



Nurse Protocol for Health and Safety 2020-2021

In preparation for the school reopening in September, the nurses have ordered Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in accordance with recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and/or the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). When encountering an ill individual at school, such equipment would include but not be limited to: an increased number of infra-red thermometers, paper surgical masks, N95 masks, plastic face shields and gowns. We will have an ample supply of equipment to begin the school year and we plan to reorder supplies as they are available. ***This protocol could change due to updates from RIDOH.***

The Nurse's Office:

- The COVID measures recommended by the CDC, RIDOH, RIDE and professional nursing judgement, may supersede current recommendations about illness in the SLS Family Handbook
- Every morning parents/guardians must complete the SLS COVID Questionnaire that will be sent daily via Google form for their child(ren). This form should be completed no earlier than 5am on that school day. If they "fail" the screen by answering "YES" to any of the questions, they should not come to school. The student's family will consult with their physician and inform the school of the student's absence on that day.
- Every morning the staff of St. Luke's School will be required to complete the SLS COVID Questionnaire that will be sent daily via Google form before leaving for work. If they "fail" the screen by answering "YES" to any of the questions, they should not come to school. They must notify the main office and then contact their physician for further instructions.
- *To keep everyone at St. Luke's school healthy and safe, we need everyone in our St. Luke's family to do their part by completing these at-home screenings in a forthright manner. We reserve the right to send anyone home sick at any point of the day if the nurses or staff learn that someone has come to school with a symptom (or been sent to school medicated for a symptom) that would have "failed" the person on their at-home screening.*
- A nurse will be at the school 7:30am-1:30pm each school day.

- If a student or staff member does not complete the SLS COVID Questionnaire, it must be completed BEFORE they enter the building. Temperature screenings may be performed at this time.
- No medications should be taken to suppress fever or COVID symptoms before coming to school.
- *If a parent is called to pick up a student for illness, it is expected the student will be picked up within the hour. They will wait in a designated COVID isolation area accompanied by a staff member wearing full PPE if necessary.*
- If a student or staff has ANY of the following symptoms listed below they should remain home from school. They should seek advice from their healthcare professional. These symptoms include:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Difficulty breathing
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Fever or chills
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headaches
 - Sore throat
 - Fatigue
 - Congestion or runny nose (new)
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- The CDC defines a probable case of COVID as an individual who meets the following criteria. ONE of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing or new loss of taste or smell. OR, TWO of the following symptoms: fever, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, or congestion or runny nose. If an individual is a probable case of COVID, household contacts must quarantine pending the probable case individual's COVID test result.
- After a staff or student has symptom(s) of COVID but does not meet the CDC definition of a probable case, TO RETURN TO SCHOOL, THE STUDENT IS REQUIRED to have attestation (a note) from a parent/guardian that documents one of the following. The individual:
 - Tested negative for COVID, has been fever free for at least 24 hours (one full school day, without a fever reducing medication) and symptoms improved (back to usual health) OR
 - Tested positive for COVID and has since met RIDOH guidelines for ending isolation (see below) OR
 - Not tested, has been fever free for at least 24 hours (one full school day) and symptoms improved (back to usual health)
- After a staff or student has symptom(s) of COVID and meets the CDC definition of a probable case, TO RETURN TO SCHOOL THE STUDENT IS REQUIRED to have attestation (a note) from a parent/guardian that documents one of the following. The individual:

- Tested negative for COVID, has been fever free for at least 24 hours (one full school day, without a fever reducing medication) and symptoms improved (back to usual health) OR
- Tested positive for COVID and has since met CDC/RIDOH guidelines for ending isolation (see below)
- After a staff or student tests positive for COVID, TO RETURN TO SCHOOL THE STUDENT/STAFF IS REQUIRED to have a note from the RIDOH. In addition, the individual MUST meet the CDC/RIDOH guidelines for ending isolation BEFORE returning to school. RIDOH recommends the symptom-based strategy for ending isolation. Isolate until: fever free for at least 24 hours (one full school day, without a fever reducing medication), symptoms have improved and it has been 10 days since symptoms first appeared (20 days if severely immunocompromised).
OR the time-based approach if asymptomatic when tested positive. Isolate until: 10 days since date of specimen collection (20 days if severely immunocompromised).
- After a staff or student is known to be a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID, TO RETURN TO SCHOOL, THE STUDENT/STAFF IS REQUIRED to have a note written by the student's parent or a medical professional where possible.
In addition, the individual must meet the CDC/RIDOH guidelines for ending quarantine BEFORE returning to school. The individual MUST quarantine for 14 days after the last date of exposure to the confirmed case.
- If a student or staff member travels to a state listed on this link, <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1y2bZYshiLAhXgYsz5zGutBWPgtACR4VuD7lvWgyJFdo/edit#gid=0>, they are REQUIRED to get a COVID-19 PCR test to return to school. The school will not accept a rapid (antigen) test. The student should quarantine prior to the results of the test. If the student receives a negative test result, the student may stop quarantining. However, they still need to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days, wear a mask in public, and follow physical distancing guidelines. A parent attestation form should accompany the student on their first day back to school. <https://health.ri.gov/publications/assessments/After-Illness-Return-Attestation.pdf>
- These guidelines may be updated to be consistent with future guidance from the CDC/RIDOH.
- The nurse's office will have an isolation room for students who present with one or more Covid symptoms
- In addition, whenever it is needed the nurse's office will be divided into a "well area" (bandaids, ice packs, etc.) and an "isolation area" for additional ill students
- The Preschool will have an isolation room for any student with illness symptoms.
- Nurses will wear PPE when caring for symptomatic students/staff.
- Nurses will wear a face mask when caring for all "well" students.
- Anyone experiencing illness symptoms will be sent home based on current recommendations from the CDC, RIDOH, RIDE and professional nursing judgement.
- The school nurse(s) will be part of the team that addresses plans to meet the needs of students identified to be medically vulnerable to COVID-19.
- At this time, the school nurse will not dispense cough drops to students nor will they be allowed to be brought in by students as it masks possible symptoms.

- No cold medicines will be administered to students at school.