



UPDATED COVID-19 POLICY 2/18/22

CONTINUED MITIGATION STRATEGIES

SCS will continue to employ the following mitigation strategies in collaboration with our school community, the Norwood community and the Norwood Department of Health as we appreciate the number of Covid-19 cases at SCS in recent months, the rapid spread of the Omicron strain, and its increased transmissibility. In response to the dynamic situation presented by the transmissibility of the Covid-19 Omicron Variant, SCS will continue to implement mitigation measures. For example:

- SCS families and staff are encouraged to stay home and test, if they have symptoms of Covid-19.
- Masking indoors for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8,
- Repeated hand washing & sanitizing,
- Social distancing, as much as possible,
- Daily cleaning of classrooms each evening, but fogging of classrooms if a student leaves during the school day with Covid-19 symptoms.

STUDENTS OR FACULTY/STAFF WHO PRESENT WITH COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AT SCHOOL

Students sent home with COVID-19 symptoms may return to school after they are tested for Covid-19 with a Covid-19 PCR or Rapid Antigen Home test if the COVID-19 PCR or Rapid Antigen Home test is negative and their symptoms are improved (depending on other illness that may be present). However, students will only be allowed to return if the documentation has been sent to the School Office in advance of their return **and** the student has been granted permission to return.

STUDENTS OR FACULTY/STAFF WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 AND NEED TO ISOLATE

Families of students who have COVID-19 are prohibited from having their student return to school until the student is symptom-free without medication for the past 24 hours. As of 12/29/21, Norwood Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Department of Health and SCS have aligned with the CDC's new guidance. **If a student returns to school on Day #6 after having Covid-19, the student will need to wear a mask at SCS until Day #10.**
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/what-to-do-if-you-have-covid-19-or-have-been-exposed-to-covid-19>



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According to the Norwood Department of Health, “*In short, isolation is reduced to 5 days with strict mask wearing and absence of symptoms required for the 5 days after end of isolation. If the person has symptoms they must be without symptoms by the 5th day to release. Otherwise, they would extend their home isolation one day at a time until they meet that criteria and then observe the 5 days of strict mask wearing/no symptoms.*”

SCS Masking Policy until February 28, 2022 as determined by Cardinal Sean and the Archdiocese of Boston:

Little Hawks, Lower School & Middle School Masking is optional as of February 28, 2022 and students will be able to mask or not mask at the discretion of their parents who are asked to complete a google survey.

COVID-19 ATTESTATION

SCS families are **mandated** to adhere to the **ATTESTATION** that they will absolutely **NOT** under any circumstances send a student to SCS with any of the COVID-19 related symptoms below until/unless they have communicated in advance with our SCS HEALTH OFFICE.

COVID-19 RELATED SYMPTOMS:

- Fever (temperature of 100.0°F or above) and/or felt feverish and/or had chills*
- Cough*
- Sore throat
- Difficulty breathing
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea, nausea, vomiting)*
- Abdominal pain
- Unexplained Rash
- Headache
- New loss of smell/taste
- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion
- New muscle aches

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Students who sit together during meals & snacks will be 3 feet from each other during meals and snacks. Six students will be able to sit at each lunch table for students in Grades Second to Grade Eight.

COVID-19 CLOSE CONTACT POLICY

In accordance with the combined recommendation on January 18, 2022 from the Massachusetts Department of Health & the Massachusetts Department of Education, SCS will no longer actively engage in identifying ‘Close Contacts’ at SCS effective **immediately**. Instead, SCS will continue to notify families if a case of Covid-19 is determined to have occurred in their child’s classroom as evidenced by a PCR Covid-19 test. *(Please note that*



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Norwood Department of Health has asked us to only report results of Covid-19 PCR tests to our school community.) Families of students and/or faculty who are determined to be ‘Close Contacts’ by a Department of Health in Massachusetts or known to be ‘Close Contacts’ in other ways (outside of school) are asked to follow the guidance below.

Families of students and or faculty/staff who are ‘Close Contacts’:

- If the SCS student or faculty member has been vaccinated and boosted, the student or faculty member will need to wear a mask around others for 10 days and test on Day #5 with a PCR test. The student or faculty member may return to school on Day #1 if the student or faculty member does not have any symptoms. Additionally, the student or faculty member will need to test with a PCR test if the student or faculty member has symptoms.
- If the SCS student or faculty member has not been vaccinated and boosted, stay home for 5 days and test with a PCR on Day #5 and then, continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 days but the student or faculty member may return to school on Day #6. If the student or faculty member tests positive, see section ‘STUDENTS OR FACULTY/STAFF WHO TEST POSITIVE AND NEED TO ISOLATE’ above.

NORWOOD DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

If an SCS student tests positive for Covid-19, the Norwood Department of Health will be notified by SCS in accordance with the Norwood Department of Health’s policy. Close Contacts will be notified by SCS on behalf of Norwood Department of Health & SCS working collaboratively.

HANDWASHING

SCS students will be encouraged to wash hands or sanitize upon entering school each day, when exiting and/or re-entering the classroom, before or after snacks/meals and after recess.

DAY CUSTODIAN

“Mr. Mario” from Clean Co. is our day custodian at SCS. Mario and Mr. Farrell will fog any classroom that has a student who has been sent home with any Covid-19 related symptoms.

TABLE CLEANING

SCS educators will work as diligently as possible to make certain that student desks are cleaned a minimum of two times per day with a cleaner/sanitizer.

AIR PURIFICATION

Each Little Hawks and Lower School classroom has a HEPA Filter in place. The new Middle School Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system is outfitted with a new state of the art REME HALO purification system. All systems will remain on for optimal effect.

COVID-19 RESPONSE COMMITTEE

The committee is appointed by the School Principal in collaboration with the Pastor and meets monthly or more as needed. There is currently a physician on the committee, an immunologist, two SCS teachers with certification in Science, a Nursing Supervisor at a major Boston hospital,



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a parent with an MBA and our School Nurse. The committee last met in December and discussed masking, SCS data and current protocols. At the committee meeting in December, the committee did not decide to change any of the SCS mitigation protocols although, they seriously and especially reviewed the recommendation from some SCS families to mandate masking inside for our Preschool & PreK classrooms in Little Hawks. The committee will meet next in January. *Please email Nurse Maiona at lmaiona@scsnorwood.org if you would like the committee to address a particular concern or re-address a concern at the weekly CRT meeting.*

VACCINES

Vaccines are not mandated by state law and vaccinations for faculty, staff and children are not mandated by the Boston Catholic School's Office either. However, our SCS faculty and staff is 96 % fully vaccinated. If you feel comfortable letting us know if your SCS student is vaccinated, thank you in advance for sending that information with your child's Vaccination dates to the SCS Health Office (lmaiona@scsnorwood.com).

SCS NOTIFICATION TO FAMILIES

SCS will continue to communicate to the SCS community and let all families know if a student or staff member in our school community tests positive for Covid-19 with a PCR test. Norwood Department of Health has asked that we **only** notify our school community of positive testing that has been affirmed with a PCR test. If there is a case of Covid-19 in your child's class (with a PCR test,) you will be notified that there is a positive case is in your child's class. Then, your SCS family will also receive a second general notification that there is a case in the school.

COVID-19 REMOTE LEARNING POLICY

Remote Learning Policy for students who test positive for Covid-19 will no longer be available for students in Grades Kindergarten to Grade 5 effective 2/28/22. Teachers will gather work, communicate with families and send that work home though as requested for students who feel well enough to complete school work while out with Covid-19.

GUIDANCE FROM THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S OFFICE 9/2021

- No masks will be required for any outdoor activities or while students are eating, as DESE already stipulated previously and recently reaffirmed.
- Masks **will be** required for any students or staff on school buses at this time, pursuant to federal health order.

Vaccines

- Presently, the Covid-19 vaccination is not mandated by state law. Covid vaccination of faculty, staff or children may **not** be mandated by a Catholic school.
- Schools, at their discretion, may require proof of vaccination to determine eligibility for a vaccinated student or faculty/staff member to be exempt from masking.

Handwashing/Facility Cleaning



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- Until deemed unnecessary by DESE, schools will maintain: frequent hand washing/sanitation and recently modified facility-cleaning protocols.

Daily reporting of any Covid cases

- Every Catholic school must provide a detailed daily report on any new Covid cases, on a form provided by the Archdiocese, by the close of business every day.

Required Legal Baseline (not optional):

- **ALL** schools must comply with local health orders.

Thomas W. Carroll
Superintendent of Schools
Archdiocese of Boston