

Frequently Asked Questions Spartan Village Reopening Plan

****Please note that these FAQs have been developed in accordance with the most updated DESE protocols as of August 20, 2020.***

1. What metrics are being used by the school to determine whether it is safe to reopen?

Bishop Stang will utilize DESE's guidance to determine what learning model the data throughout our region supports. As of August 26, the data across our region supports our plan to reopen with a Hybrid Learning Model, which includes in-person learning.

2. Will students have to be tested before the start of the school year?

No. DESE's Health and Safety Protocols do not require that students, faculty or staff be tested before the start of the school year.

3. Will students be screened by the school when entering the school building each day?

No. DESE's Health and Safety Protocols do not require that health screening take place before students enter school each day. However, SELF-SCREENING is required by all! If you have any COVID-19 symptoms listed under #6 below, stay home!

4. Are students and staff members required to wear masks while at school?

Yes. All are expected to wear masks throughout the school day, starting when they exit their vehicles. The exceptions will be for mask breaks, lunch periods and athletic practices/events. Otherwise, unless there is a documented medical condition, masks are to be worn at all times when on campus. Surgical masks are acceptable. Bandanas and "gaiter" style masks are not permitted because they have been shown to be the least effective in preventing the virus.

5. What are the specific guidelines being used regarding Physical Distancing in the school?

During the period of Hybrid Learning, the school will maintain social distancing between students, faculty and staff at all times. This includes in the classroom, hallways, cafeteria, study halls, before and after school. For the Hybrid Learning Model, our goal will be to observe the 6-foot rule in the classroom where possible, but at least 3 feet at all times. Please note that

some classes will be less than 6 feet of distance to start the year. If we return to a fully In-Person Learning Model, we will observe 3 feet of physical distance in the classroom. 6 feet will be used in the cafeteria, library, hallways and bathrooms. If students need to talk to a faculty member, counselor, staff or administrator one-on-one, physical distancing will be maintained, and a plexiglass barrier will be present to enhance safety.

6. What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Below is the full list of symptoms for which caregivers should monitor their children, and staff should monitor themselves:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms

7. How will the school respond to a student or staff member who is symptomatic for COVID-19?

If a student or staff member has COVID-19-like symptoms, they may return to school after they have tested negative for COVID-19, have improvement in symptoms, and have been without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. If a provider makes an alternative diagnosis for the COVID-19-like symptoms, the individual may return to school based on the recommendations for that alternative diagnosis (e.g., influenza or strep pharyngitis).

If a student or staff member presents COVID-19-like symptoms and chooses not to be tested, they may return to school 10 days from start of symptoms, as long as their symptoms have improved and they have been without fever for at least 24 hours prior to their return to school without the use of fever reducing medication.

8. What if a student or staff member is symptomatic for COVID-19 during the school day?

If an individual student is symptomatic on the bus or at school, they should remain masked and adhere to strict physical distancing. Students will then be met by the nurse and stay in the medical waiting room until they can go home. They should not be sent home on the bus. Parents will be contacted immediately to arrange dismissal as soon as possible. If an individual staff member is symptomatic at school, they should find coverage for their duties and then go home and get tested.

9. How will the school respond to a student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19?

If an individual tests positive, they must remain home (except to get medical care), monitor symptoms, notify the school, notify personal close contacts, assist the school in contact tracing efforts, and answer the call from the local board of health or MA Community Tracing Collaborative. Most people have a relatively mild illness, but will need to stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days and until at least 3 days have passed with no fever and improvement in other symptoms.

10. What is the definition of a “close contact.”

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, their close contacts will be defined as only those who have been within 6 feet of distance of the individual for at least fifteen minutes, while the person was infectious. The infectious period begins 2 days prior to symptom onset. If someone is asymptomatic, the infectious period is considered to begin 2 days prior to the collection of their positive test.

11. When may a “close contact” return to school?

All close contacts should be tested but must self-quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, regardless of test result. After further consultation with the medical community, we are updating this guidance as the virus can cause illness from 2-14 days after exposure and even asymptomatic individuals can transmit the virus. Going forward, even if an individual identified as a close contact receives a negative test result, they must continue to self-quarantine for the full 14 days as the virus may take up to 14 days to cause illness.

12. How will freshman and transfer students be integrated into the school and get to know their classmates?

The Freshman and Transfer Orientation will be held virtually on Tuesday, 9/1. Freshmen and transfer students only will report on Friday, 9/4, and then Freshman only again on Tuesday, 9/8. Our Peer Mentors, teachers and counselors will work with our new students to help them feel comfortable in their new school and get to know one another in the midst of their new social reality.

13. How will lunch be handled at the start of the school year?

For lunch, students are required to be at least 6 feet apart when their mask is removed. By scheduling two lunch periods and utilizing our cafeteria, gymnasium and outdoor spaces (weather permitting), we will be able to provide a healthy, safe and sanitary experience. FLIK Dining, our food service provider, will offer pre-ordered, "Grab and Go" options for students. At this time, we do not feel that it would be practical to have lunch in the classrooms due to sanitation and scheduling issues. Food service workers will be completely trained in health, safety and sanitation protocols.

14. How will students learn remotely from home?

Each teacher and counselor will be equipped with the technology to allow remote access to students learning from home. Each classroom will have a 55 inch television display to include students learning from home in the classroom. The displays will have a camera mounted on top that is focused on the teacher, and a speakerphone will allow for clear volume.

Attendance will be recorded for each class period.

15. Will academic accommodations be made for COVID-19 related absences?

Yes. COVID-19 related absences will be excused. It will depend on the judgement of the family to determine whether students under quarantine are able to participate in classes remotely.

Missing academic time for vacations continues to be discouraged.

Clear and timely communication between parents and the school's attendance office will be critically important.

16. How often will the classrooms and school be cleaned and will hand sanitizer be readily available to students?

The building will be professionally cleaned on a daily basis. High touch areas will be cleaned multiple times per day. The cafeteria and gym will be cleaned and disinfected after each use. Shared furniture will be cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis. Desktops will be wiped down after each class period.

Additionally, the school has established hand sanitizing locations throughout the building, will ensure appropriate ventilation, and has added signage to direct movement within the building to avoid social contact.

17. Will there be Fall Sports?

Guidance from the MIAA and DESE for a Fall Sports season provides a framework for interscholastic athletics. The Fall Sports season will now take place from September 18 to November 20. There will be no state tournaments played this Fall.

Football and Competitive Cheer are “practice-only” but will be allowed to practice. Scheduling for soccer, field hockey, cross country, golf and volleyball are “To Be Determined.”

18. Will there continue to be co-curricular activities and opportunities to socialize?

Yes, we plan to offer a wide array of student opportunities for all to get involved and participate in the life of the school. There will be information to come as we start the school year.

19. Will there be gatherings such as parent meetings, assemblies, school Masses.

Due to the state’s limit on large group gatherings (inside - 25, outside - 50) gatherings such as all-school assemblies, parent meetings, and all-school Masses will not be possible as we start the school year. We will need to utilize virtual meetings when possible.