

PANDEMIC RESPONSE UPDATE

March 21, 2021

A year on from when COVID-19 became a reality for us, we find that the virus is as much a reality for us today as it was for us last March. The numbers are rising again globally, locally and within our school community. This past week was a case in point during which five of our students tested positive for the virus. While we hope the end of the pandemic is near, it is imperative that we continue to take the basic guidelines seriously:

1. Wear your mask
2. Watch your distance
3. Wash your hands

We are in daily conversation with the Madison Department of Health for guidance on how to navigate our SVMS cases. It is important to note that based on their experience with cases, protocols change often and we are required to follow those protocols.

When addressing our responsibility for maintaining a safe environment in each class, the following protocols should be followed:

1. If someone in your household is being tested for COVID-19, all students in the home must stay home from school until the test results are in.
2. If a child tests positive for COVID-19, the positive testing child **and** his/her siblings have to quarantine for 14 days.
3. Close contacts and their siblings have to quarantine for 14 days.
4. Close contacts are to monitor symptoms while quarantining.
5. Children cannot test out of quarantine.
6. PCR Covid-19 tests are advised. These are more accurate than the rapid tests.

Spring Break: Quarantine for Travel Outside of NJ, NY, CT, DE and PA

The policy at SVMS for travel quarantine **remains at 10 days** as long as the student remains healthy during that 10-day timeframe.

1. Day one starts the day after you return from your trip; the student may return to school on day 11.
2. If your child/children or anyone in your household become ill with COVID-19 like symptoms during the 10-day quarantine, COVID-19 testing will be required.
3. Your child is not able to return on day seven after a negative COVID-19 test.
4. No remote learning will be provided while you are away on vacation.
 - a. Children may not tune into their classrooms while in a car going to or coming from a vacation.

REMOTE LEARNING

We would like to reiterate some of the guidelines surrounding remote learning:

1. Students may attend school virtually under the following circumstances:
 - a. If a parent indicated that as their choice for Phase II.
 - b. If they are quarantining because of an exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - c. If they are quarantining because someone in their house is being tested
 - d. If they are experiencing COVID-19 or any “Common Cold” symptoms/school nurse must be notified.
 - e. If they are quarantining after returning from travel to an area outside of the NY, CT, PA & DE area. Please be aware that students are not allowed to tune in from a vehicle while traveling or while they are away.
 - f. When a child has a doctor, a dentist or any other kind of appointment during the school day, he/she may tune in before and after the appointment. As a reminder, **children are not to be coming and going during the school day to attend appointments.**

Your child is not permitted to participate remotely for any other reason than those listed above in Section 1 a - e, therefore they will be marked absent if they stay home for any other reason. If your child needs a break, let him/her take that break. If your child is home and you would like to pick up their books and other school materials, please contact their teacher to find out the best time to collect your child's books **after** school, as there is no time to do this in the morning before school starts.

Concerns with Drop Off and Pick Up

We continue to have daily instances of families not following the Drop-Off and Pick-Up procedures. We kindly ask that you pay close attention and make sure you are not doing the following:

Drop Off:

- Please do not enter the drop-off line from the rectory driveway entrance on Green Village Road. Entrance to the drop-off line is on Wilmer Street, through the second driveway entrance into the parking lot.
- Walkers may not walk through the parking lot/rectory driveway.

Pick Up:

- Please do not enter the rectory driveway by making a left hand turn from Green Village Road. All cars are to drive from Green Avenue onto Wilmer Street, making a right onto Green Village Road, turning right into the rectory driveway by staying as close to the curb as possible.
- Cars cutting into the car line after names have been recorded confuses the order of line up of children to their cars.
- Family name signs must be displayed on the right side of the windshield.
- Flashers should be on after all children are safely in your car.
- First cars should be pulling all the way up to the top of the driveway with other cars pulling up closely behind the vehicle in front of them.

- Cars should not be parked on Green Village Road, between Wilmer Street and Kings Road, in the Parish Ministry Center parking lot or parking lots across from the church to pick up walkers. If your child/children are walkers, they are not to be picked up anywhere in these areas. Please use the car line.

The next Pandemic Town Hall Meeting will be at 7:00PM on Wednesday, March 24th. Please send any questions that you have to pandemic@svmsnj.org by Wednesday at 10:00AM.