

August 19, 2021

Update to Fall Plan

As mentioned in our August 5 communication about our Fall Plan, we noted that we may need to make adjustments to our plan based on the movement of Covid in the world around us. To that end, we are writing today with some modifications to our original plan.

Please know that we are not making these changes without deep thought and prayer. Due to the continued rise in adolescent and childhood cases of Covid due to the Delta variant, we have decided to begin our school year with required indoor masking for all Preschool-8th grade students and staff. Below are details of the adjustment to our plan:

- Masks required for all students and staff indoors, except while eating
- Masks are optional for all students and staff when outdoors at recess or learning activities
- Masks are optional for vaccinated teachers when they are a minimum of 6 feet away from students at the front of the classroom.

We will continue to monitor the Covid situation in our local community as the school year progresses. We are hopeful that at some point it will become safe for our students and staff to choose whether they want to wear a mask or not.

Unlike some of the other educational opportunities in our Northfield community, we at St. Dominic School will also continue with the following additional mitigation measures:

- Minimum of 3'-6' distancing in classrooms
- 3' distancing at lunch tables in the cafeteria
- Contact tracing when a student or staff member reports a positive test
- Quarantining of close contacts as directed by guidance from MDH
- Daily cleaning and sanitizing of all classrooms and common areas
- Frequent hand washing and sanitizing for all students and staff

Our number one concern is the health and safety of our students, families, and staff. We are implementing these protocols to ensure that our students and staff remain in an in-person learning model for the 2021-2022 school year. Should you have any questions regarding the adjustments to our plan for this fall, please do not hesitate to reach out to the School Office or Mrs. Biren.

Resources

- [MDH Decision Tree](#)
- [Current Situation - Rice County Public Health](#)
- Covid Testing at Northfield Hospital - 507-646-1494 (36 hour turnaround time)
- Covid Vaccinations at Northfield Hospital - 507-646-8019 (12 years and older strongly encouraged)