



Frequently Asked Questions Related to COVID-19 and Other Illness

Information taken from CDC and WI Department of Health websites
(Updated 12/28/2021)

The CDC issued new quarantine/isolation guidelines on 12/27/2021. Refer to the link for their details
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

- 1. My child does not feel well but I don't know if it is COVID-19; what should I do?** St. Paul's Lutheran School is not qualified to provide medical diagnoses. If you are concerned, you should contact your family physician. Regardless of the diagnosis, your child should stay home until he/she is 24 hours fever-free without any medication and is not exhibiting other symptoms.
- 2. Does St. Paul's Lutheran School require COVID-19 testing for its students?** No, St. Paul's Lutheran School does not require students to be tested. There is no mandate related to testing. Families are free to make their own decisions in this matter.
- 3. Someone in our immediate family is being tested for COVID-19. Do I need to keep my child home from school until the results are back?** Yes, St. Paul's Lutheran School requires that your child(ren) stay home until the results of the test have been returned.
- 4. Someone in our home has tested positive for COVID-19 OR my child has been exposed to COVID-19. May my student come to school?** No, students who live with someone who has tested positive or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive must remain at home. **As of 12/27/2021, the CDC issued new guidelines that include: a shortened quarantine period for anyone in the general public who is exposed to COVID-19. For people who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, CDC now recommends quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days.** If you choose to avoid wearing a mask, then remain at home for the typical 10 day period.
- 5. Vaccinated Individuals** who have received their booster shot do not need to quarantine following an exposure, but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure.
- 6. What is considered *close contact*?**

Close contact has occurred if any of the following situations happened while an individual spent time with the person with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, even if they did not have symptoms during their infectious period:

 - Had direct physical contact with the person (for example, a hug, kiss, or handshake).
 - Were within 6 feet of the person for more than 15 minutes. This includes single encounters of more than 15 minutes OR multiple encounters within a single day adding up to more than 15 minutes.
 - Had contact with the person's respiratory secretions (for example, coughed or sneezed on; contact with a dirty tissue; shared a drinking glass, food, towels, or other personal items).

7. **My child must remain at home to quarantine/isolate because of exposure to COVID-19. What should I do?**

Notify the office and the homeroom teacher that your child will be at home and missing school for approximately five days.

8. **My child tested positive for COVID-19. When may he/she return to school?** Your child may return to school five days after symptoms first appeared **IF** he/she is fever-free and not showing any active symptoms. Active symptoms cough and runny nose. All people coming to school **must be fever-free for 24 hours without medication** before entering the building in all circumstances. **As of 12/27/2021, the CDC issued new guidelines that include: a shortened quarantine period for anyone in the general public who is exposed to COVID-19. For people who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, CDC now recommends quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days.** If you choose to avoid wearing a mask, then remain at home for the typical 10-day period.

9. **My child has symptoms of illness like a headache, stomach ache, diarrhea, sore throat, cough, and/or body aches. The symptoms subside with OTC pain reliever. Is it alright to send them to school?** Generally speaking, it is unwise to medicate your child so that they are "well" enough to attend school. OTC pain relievers may mask symptoms and give a false sense that your child is feeling well. Further, once the medication wears off, the symptoms return and now the other children and teachers have been exposed. **Give the gift of time and allow your child to rest at home.**

10. **How will my child receive academic instruction and support while at home due to COVID-19?**

The homeroom teacher will coordinate the instruction and homework that needs to be completed while your student is out. If you have a Middle School student, contact with departmental teachers will also occur. Personal contact with the teacher may include Google Classroom applications, emails, telephone calls, and hard copies of work to be completed.