



Dec. 29, 2021

As was previously shared, our COVID Response Team has spent time over Christmas Break examining our school transmission data, the efficacy of our COVID protocols and contact tracing, data from other area Catholic schools, and recommendations from state, local and federal health officials. As such, we have made the decision that **beginning Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, we will no longer be requiring masks for students, faculty and staff on campus except as required under our updated protocols (see below)**. This change applies to those who have not tested positive for COVID and who show no COVID symptoms such as fever, cough, severe headache, sore throat, etc.

BSM COVID PROTOCOLS effective Jan. 3, 2022

- While not required, students, faculty, staff and visitors are encouraged to wear a face covering to help contain the spread of COVID, influenza and other airborne viruses.
- *If a student tests positive for COVID:*
 - They will quarantine at home for five days.
 - After quarantine, they will be allowed to return to school provided they are symptom free for 24 hours.
 - When returning to school after quarantine, they will be required to wear a mask on campus for five additional days to ensure they are no longer contagious. This includes participation in school activities and athletics.
- *If a student has had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID:*
 - Provided they are symptom free, the student will be allowed to attend school but will be required to wear a mask for five days.

We continue to be guided by our core principles of keeping the learning experience as close to normal as possible; relying on school-specific transmission data to guide mitigation strategies; and allowing for flexibility as circumstances change. We hope these updated protocols, which are in alignment with recent CDC recommendations, allow us to continue delivering safe and supportive learning experiences for all of our students.

We strongly encourage all who are eligible to get vaccinated and boosted, and to continue practicing proper mitigation strategies including hand washing and sanitizing. The COVID Response Team will continue to work closely with health officials to monitor case data and on-campus transmission rates, and will recommend changes as appropriate.

For more information on current protocols and mitigation strategies visit the [BSM COVID Dashboard](#)

- BSM COVID-19 Response Team