

November 9, 2020

Dear Parents,

I would like to begin by thanking you for your cooperation and understanding during reopening and as the school continues day to day navigating challenging situations and unknown territories. It is with the grace of our generous Lord that the school is able to remain open and the support of all in our school community to follow guidelines and protocols. St. Patrick School is in partnership with the Perrotta Consulting Company, under the guidance Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York State and Suffolk Health Departments.

### Frequently Asked Questions

***When will we know if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in our school?***

When the school is notified by either a parent or guardian of a child, staff member or the Suffolk County Health Department, a notification by email and school messenger will be sent to inform parents.

***Will we be notified what class the student or staff member is in who tested positive?***

Only the parents of the class in which there is a positive case will be notified; however, by NYS order the school is unable to identify any person.

***When will we be notified by school?***

The school will notify parents of a suspected or positive case on the day we are notified. Moving forward the school will be excluding any class and teacher from in school learning in which there is a positive case until the Suffolk Department of Health decides if quarantine is necessary. Remote learning will begin immediately.

***When will we know if students, or class are to quarantine?***

The Suffolk County Department of Health makes the decision if a student/s, staff and or class are to quarantine. There are meetings held once a day in which cases

are decided. Once the school is informed, calls will be made only to those to be quarantined. The Suffolk County Department of Health will communicate with students or staff members directly involved. The Suffolk County Department of Health orders a quarantine, isolation (if COVID-19 positive) and releases those in isolation and quarantine as well.

***If my child is quarantined, do siblings need to quarantine as well?***

The response from the Suffolk Health Department has been no. The child being quarantined is a contact of a positive case, the sibling is not. If anything changes you will be informed as necessary.

***What do I need for my child to return to school after quarantine or isolation?***

The Suffolk County Department of Health will send parents a release from quarantine and or isolation. A copy of the release letter is necessary for a student to return to school.

***What are the symptoms of COVID-19?***

Fever (or temperature over 100 degrees), fatigue, muscle pain and aching, cough, congestion, runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, headache, sore throat nausea, vomiting, diarrhea

Individuals may or may not have one, some or all symptoms. According to New York State Department of Health, children may be less likely to present fever as an initial symptom and may only have gastrointestinal tract symptoms.

***If my child is a Remote Learner do I have to report on Pick Up Patrol and tell school if my child has tested positive for COVID-19?***

Yes, New York State mandates schools to report symptoms and cases of both on-site and off-site learners daily. If a child is COVID positive, the Suffolk County Department of Health must be notified to begin contact tracing. Pick Up Patrol is a component of our plan and required as a daily health screening.

***What is being done in the building to disinfect and decontaminate?***

As written in our Reopening Plan, classrooms, bathrooms, shared spaces, and high contact surfaces will undergo disinfection throughout the day and full cleaning at

the end of each day. In the event of a positive case within the building, full facility decontamination will occur before anyone is permitted to return to the building.

***What precautions is the school taking to keep the spread of COVID-19?***

- Students remain 6 feet apart and wear masks.
- Interaction in less than 6 feet between teacher/students, student/student is under 10 minutes
- Daily disinfecting, increased sanitizing/washing of hands and windows are open for circulation.
- Staff, students and siblings presenting any COVID-19 symptoms are sent home from school and can only return with a doctor's clearance.
- Using the Pick Up Patrol App for daily health screenings
- Daily Health Screening for all staff
- Temperature checks for all staff and students
- Allowing only essential workers into the school building
- Ongoing consultation meetings
- Keeping updated on daily briefings from both Suffolk County and New York State Health Departments
- Redesigning fundraisers for our school and "fun" raisers for students
- Remote learning
- Discouraging unnecessary travel

***Why is my child saying it is cold in the school building?***

Having adequate air circulation is now being viewed as even more important than surface disinfection. Windows will remain open in classrooms to continue to provide a safe environment for all. If your child is cold, he/she is allowed to wear the gym sweatshirt and/or St. Patrick spiritwear sweatshirt. Please know you do not have to purchase spiritwear- I do not want families to incur any added expenses unless it is their preference.

***We are planning to visit family out of state over Thanksgiving break, what do we do upon return to New York?***

All unnecessary travel is discouraged by the Governor of New York. However, if you are to travel out of state it is imperative and expected that you check the New York State Travel Advisory List and new, effective 11/4/2020 mandates to safely

return to New York State and to return to school. There are states that require no quarantining by Governor Cuomo; however, the school asks that you monitor your child closely for any symptoms before returning to school. The New York State COVID-19 website is listed below and you can also find the Travel Advisory list, mandates and forms to be completed there. If you are traveling, please inform your child's teacher if your child requires time to quarantine due to travel.

I know that there is a wealth of information about COVID-19 and daily information is changing or being updated. I request that you understand the school is also facing the unknown at times and on occasion may be waiting on other agencies for guidance. The wish is for all in our school community on-site and off-site to remain safe and well. Complying with school and health department guidelines and procedures is vital to everyone doing their part.

I will continue to pray for all in our community and ask that you pray for us as we all hope the Pandemic will end soon. Thank you again for your understanding and cooperation.

If you have further questions, please look at our website and the following websites:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/>

<https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/>

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Martinez  
Assistant Principal