

St. Mary's High School
Reopening Plan
2021 – 2022

Good afternoon Lancer Families,

We know that the topic of the hour is how we, as a school community, plan to reopen this September. As we stated in our last communication home, as with all things here at St. Mary's, we will work through the problem together with our main focus on our community and common sense.

We do have some updates to share with you in accordance with the guidelines put forth by the Erie County Department of Health and NYS earlier this week. Even as a private school, there are some rules and regulations that we must follow. In reference to the pervious email sent home, we will continue to use a color-coded system to designate what type of modifications are necessary throughout the building. To reiterate, at **NO** time during any color code will vaccinations be required to attend school. At **ALL** times, during any color code, we will continue to require all members of our community to be smart and safe.

We have added a 4th color, as we have adjusted our scheme to meet state regulations. The color code designations and their requirements are as follows:

GREEN - School is back to normal. No masks required, no social distancing, no restrictions. Just smart and safe choices in and outside of school. Those that would like to wear a mask for their own comfort and safety, as well as the safety of others, are more than welcome and encouraged to do so. Mask-wearing may be required due to special individual circumstances.

YELLOW - Masks required during passing time. Much like last year, students will be allowed to remove their masks while sitting in the classroom but will be required to wear them when on the move. Adjustments may be made in accordance with any social distancing mandates that go into effect via the CDC, New York State or Erie County.

ORANGE - Masks required at all times during all indoor activities, which includes classes, hallways, and any other time you are physically in the school building (with the obviously exception of eating during lunches).

RED - Masks required at all times. 6' of social distancing in place at all times. St. Mary's will also offer remote learning possibilities at the red level for those who choose.

As the situation stands right now, **we will enter the school year in an Orange zone. Masks will be required in all cases with the exception of outdoor activities. We are working hard to be creative in our use of space to allow for mask breaks and to**

utilize our entire campus, inclusive of an outdoor tent village to be used for classroom space. For more specifics, see below:

Masks – Erie County is **mandating** that masks be worn at all times during the school day.

- This rule is for students, staff, and faculty, regardless of vaccination status
- This includes the bus, hallways, school offices, restrooms, gyms, locker rooms, auditoriums, and classrooms.
- Masks must be two-layered and made of cloth or surgical masks.
 - NO bandanas, gators, or clear face shields will be allowed

Classroom size and location - St. Mary's is **diligently working on creative learning solutions** to allow our students to go without masks for periods of time where applicable. We have a large campus, and we plan to utilize every inch in the way of **outdoor classrooms and the creation of unique learning spaces that will allow our students and teachers to be as comfortable as possible.**

- The ECDOH ***does not*** mandate masks outdoors
- Mask breaks may be taken if students are more than 6' apart

Vaccinations - St. Mary's ***will not*** be mandating vaccinations for students. However, Erie County has created two sets of rules for vaccinated vs. unvaccinated people.

- Students who are in close contact with someone who tests positive (3' for 15 minutes or more)
 - **Vaccinated** – NO QUARANTINE, monitor for symptoms, test after 3-5 days
 - **NON-Vaccinated** – 10-day Quarantine from last exposure.
- Sports are set up in the same fashion. If there is a positive case on the team...
 - All **NON-Vaccinated** players must take a 10-day pause and follow same protocols for school (above)
 - **Vaccinated** players can continue to practice and play

Because of the differing protocols we are forced to follow, St. Mary's will be asking each student, staff, and faculty member for their vaccination status. Vaccination status will need to be verified.

Please note: If you do not answer, you will be considered NON-VACCINATED for the purposes of ECDOH's quarantine rules.

Student Athletes: Please pay special attention to the above rules for vaccinated and unvaccinated students. These rules can have a significant impact on your season should you choose to remain unvaccinated.

Health Screenings - St. Mary's will continue to perform temperature checks upon entry into the building. As students enter the building, they will need to temp under 100.1° to enter. Students will also fill out a daily health screening each morning via a Google Form on their Chromebooks.

Any student who is not feeling well should stay home. Students who develop symptoms at school will be placed in an isolation room until they can be picked up or sent home.

Extracurricular Activities: We understand that these "extra" things are what truly make a high school experience memorable – liturgies, dances, assemblies, games, retreats, and so forth. St. Mary's will make every effort possible to continue to hold these types of events in the safest way possible. Masks will be required at indoor events, but the Lancer pride and spirit that fills these activities will remain the central focus.

Please note, although not mandated, we do feel as a community that being vaccinated will help us maintain the most sense of normalcy possible.

Through all of these rules and regulations, the goal continues to be for our students to enjoy an amazing and rewarding four-year high school experience. We will continue to practice tolerance, patience, and togetherness as we navigate these somewhat-unchartered waters. As we begin the 2021-22 school year, I have no doubts that we will continue to put on full display why St. Mary's is such a special place to be.

Keep safe. Keep the faith. Go Lancers.