



St. Marcus Lutheran School COVID Safety Precautions

St. Marcus School has been following the Centers for Disease Control and Department of Instruction recommendations for reopening schools safely. The following list, while not exhaustive, outlines the key safety precautions St. Marcus is adopting in its efforts to mitigate the spread of the COVID19 virus, protect staff and students, and provide a safe, caring in-person learning environment for all of us.

1. **Cloth masks.** All staff and students will be provided with a cloth mask which will be expected to be worn at all times as mandated by the State of Wisconsin upon entry of the building.
2. **Social distancing.** All class sizes have been reduced in order to enforce social distancing of 6 feet between students. Maximum class sizes are as follows:
 - Kindergarten (K4-K5): 20
 - Primary: 19
 - Middle School: 19
3. **Increased cleaning and sanitation.** Additional cleaning staff have been brought on and special attention by all is required to ensure frequent disinfection of high touch surfaces. For example, teachers, as they interact with multiple students a day, will clean and disinfect the areas commonly touched by students prior to new students arriving.
4. **Temperature and symptom checking.** To identify potential health risks, staff and students will be screened at entry for fever or symptoms of possible COVID19. Additional student screening entry points have been added at each campus for ease of flow while social distancing upon entry.
5. **Staff and student illness.** To identify and isolate any illness as quickly as possible comprehensive processes and procedures have been developed for staff and student illness. Designated staff will track, communicate, and advise appropriate steps following CDC guidelines for ill staff and students. Procedures have been placed for communicating with families regarding illness and next steps for safety and protection.
6. **Lunch location changes.** To minimize mixing groups of students in each school building and maintain social distancing, all lunch will be eaten in classrooms.

7. **Safe water systems.** To minimize contact with surfaces existing water systems have been disengaged and touchless water fountains have been installed.
8. **Increased hand hygiene.** Staff will be frequently enforcing hand washing and sanitizing by students, leading by example. Touchless hand sanitizers will be installed on every classroom entry and major space area (gyms, offices).
9. **Staff, student, and family training.** To ensure shared understanding of the best available information on operating a K-8 school during COVID-19, all staff, students, and families will be provided training on COVID-19 and how it is spread, Hand Hygiene, Respiratory Etiquette, Face Coverings (Purpose, how to safely and appropriately wear cloth face coverings - how to wash and dry), Not attending or staying at school when ill & communicating illness, new policies for infection prevention while in the building . Staff will be provided additional training on cleaning procedures.
10. **Revised visitor policies.** Nonessential visitors will not be allowed to enter buildings. Essential visitors will be screened prior to entry for fever or symptoms of COVID19.
11. **School wide activities.** The school has decreased, as much as possible, and stopped activities that involve mixing groups in the school buildings but will explore virtual opportunities.
12. **Dismissal** Staggered dismissal times and increased locations have been developed in order for social distancing measures to be implemented. Earlier dismissal times have been made in order to accomodate for extra cleaning and planning by staff.
13. **Recess.** Staggered use of playground space/equipment along with cleaning and disinfecting between each use. Partitions and marking will be placed in order to maintain social distancing.
14. **Air flow:** Most classrooms have windows that can be opened, and every classroom will be equipped with two fans to aid healthy air circulation as outside weather permits.
15. **Isolation rooms:** Rooms with upgraded air flow systems have been designated at both campuses to serve students and staff in the event that someone becomes ill.