

ST. MARY'S DOMINICAN HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome Back to Walmsley 2021-2022

St. Mary's Dominican High School follows the guidelines of the Louisiana Department of Education as documented in the publication "Ready to Achieve School Operational Guidelines" dated June 23, 2021

All Dominican High School procedures and expectations outlined in this document are subject to change based on both Dominican High School and local community circumstances related to COVID-19, including updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Louisiana State Department of Education, the Archdiocese of New Orleans Department of Education and Faith Formation, and government officials.

Consistent with CDC guidelines and the Louisiana State Department of Education, and Louisiana's Statewide mask mandate Dominican mandates that masks be worn by all individuals. Masks will be required for all students, faculty, and staff members. Should the percentage of positive COVID cases change among the Dominican population, Dominican reserves the right to amend its position, including possible proof of vaccination status for students, faculty, and staff to attend school. It is up to the discretion of the President of St. Mary's Dominican High School, in consultation with the principal and administration, concerning what circumstances would necessitate such a change.

Providing a safe and healthy environment for all persons within the Dominican community is the primary concern and guiding force for the policies and procedures contained below.

TRADITIONAL SCHOOL OPERATION GUIDELINES

- A. The CDC has expressly recognized that students benefit from in-person learning. The CDC and the DOE have made a safe return to in-person instruction a priority for the fall of 2021. Only on-campus, in person learning is available at Dominican.
- B. Dominican High School strongly encourages and recommends that all eligible students, faculty, and staff receive the COVID-19 vaccine. **All students, faculty, and staff are required to wear a mask at all times while indoors. Students may wear black or gray mask purchased from the Black and White Shop or solid, one color white or black mask.** We cannot stress strongly enough that for the protection of both the individual and everyone else in the community, we must all follow the mask regulations.
- C. While outdoors, individuals do not need to wear a mask if properly distanced.
- D. Daily health screenings for students, faculty, and staff are no longer required.
- E. Dominican will return to the pre-pandemic daily schedule of 56-minute classes with a 4-minute transition time between classes. The 1st bell will ring at 7:35 a.m., and the school day will end at 3:05 p.m.

Protective Measures in the School Setting

- **FOLLOW HEALTH PROTOCOLS - STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK.** Even though daily health screenings are no longer required, your daughter should remain home if she exhibits any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
 - [For more information about symptoms, see the CDC website](#)
- Students who become ill during the school day will be evaluated, and if necessary, isolated in Room 109, until the student is picked up by a parent.

Responding to Positive Cases of COVID-19

Given that COVID-19 and its variants are still present in the local community, we expect that some students, faculty, staff will contract COVID-19 during the school year.

Steps:

- The student, faculty, or staff member may not return to school until determined to be non-infectious of COVID-19 or any spreadable disease by his/her physician. Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 must quarantine for a full 10 days from the onset of symptoms or from the date of the test if there are no symptoms or is cleared to return by his/her physician. Quarantine and return guidelines are subject to change as recommended by the CDC.
- To the best of our ability, the school will identify individuals in close contact with the student/faculty member and notify the families of these individuals about the close contact. Close contact is defined as a person who was less than six feet away from the infected person for more than 15 minutes within a 24-hour period. Pursuant to current CDC guidelines, if the student, faculty, or staff member identified as a close contact is fully vaccinated or has had a positive COVID diagnosis within the past 90 days, quarantine is not necessary. The Assistant Principal for COVID-19 will make all determinations concerning close contacts and quarantine. The Assistant Principal for COVID-19 will require information from close contacts to determine if quarantine is necessary, including proof of vaccination status. All other close contacts will follow these procedures regarding quarantine:

An individual's quarantine may end after day 7 with a negative COVID-19 test or after day 10 with no test.

To end the exposure quarantine after 7 days:

- The individual must not have exhibited any symptoms of COVID-19 during the quarantine; and,
- The individual must have a negative PCR test 48 hours prior to the end of day 7; or,
- The individual must have a negative (rapid) Antigen test on day 7.
- All individuals must continue to monitor their symptoms for a full 14-day period.

To end the exposure quarantine after 10 days:

- The individual must not have exhibited any symptoms of COVID-19 during the quarantine period
- There is no testing requirement
- All individuals must continue to monitor their symptoms for a full 14-day period

- For all athletes, Dominican will also follow the quarantine guidelines of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA). Unvaccinated athletes may return to school according to the procedures above but will follow the LHSAA guidelines regarding a return to athletic participation.

Disinfecting and Cleaning and other Protective Measures

- Custodians will perform routine cleaning using hospital grade sanitizing products, in addition to other measures indicated in this document.
- Hand Sanitizing stations are located throughout campus and in every classroom.
- Water fountains are not available with the exception of water bottle fillers.
- Visitors to campus during school hours will be limited. All visitors must check in at the Main Office at the Walmsley Street entrance and follow CDC and any applicable mask guidelines.

Transitioning Between Classes

- Transition time between classes is 4 minutes.
- Students should continue to distance properly while transitioning between classes. The CDC currently recommends at least 3 feet of physical distance when possible.

Classrooms

- Students will use hand sanitizer entering and exiting the classrooms.
- Desks will be separated inside of each classroom to distance students from one another to the maximum extent possible.

Strategies for Lunch Period

- Students will swipe a prepaid SAGE card. Cash will not be accepted.
- Students may sit outside on the lawn, in Alumnae Hall, or in the cafeteria and distance from each other to the maximum extent possible.
- During lunch periods, cafeteria staff and custodians will regularly clean frequently touched areas in the dining areas.

School Masses, Dances and Other Large Gatherings

- School-wide masses for the entire school community will take place in the Sr. Ambrose Reggio Gym. Students, faculty, and staff members will be distanced to the greatest extent possible. All persons will wear a mask pursuant to CDC guidelines.
- School dances and other social events are under consideration depending on circumstances in the local community and Dominican at the time of the event. Dominican will notify students and parents with advance notice if a regularly scheduled event is cancelled due to COVID concerns.

Guidance for Clubs and Organizations

- Clubs and sports are encouraged to provide opportunities for students to participate.
- Health guidelines for extra-curricular activities are the same as during regular school activities.
- Pursuant to CDC guidelines, masks are mandated for all students, faculty, and staff whether vaccinated or unvaccinated.

Athletics

- Dominican High School will strictly follow the requirements and guidelines adopted by the LHSAA as they are made available.
- Protocols for each individual sport will be communicated by the head coach, under the direction of the principal and the athletic director.
- Students who have tested positive with COVID-19 or who are in quarantine are not allowed to participate in any athletic activities, including practice, strength, and training, as well as competitions.
- Release following a positive COVID diagnosis or release from quarantine must follow LHSAA guidelines and the advice of the student's physician.

Communication

Dominican High School will use *Plus Portals*, email, and methods of timely communication to keep the school community educated on relevant information concerning all COVID-19 updates.