

Dear St John's Families,

Blessings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus!

As we began the 2021-2022 academic year, our intent was to provide a healthy and safe environment through layered prevention strategies, as recommended by the CDC. These prevention strategies included sharing CDC recommendations on mask wearing indoors, requiring staff to wear masks indoors, sanitizing classrooms and group spaces, keeping grades in cohorts, keeping students home when ill, and quarantining exposed individuals per Orange County Health Care Agency requirements.

Thank you all for your continued partnership. We appreciate all the efforts you have been taking with your families to keep our campus running well. This is especially true of those of you who are keeping your children home when they aren't feeling well – this one small act has helped more than you know.

We very much appreciate the transparency with which you have communicated to us on your family's health, and we will continue to do so on our end as circumstances shift throughout the school year. In that spirit, we must share with you a letter from Tomás J. Aragón, the Director and State Public Health Officer for the California Department of Public Health.

This document is from the [California Department of Public Health](#) and has recently been reinforced in direct communications from the Orange County Health Care Agency. After much prayer and discussion with our campus leadership, Trustees, School Board, and legal advisors, we are updating our Covid-related language as follows:

In alignment with the California Department of Public Health and Orange County Health Care Agency, **St. John's Lutheran School requires all individuals (students, faculty, staff, volunteers, visitors, etc.) to wear masks in indoor school settings.**

St. John's Lutheran is compelled by state and county authorities to inform our families of the multifaceted Covid protocols in place which include:

- Masks are available at the school office and in all classrooms
- Parents and students will be informed as to the benefits of wearing masks
- Teachers will remind students at the start of each day of the requirement to wear masks and will have masks available for students
- Parents are asked to partner with us in reminding students of the mask requirement
- Signs will be placed at multiple locations, reminding all stakeholders of the requirement to wear masks when indoors
- Quarantine requirements will be carefully administered, following all OCHCA decision making tools and guidelines for contact tracing, including both curricular and extra-curricular activities

You can find this information on our website at <https://wp.me/p94jGX-14F>.

We are pleased to report there are many positive changes this year that are helping us to provide an active learning environment focused on the health and well-being of all our students:

- Masks are not required outdoors, while eating/drinking, or playing an instrument
- Social distancing of any kind is no longer required
- Failure to follow requirements will not result in punitive disciplinary action toward the student in any way that would negatively impact his/her ability to learn
- Visitors are welcome on campus in active volunteer roles
- Food service has returned
- Extra-curricular activities have resumed with spectators and volunteers

Our primary goal is to continue on-campus learning and in-person activities for all our students. We recognize each family has its own approach to COVID-19. While we may differ in our experience and opinion on Covid, we remain focused on our common strength through Jesus Christ. This will not change – we are brought together by our faith in Jesus and the restorative hope we have in Him.

St. John's Lutheran Church and School
Board of Trustees
Council of Schools
Administrative Leadership Team