

## **Update: August 1, 2021**

### **PreK-12 Health and Safety Guidance for the 2021-2022 School Year**

In an effort to align St. Paul School with both the CDC's guidelines as well as the Governor's Executive Orders the following changes/recommendations will be added to the existing Re-opening Plan established last summer, 2020.

#### **Distance Learning**

- Our goal is to have all students back-in-person, five days a week as we did for the 2020-2021 school year.
- **St. Paul School is no longer required to provide a distance learning option for students/families.** They should plan on how services and educational programming will be provided if a student must remain home for short periods of time due to illness, isolation or quarantine.

#### **Spacing and Grouping**

- St. Paul's School is encouraged to continue to use a stable group model as feasible, especially in grade levels not yet eligible for vaccination. This means students from the same classroom should remain together as much as possible.
- School staff are allowed to travel between different classrooms.
- For stable groups:
  - Physical distancing is not required.
  - At least 3 feet of physical distance between stable groups is recommended for indoor activities in shared places.
- For non-stable elementary school groups or age groups that are not eligible for full vaccination:
  - Physical distancing of at least 3 feet is recommended as much as possible.
  - It is recommended that at least 3 feet of physical distancing be maintained between students while dining without a mask indoors.

- For non-stable middle school groups where students are eligible for full vaccination:
  - Physical distancing is not required.
- RIDOH maintains the right to implement requirements or direction if deemed necessary to protect immediate public health and safety.
- Teachers should continue to have seating charts with assigned students' seats as much as possible to assist with case investigation and contact tracing if needed.
- Outdoor learning experiences and dining are encouraged whenever possible.
- As of March 2021, the use of physical barriers is no longer recommended by the CDC.

### **Cleaning, Disinfection and Hand Hygiene**

- St. Paul School will continue to utilize the CDC Guidance for cleaning, disinfection and hand hygiene.

### **Face Coverings**

- Fully vaccinated staff members will still be recommended to wear a mask around students until further notice.
- Outdoors:
  - Mask use is not required.
- Indoors:
  - Students will be required to wear a face mask across all grade levels (Pre-K3 to Gr. 8).
- St. Paul School will continue to refer to CDC guidance for use and care of masks, as well as the Governor's recommendation.

### **Screening Students and Staff**

- Staff and parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for symptoms of infectious illness every day through home-based symptom screening.
- St. Paul School will post Symptom Signage at the entrance(s) of the building.
- Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.

### **School Visitors**

- Visitors may enter the school building, but limits should still be considered.
- A 30-day log of all visitors will be implemented. Logs will document the date, contact phone number and arrival/departure times.
- All visitors must comply with St. Paul School's COVID-19 policies and protocols.

### **Before and After School Programming**

- With our Pre-K3 program and after school care program licensed by the Department of Human Services (DHS), we will continue to follow the DHS regulations and guidelines.

### **Field Trips**

- Field trips can resume as long as the necessary COVID-19 health and safety policies are met.
- Stable groups should remain consistent during field trips. This means the same classroom groups participate as a stable group in field trip activities as much as possible.

### **Busing and Student Transportation**

- There are no capacity restrictions for school transportation for the fall. It is recommended that household members sit together in the same seat when possible.

- Students using the bus are scheduled as a stable group, and the bus group is considered its own stable group.
- Masks are required by federal order on school buses and other forms of public transportation in the United States.
- Bus personnel should continue to have seating charts with assigned student seats as much as possible to assist with case investigation and contact tracing if needed.
- The same group of students should be assigned to the same bus every day. Students are encouraged to ride the same bus to and from school whenever possible. It is recommended that bus companies maintain seating assignments.
- Open windows to improve ventilation when it does not create a safety hazard.

### **Responding to Staff or Students who are Sick**

- St. Paul School will continue to follow The Outbreak Response Protocols: Prek-12.
- As soon as possible, all items touched by a staff member or student who is ill at school must be removed, cleaned and disinfected. Any common surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected well.
- Quarantine Decisions
  - St. Paul School will continue to follow the RI quarantine requirements. Based upon the current case rates, the limited spread within k-12 settings, the high vaccination rates in Rhode Island, and the importance of in-person learning, schools are recommended to implement the “7 day with testing” quarantine option. This option is the least disruptive to students’ education and families’ lives. With this option, close contact individuals can return to school on day 8 with a negative test from day 5 or later, and should also watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
  - RIDOH may recommend longer quarantine lengths in certain situations.

- St. Paul School will continue to provide seating charts and contact information to the RI Department of Health if positive COVID-19 cases arise amongst their staff and students.
- If there is a positive case within a stable pod, it is likely that the entire stable pod will need to quarantine if no physical distancing was done.
- If the students share an outdoor space (such as recess), case investigation will be done at the individual level to try to determine any close contacts.
- If students maintain consistent physical distancing while inside, only close contacts who are not vaccinated will be quarantined.

In conclusion, one way to protect the health of children and anyone for that matter, is to ensure that all eligible age populations in a household are fully vaccinated against COVID-19!

## **St. Paul School Reopening Plan for the 2020-2021 School Year**

### **Message from the Principal, Mr. Corry:**

Attached as a special edition to this Parent/Student Handbook is the reopening plan we are prepared to administer at St. Paul School this coming fall. I would like you to read it as well, and to understand the three scenarios and how they are determined. I would also encourage you to be as informed and prepared as possible, as much as any of us can be, as we know that things can change minute to minute during this pandemic. We all need to be ready for anything and everything and to be aware that things will continue to be very different during this coming school year. We are not reentering school in the fall as we left it in March. None of us know what the days ahead will bring, as there is no way to predict when changes may occur. However, we are working to be as prepared as we possibly can be, and to keep all of you and all of our students safe and healthy.

We too, have a goal of everyone in school every day. We too, realize how important this is for our students, their education and their mental health. We are doing everything we can do the very best we can for our students at St. Paul School. These are unpredictable and unprecedented times that we are in. I thank you for your flexibility and patience during this time and your continued dedication to St. Paul School as we move forward in the weeks and months ahead."

Sincerely,  
*Mr. Corry*

St. Paul School will look much different this coming school year. Class sizes will be significantly reduced in some classes due to the new health measures such as social distancing and cleaning protocols. The following three scenarios are as follows and are based on the level of community spread of COVID-19 (found on pg. 4 of the reopening guide). *In all of these three scenarios, staff who are not assigned to a stable group/pod will maintain six feet of physical distance whenever possible and will wear face masks.*

**1. Full In-person Reopening Scenario:** This scenario assumes a "minimum to none" level of community spread of COVID-19 per Gov. Raimondo and the RI Dept of Health. It includes adhering to all health and safety protocols for social distancing and other measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as well as the other two scenarios. Per the state guidelines (pg. 22 of the reopening guide) distance learning is integrated with in-person programs and utilized when necessary at St. Paul School. Elementary and Middle School students will be required to maintain stable groups or pods of up to 30 students if necessary. This capacity includes both students and staff. Stable groups will spend all or most of the day together as a group. Each class/pod will be expected to physically distance (14 feet) from every other class/pod.

**2. Partial In-person Reopening Scenario:** This scenario is similar to the full in-person scenario of stable groups/pods of up to 30 students and staff as well as the other measures required. However, only 50 percent of students can be at the school at any one time. In this scenario, distance learning will be an option if needed for some of our classes on staggered start times. Students in the primary and elementary grades will be given preference if need in this scenario.

**3. Limited In-person Reopening Scenario:** In this scenario, Elementary and Middle School students will be required to maintain stable groups/pods of 15 or fewer in classrooms. And if that isn't possible, only 25 percent of the students can be in school at any one time. All the measures and health requirements as the other two scenarios apply here as well. Distance learning will once again be an option in this scenario.

As we develop our procedures for re-entry using the provided statewide guidelines, it is important that families understand the three scenarios and understand as well that this includes changes in areas such as transportation, daily scheduling, and health/safety. The Department of Health will determine where each community is when it comes down to decide on the reentry of the scenarios described above.

When students are moving around the school building, they will need to be taught the following expectations by their teachers and reinforced consistently by them on a daily basis. They include:

- Everyone washes their hands before moving to another section of the school.
- Students will eat their lunch in their classroom.
- Everyone washes their hands before and after eating
- Everyone washes their hands before and after using any shared materials.
- Follow the arrows as designated in the school when moving in the hallways and stairs.
- Desks will be six feet apart in classrooms and if not possible, plexi-glass will be installed separating students by the appropriate distance.
- Stay six steps apart on the stairs and in the hallways.
- One student at a time uses the restroom
- Students must wash their hands after using the bathroom.
- Students will be told to wear their masks when moving to different parts of the school building, to recess, or upon entering or exiting the school.

All movement of students around and within the school building is to be supervised by an adult and adhere to the expected six feet distance between stable group/pod members and 14 feet distance between different stable group/pod members.

- Staff must wash their hands before and after traveling to different parts of the building.
- Staff must wash their hands before and after eating or using the facilities.
- Staff must wash their hands before and after working with students or another adult.
- Staff must wear their mask, especially in the hallways and common areas.

Structures will be in place to reduce exposure across students and staff.

- Students will be in one room with staff moving between classrooms to reduce exposure among different groups of students.
- Teachers will monitor capacity and intervene as needed to adjust capacity and move students, specifically focused in the hallways and other high traffic areas.
- Staff will work as hallway monitors encouraging and reinforcing social distancing among students.

### **Drop-Off & Pick-up Times**

- Students in our Pre-K 3 & Pre-K 4 yr. old program will be entering with their parents through a side door entrance dedicated to only those children and their parents between the hours of 7:30 to 8:30 ( a camera with a doorbell has been put at that entrance). Both Pre-K Teachers will greet the children as they enter. Parents will not be allowed to stay after dropping off their child.
- Students arriving by both the Cranston and Providence buses will be entering through the front door at various times (not under our control what times) and greeted by the Principal who will immediately send them up to their classrooms where their teacher will greet them. They will be wearing their face masks upon entering as everyone will be who enters the school building.
- Students being dropped off by their parents will enter through the front door with their mask on (parents will not be allowed to come in) and greeted by the Principal and immediately sent up to their classroom where their teacher will greet them.

\*Starting outside and continuing throughout the school building, entrances will be marked off by tape measured at the social distance of 6 feet (similar to what one would find at a grocery store entrance) as well as stairways in the building. Students and their parents/guardian must wait until the Principal gives the okay for the student to enter the school building.

Due to many of our parents working at various times and other issues they may have with their schedules, we are not requiring certain times for dropping off students in Grades K-8. Being a small school and with the proper coverage we will have at our entrance, we should have no issues with students entering the school building in the morning.

- Students in Grades Pre-K 3 to Grade 1 will be dismissed at 2:15
- Students in Grades 2 to Grade 5 will be sent down for dismissal at 2:20
- Bus students will be sent down for dismissal at 2:25
- Students in Grades 6-8 will be sent down for dismissal at 2:30

### **Before & After-School Care**



Although it is our goal to have both Early Morning and After-School Care, parents will be informed to begin to think about and have back-up plans in place in time for the fall re-opening for child care. At this time, we do not know if we will be able to provide adequate child care under the guidelines as stated by the RI Department of Health. If we do provide child care, it will be limited. Stable groups will need to be established for after-school care ensuring that students are in the same group/pod for all activities.

Any student experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 before the school day begins should stay home. Parents/guardians will screen their child for temperature and symptoms each day before sending their child on the bus or into the school building. If the student has any signs of illness, they will remain home. **Student Attestation Forms**, which are found on the **reopeningri.com** and/or **health.ri.gov/covid** web site is available on how to screen for symptoms of Covid and what would necessitate for a child to stay home. If any student is showing any signs of the following they should not attend school:

- Fever defined at 100F or above related to the self-attestation form
- It is recommended if a student has a low grade fever, less than 100 before school and not feeling well, do not come to school and monitor at home for symptoms of illness or if a fever develops.
- If a student needs Advil or Motrin or Acetaminophen (Tylenol) before school, do not come to school.
- If any member of the household has symptoms of COVID-19, do NOT send your child to school per RIDOH, June 19, 2020.

As for staff who feel ill or show signs of illness and/or have a temperature of 100 F or higher should not come to school. You are considered sick when there are symptoms of illness, even if mild and you must stay home from work. As with students, staff would use the self-attestation form to check for symptoms of illness. You may not report to work until fever free for 48 hours without fever reducing medications. If you are already at school, and develop symptoms of illness, go home immediately.

Screening protocols for both students and staff will be communicated to all parents, students, teachers and staff members prior to beginning in-person instruction via both email to parents and on our website.

- **Students:** Parents must screen their child at home using a self-attestation form found as mentioned previously (or at Crush COVID RI). All students must stay at home if they fail the screening prior to leaving for school. If a student screens positive for any COVID-19 symptoms, the students parent/guardian should seek medical advice from the students healthcare provider and inform the school of the students absence.
- **Staff:** Staff are required to complete a self-attestation form or web-based application such as Crush COVID-19 prior to arriving at school or entering the school. If a staff member screens positive for any COVID-19 symptoms, the person should not come to, or enter, school, should inform the principal and should seek medical advice from a healthcare provider.

- **Additional Screening:** In addition to at-home screening, St. Paul School may also offer on-site verbal symptom screening or temperature checks.

Students who develop signs of illness or have a temperature of 100 F or higher will be assessed by the Office Secretary and immediately provided a face mask if they don't have one.

- That student will be brought to wait in a designated isolation Room with supervision until picked up by a parent/guardian.
- The Office Secretary will phone their parent/guardian to arrange immediate pick-up of their child. They will be asked to pick up their child as soon as possible but must be within one hour.
- Parents/guardians will be advised to seek medical advice for their child within 48 hours and schedule a COVID-19 test as needed.
- Symptomatic students will not be permitted to return to school until documentation from a medical provider indicates testing was negative and there are no other restrictions, there is no evidence of illness restricting attendance (fever free for 48 hours without use of fever reducing medication), or it is documented that the student is no longer contagious. If the test is positive, students must complete a period of isolation as directed by RIDOH.

If a staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, they should go home immediately.

- Within 48 hours they should seek medical advice by consulting with a healthcare provider.
- The staff member should get a COVID-19 test as needed and notify the school as soon as the result of the test is known in order to follow up with contact tracing to inform persons with whom they have been in close contact with.

If a staff member tests negative for COVID:

- Symptomatic staff will not be permitted to return to school until documentation from a medical provider indicates testing was negative and there are no other restrictions, there is no evidence of illness restricting attendance, or it is documented that the individual is no longer contagious.
- They can return to school 48 hours after they are no longer showing any symptoms of illness, (fever free for 48 hours without use of fever reducing medications, and if illness determined to be unrelated to COVID-19).
- Staff will need to submit a COVID-19 test.

If the test is positive, individuals must complete a period of isolation as directed by RIDOH. It is recommended that persons with proven COVID-19 isolate themselves as much as possible in the home away from other family members and avoid all physical contact with persons in the home.

As for communicating any information to families on any members of the school community showing signs of illness due to COVID-19, we will notify families by email

as we have done in the past on any type of illness or situations that have an effect on the school community.