



# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

## CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

August 4, 2021

Dear Charger Parents and Guardians,

I pray this email finds you and yours well. First and foremost, the safety and wellness of our StG Community is paramount. Last week, the Department of Catholic Schools and the Covid Advisory Team met to discuss guidelines for schools and reopening plans. The plan is outlined below.

The Department of Catholic Schools is recommending these minimum guidelines:

- Continuation of COVID-19 cleaning and sanitizing protocols
- Maintain social distancing (3 feet) whenever possible
- Strongly encourage all unvaccinated individuals to wear a mask
- Strict adherence to the “if sick, stay at home” policy for teachers, staff, students and visitors on campus.

Decisions should be based on the local realities of active, confirmed COVID cases; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for schools; and, guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics (links below).

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

AAP COVID-19 Interim Guidance: <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Each school was given the flexibility to strengthen these guidelines to adapt to their specific situation and needs. The Delta variant’s spread has complicated our planning, but Father Miguel and I remain optimistic that this school year will begin like any other year with a few COVID-19 related modifications. Since there are many uncertainties, this correspondence is meant to be a guide for how St. Gregory the Great will address this important topic. **With that being said, we are asking everyone in our St. Gregory the Great community to commit to wearing a mask for the first six weeks of school. After that time, we will reevaluate the situation and make an informed decision based on the data from the CDC and Metro Health.**

Protecting the health and safety of students and school staff while providing an excellent, in-person academic experience is a priority. **StG staff members will continue to check temperatures at drop off, in the crosswalk, or upon entering the classroom.** Cleaning protocols will remain in place throughout the school day for all restrooms, classrooms, and the cafeteria. All learning spaces and community areas will be professionally cleaned and sanitized each evening. Maintaining social distancing (3 feet) will be strictly enforced and air purifiers will be used in all classrooms. This year more than ever, we urge parents to keep their children at home whenever they are symptomatic or ill and to emphasize handwashing, which will be reinforced in school.



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**In the event that your child is exposed to COVID-19, I ask that you notify the school nurse immediately so that she can determine contact exposure.**

The nurse will provide notification of close contact exposure to confirmed cases to impacted individuals and will quarantine individuals on an as-needed basis.

The following plan is in place for a student that requires time in quarantine.

- Parent will consult with school nurse for recommended quarantine time frame and reentry protocol.
- Parent will notify teacher of extended absence.
- Teacher has 24 hours to prepare a learning packet and resources needed for student learning, i.e., textbooks, printed copies of worksheets, etc.
- Parent will schedule a time to pick up packet with Mrs. Lisa Fernandez (210-342-0281).
- Teachers will provide office hours to parents for questions and to assist parents with this asynchronous learning model.
- Communication between teacher and parent is KEY.

After the first six weeks of school, Father Miguel and I will reassess the situation and determine what the next steps will be moving forward. Father Miguel and I have the authority to tighten recommended guidelines from the Department of Catholic Schools and will always act in the best interest of our community.

Let us work together to keep our community safe!

You can expect another email from me on August 10 that will outline 2021-2022 specific school-opening procedures.

Thank you for the gift of your children and for your ongoing support of our St. Gregory the Great Community.

Ana Cortez  
Principal