



2021-2022 Addendum: COVID 19 Safety and Protection Protocols

Revised 09/30/2021—Some items subject to change.

St. Mary's School for the Deaf will adopt a multilayered approach to safety and protection for our staff and students as recommended by the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), & the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH).

Masks

Masks are required for all individuals inside school buildings regardless of vaccination status. When outside, masks may be removed if activities are designed to keep students socially distanced for most of the time.

Social Distancing

Schools will adhere to the CDC distancing requirement of a minimum three (3) feet among individuals when inside.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

Cleaning protocols are unchanged from our rigorous 2020 - 2021 Reopening Plan. We have ample PPE, sanitizer, masks, face shields, gowns, gloves, surface cleaning supplies, temperature scanners, etc.

Personal Hygiene

Students and staff will be provided every opportunity to properly wash their hands throughout the school day. Training of children to ensure coughing and sneezing etiquette, and to keep hands away from their face will continue.

Ventilation

Schools shall follow all current ventilation protocols, including mechanical and natural ventilation where appropriate.

Daily Health Screening for Students

For the 2021-2022 school all parents/guardians are required to certify their child/children are not experiencing any signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Temperature check protocols and daily health screening forms are required for each student before entering the building(s) each day. Please do not send your child to school sick.

Daily Health Screening for Staff

Current protocols for staff shall remain in place. All temperature check protocols and daily health certifications previously in place for staff shall continue before entering the building each day.

Cafeteria Use

Cafeterias may be used if students are able to minimally distance at 3 feet apart when masks are removed for eating. Cleaning protocols are unchanged from 2020-2021 reopening plans.

COVID 19 Isolation Room

All Isolation Room protocols previously in place shall continue.

COVID-19 Testing

Residential students will be tested periodically. Unvaccinated staff must be tested weekly.

Contact Tracing

All contact tracing protocols previously in place shall continue.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

The School has offered its school buildings to serve as vaccination centers for the community. The School has also offered to serve as a pilot school for in-school vaccinations for children during the regular school day. The School strongly urges all staff and eligible students to be fully vaccinated. Children are safer when the adults who care for them are vaccinated.

Transportation

Masks are required at all times for all riders.

HR Protocols for C19 Staff Sickness

All HR procedures for C19 previously in place shall continue.

Signage

Prominent signage will be placed throughout School facilities reinforcing the main elements of our safety protocols.

Instruction

Beginning Thursday, September 2nd, all students will attend school full-time, in-person, five days per week.

Technology

Our IT team is advancing the work necessary to deploy, maintain, and harden the infrastructure and security of information technology resources to meet the School's instructional and business needs.

Physical Education Classes

Wherever possible, Physical Education classes should be conducted outside in acceptable weather. When classes are conducted inside, students will be masked. Teachers should make specific efforts to establish properly distanced mask breaks for students (in groups or as a class) during inside activities.

Varsity Athletics/Other Athletics Programs

SMSD will participate in its regular program of Section VI Varsity sports. All athletics programs normally in place at SMSD shall re-launch September 2nd. All COVID 19 safety protocols previously in place for all SMSD sports programs shall continue.

After School Programs

SMSD After School Program opens for ages 10 and above on September 7th. We will keep parents updated about a possible phase-in of After School Programming.

Field Trips

Field trips will be permitted following all social distancing protocols.