

## **COVID-19 Mount Health and Safety Protocol Update**

### **Monday, 2.14.22**

Dear Families,

We began this school year in the Year of our Patron, St. Joseph, encouraging our students and colleagues to emulate his gentle courage and selfless leadership. We are once again calling on the community to continue to be humble in service of the dear neighbor in following the protocols outlined below in our COVID-19 health and safety update.

*Effective Tuesday, 2/15/22*

Mount Saint Joseph Academy **highly recommends** wearing a mask during this time of high community transmission rates of COVID -19 in Montgomery County and the surrounding counties that we serve. As we move through the most recent surge of COVID-19, please know that although we are hopeful, we may have to pivot and adjust our health and safety protocols as necessary. Our goal is to find a balance within our community to ensure a safe, healthy, and happy school community.

All community members will continue to mask for liturgy, assemblies, and events that occur in large group gatherings in areas such as the auditorium and the gym. We will recommend that visitors wear masks. For all indoor sporting events both student and adult spectators will be required to wear a mask. Additionally, students will be required to mask when requested by a faculty or staff member while working within 3 to 6 feet of proximity.

We realize that moving to a highly recommended mask policy from a universal masking protocol is a change for our families. Some of our families may need time to discuss personal choice and circumstances. Please know that you are encouraged and supported in masking during this transition, and that many community members, for various reasons, choose to mask daily. Students should have a mask with them every day as a part of the school uniform.

Please review the following guidelines:

- We continue to encourage COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters for all eligible community members. It is not too late to get the vaccination and a booster.

- Please always have a mask with you. Masks will be required during liturgy and assemblies in the auditorium and the gym and could be requested to be worn by a faculty member.
- Unvaccinated community members are strongly encouraged to wear a mask at all times.
- Any community member who would like to continue wearing a mask will be supported.
- We strongly encourage anyone who is immunocompromised or spends time with an older adult, young children/babies or immunocompromised persons to wear a mask.
- Please stay home if you are sick. If you are having a respiratory illness and /or fever stay home while you are symptomatic. Do not return to school until you are fever free for 24 hours.
- Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and is returning to school after quarantine is required to wear a mask day 6-10.
- Anyone regardless of vaccination status who is considered a close contact to a COVID-19 case will need to wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Close contact tracing will continue. You will be notified by our school nurse via email of your requirements. Anyone not vaccinated will need to quarantine and a COVID test will be required to return to school. Close contact tracing will occur for the classroom and lunch settings.
- We ask that if students are working closely with another community member (i.e. faculty member) who would like you to mask up to please do so.
- For outside sponsored events such as prom and graduation, we will continue to follow the venue's COVID-19 restrictions and requirements.
- Any in-school large sponsored events will be reviewed by the COVID-19 Task Force and may need approval by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health. Masks may need to be worn during these events.
- Masks are required on all bus transportation.

We appreciate your time and attention. Through our collaborative efforts, we have maintained a healthy environment and attendance rate. Thank you for your partnership and cooperation in providing a productive and joyful school year.

Mount COVID-19 Taskforce