stay home from school:
  - A student or staff member who tests positive but is asymptomatic.
  - A student or staff member who develops symptoms of COVID-19 while on campus.
  - A student or staff member who has been in close contact (close contact defined as greater than or equal to 15 minutes without a face covering and less than 6 feet away) from a person who tested positive for COVID-19. Such a person will be safely isolated, and arrangements will be made for immediate pick-up (within 30 minutes). Riverside County Office of Public Health will be contacted for the appropriate actions to be taken and spaces used by the individual would be closed and thoroughly sanitized before re-entry.

### Triggers for Switching to Distance Learning

According to the California Department of Public Health, individual school closure is recommended based on the number of cases, the percentage of the teacher/students/staff that are positive for COVID-19, and following consultation with the Local Health Officer. Individual school closure will occur when there are multiple cases in multiple cohorts at a school or when at least 5 percent of the total number of teachers/student/staff is cases within a 14-day period, depending on the size and physical layout of the school. The Local Health Officer may also determine school closure is warranted for other reasons, including results from public health investigation or other local epidemiological data. St. John's School will work in cooperation with Riverside County Department of Public Health to monitor school and regional conditions and respond accordingly. If St. John's School is closed for in-person learning, it may typically reopen after 14 days and after cleaning and disinfection, public health investigation, and consultation with the local public health department.

- In the event state or local public health officials determine that school closure will occur, St. John's School will move directly into rigorous distance learning.
- Care for children of essential service workers will continue, in compliance with the guidelines established by the Riverside County Office of Public Health.

#### Communication Plans

- St. John's will communicate with staff, parents, and students, and coordinate with local health officials to inform dismissal decisions and the possibility of COVID-19 exposure. In such a circumstance, it is critical that St. John's School maintains the confidentiality of any student or staff member as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.
- St. John's School will put systems in place for communication that is consistent with applicable law and privacy policies.
  - Staff and families will self-report to the school if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days in accordance with health information sharing regulations for COVID-19 and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations relating to privacy and confidentiality, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
  - St. John's School will notify staff, families, and the public of school closures and any restrictions in place to limit COVID-19 exposure (e.g., limited hours of operation).

Please join us in praying for the safety of our staff, students, and their families; also, join us in prayer for those working in health care, emergency transport, and essential service environments. Remember, God has a plan for all of us and that through it all, we can rely on God to provide us with the hope we need to move forward.

*"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."* Isaiah 12:2 NIV

We are so thankful for the connection we all share in Jesus Christ. Continue to look for the good and spread joy where you are! Pray for those who are in need and **"Show Big Love"** to those you see! We can **"Make A Difference!"**

As always, St. John's School will maintain continued communication about issues regarding COVID-19. If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please contact the office.

Nancy Bellamy & Stephanie Lynch  
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