

FAQS

“Frequently Asked Questions” have been answered here to assist you in understanding policies and procedures for operating schools and keeping our Saintry community safe during the pandemic.

(8-2-2020)

COVID QUESTIONS:

**** If a child or teacher become ill with COVID-type symptoms, does everyone in the class or in the school go home?**

That depends. Students and teacher remaining at school will depend if students have on masks and are social distancing and have symptoms. Each case will be different. The guidelines refer to lab-confirmed positive cases. At St. Helen, our students are divided and grouped into four "pods" to prevent the transmission of disease (pods: PK, K-2, 3-5, 6-8). This grouping will enable us to better "trace" the path of the adult/child with symptoms and limit the spread.

**** What will happen if the school does have a lab-confirmed positive case?**

If the campus has a lab-confirmed case, we will contact Brazoria County Health Dept. and the CSO. Additionally, parents will be notified via email of a positive case in the grade level. The CSO's questions will be:

+ **Do your students and teacher wear masks at all times?** The CSO recommends all students in grades 1-8 and staff wear masks (Texas law/policy states ages 10 and up should wear a mask.). See "close contact" definition on the school's Health and Safety Protocol document.

<https://shcssaints.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Health-and-Safety-Protocols-2020-Rev2-7-29-1.pdf>

+ **Are your students/teacher 6 feet apart at all times?** This answer will depend upon campus size and student population size. It is not feasible to think students can or will maintain a 6' distance at all times. This is why hygiene, washing hands, sanitizing, and wearing masks are important. If the answer is no, parents will be notified and protocols for "close contact" will be in effect and monitored.

+ **If/when your students/teachers take off their masks, are they 6 feet apart from the lab-confirmed person at all times?** See the "close contact" definition.

+ **Have there been any nasal or mouth secretions in direct contact with any of the students or teacher?** (ex: sneeze without mask, water eyes and over wiping with hand, cough without mask, etc.) If yes, parents will be notified and the protocols for "close contact" will be in effect.

+ **Are any of the other students or teachers experiencing any symptoms listed on the screener since the child was at school or do they have symptoms now?** The answer to this question will trigger COVID protocol. Students or teachers may want to be tested.

**** Will there be temperature checks for each child as they enter the campus or classrooms?**

The CSO and TCCBED (our Austin-based governing agency) do not recommend temperature checks upon entry. St. Helen has too many students to conduct these checks and it would not be practical to do so. The screening document that will be provided to parents assumes and allows the **parent to take responsibility for measuring their children's temperature each morning** - it is a critical part of our plan for parents to do so! Our staff will also be self-screening their temps and other symptoms. The temperature standard for all is 100.4 degrees.

**** What will be the protocol to identify the common sniffles, allergies, other ailments children have?**

It depends. Does the parent acknowledge or the clinic know this is a frequent ailment with their child? Is this a new ailment that has not presented itself before in that child? The clinic will call the parent and use the screening document to determine the student's health status. Depending upon answers, either COVID protocols "kick in" (see symptoms "not tested or evaluated") or the child might be returned to class - with a mask, no matter the age.

**** What will happen if a child has a sibling in another class and a child in one class gets the virus? Does that mean the other class shuts down as well? Or if the children have come in contact with someone who is ill?**

It depends. If a child has a lab-confirmed case, everyone in that family should be quarantined at home. This would include other siblings. Parents should notify the school immediately about lab-confirmed cases. The classes may or may not "shut down," depending upon "close contact" definitions and answers to the screening document. Those answers would apply to siblings in other classes, too. If a child has come into contact with someone who is ill, the quarantine should be applied in the child's home setting. A school or grade level "shut down" will depend upon lab-confirmed cases and close contact.

**** What will lead to a grade level or school "shut down" and the entire student body moving to remote learning?**

It depends. In the past, for a campus to shut down for the "typical flu," cases had to be at 20% of the student population. There has not been a percentage yet given to us for COVID shut downs. However, we will consult frequently with the Health Department and the CSO regarding the safety of students and staff to determine if possible COVID numbers warrant a full shut down. Lab-confirmed case numbers will be important. Our "pod" designations and guidelines for no visitors and/or guests will help in reducing the spread of the virus.

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS:

**** Will the hybrid students be at a deficit when they return to school full time?**

It depends. Hybrid students will be receiving instruction at the same time in-person learners receive instruction (synchronous learning). This will require hybrid learners to report to online class on time, complete assignments when due, and ask questions when difficulties arise or tutoring is needed. Hybrid students may not be able to participate in student activities that lead to greater understanding. We are working through solutions to this issue, because even though we will protect the confidentiality of in-person learners in the classroom, we do want our hybrid learners to be a part of the class. Even though hybrid learners will receive the same instruction and assignments, they could miss the stimulation of student activities in the classroom.

**** Will there be frequent packet pickups?**

It depends. In the spring, individual classes posted scanned assignments to their webpages. Many parents indicated they preferred picking up paper packets. Please ask your homeroom teachers about packets and accessing materials online.

**** Will after hours times be offered for working families or should we make accommodations to pick up during the day?**

The teachers will try to accommodate your needs. Please let them know of special circumstances that may apply to your family. Last spring, we used the clinic entry (small portico) as a drop-off, pick-up location for parents, even when no one was on duty.

**** Can a student go back and forth between hybrid and in person multiple times?**

Yes. However, we do want to stress consistency in curriculum delivery, if at all possible. The period for choosing hybrid learning (and including in-person learning) is 2 weeks. A few days before the end of those 2 weeks, the parent must contact the homeroom teacher to notify them of the instructional choice for the next 2 weeks.

**** What will the policies be for hybrid students who loose internet signal or have technical difficulties?**

While this wasn't frequent in the spring, it did happen. Notify your child's teacher immediately. We did allow extended time to complete assignments in most cases - but we must be informed of your issues.

**** Will my hybrid learner be able to interact with the teacher during synchronous learning? In grade levels without synchronous learning, will there be routine check-ins where the children can see their teacher live and ask content related questions?**

Yes! Please bear with us as we are all learning how to use various technologies and equipment. Through the Google Meets platform, students should be able to ask questions of their teacher during direct instruction and after. Each teacher will explain to their students and parents procedures for contacting them, also. Teacher conference times will be posted. All grade levels will experience synchronous learning through direct teacher instruction. **Please note** - our teachers will have in-person learners and online learners. This will be a "balancing act" until we are all comfortable with new procedures. For specific concerns and other questions regarding this topic, please contact your child's teacher after school resumes.

**** At what grade level should my child require little to no parental involvement with their online learning?**

In general, students become much more independent learners in 3rd grade. It is our philosophy that students in 3rd and 4th grades should be able to independently use their electronic devices to tune in to their teachers' instruction. By 4th grade, students should be able to complete most assignments on their own. However, since online learning is still very new to most of us, we request that parents provide some supervision and oversight for student assignments - check-in with your child frequently to check for understanding and that he/she is using the learning platforms correctly. At first, parents will need to acclimate their student to the schedule for hybrid learning, which will be shared by your teachers. Hybrid learners will need to follow this schedule to know when to access their devices. With our hybrid schedule, students will most likely only have screen time during periods of direct teacher instruction or review - they will probably not have access to the classroom during student activities because of confidentiality issues with in-person learning.

**** At what grade level will synchronous learning start?**

Synchronous learning will begin in PK3 at St. Helen. All teachers will broadcast and record their direct instruction. Of course, younger learners will not be expected to have as much "screen time" as older learners. Recorded lessons take some time to save the recording - we are hopeful the lesson can be uploaded by the evening, but there could be some delays.

**** Will there be PE assignments for all grade levels every day?**

For hybrid learners, the child will follow his/her typical school schedule. When his/her class goes to p.e., the teacher will either be viewed giving instructions or will have posted a p.e. activity on her webpage or Google site. For junior high students, their required p.e. class is known as Physical Conditioning. The teacher will provide further directions as to accessing p.e. activities for class.

**** Will students be required to be in uniform during synchronous learning even if they are at home?**

Student dress code requirements are in the Handbook. Uniforms are not required during online learning. However, pajamas, swimwear and other ultra-casual clothing are not allowed: students should dress as if they were attending a Casual Dress day on campus. Please see the link for the Handbook:

<https://shcssaints.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SHCS-Family-Handbook-2020-21-final-1.pdf>

**** Will masks have to be a certain kind or color?**

The school Handbook states that masks must be cloth and nothing vulgar must be presented. There are no other restrictions except that the material must be appropriate for school use and not disrupt class, as determined by the teacher and principal.

**** How many masks should I purchase for my child? Should they be washed nightly?**

We are recommending that parents send two masks daily with their child. It's best if the mask is changed in the middle of the day - and safely stored in the child's backpack/book bag. The CDC and various health departments are recommending washing **AFTER EVERY USE**. **It's important to note that all masks will be discarded at the end of the day if they are left behind** at school. This is a safety issue for other children, for staff, and for our cleaning crew.

**** Will my child be allowed to touch the teacher?**

Most of you know that the staff at SHCS are very family oriented. We love our kids! Appropriate touching will not be forbidden. But we must be very wary of face-to-face and hand contacts between all individuals on campus, including students.

**** Will recess be available?**

Yes, recess will be scheduled. Students in grades 6-8 will not be able to use the playground equipment, but will be provided other play equipment during their "social time."

**** Will the water fountains be shut off? If so, how is my child to stay hydrated?**

The spigot feature of campus water fountains have already been turned off. Some of our newer fountains have a "water bottle filling station" feature. Students should plan to bring disposable water bottles with them and they can fill up at the filling station. It is strongly recommended that students **DO NOT** bring refillable metal or sturdy plastic water containers as these containers carry germs if not washed carefully. We suggest sending your child to school with 2 disposable water bottles - if they drink those during the day, they may fill up at the filling station. (Students in PK will have other policies - please check with your child's teacher.) **It's important to note that all water bottles will be discarded at the end of the day if they are left behind** at school. This is a safety issue for other children, for staff, and for our cleaning crew.

**** Will the cafeteria still be cooking? Or should we plan to bring a lunch from home daily?**

The cafeteria will begin serving hot lunches on Monday, August 24, to those students who have ordered them. The lunch menu will go home on the first day of school. Hybrid learners should expect to receive their lunch order forms electronically. On Wednesday and Friday, arrangements have been made with food vendors to provide lunch on those days. For students who bring a lunch to school, we are strongly suggesting using a disposable container (brown sack) to carry their lunch. Typical plastic lunch containers can easily become contaminated and the staff will not be cleaning these containers. For those parents who choose a more permanent lunch container, we are requesting you

disinfect the lunch kit nightly. **It's important to note that all lunch kits will be discarded at the end of the day if they are left behind** at school. This is a safety issue for other children, for staff, and for our cleaning crew.