

# SAINT BEDE ACADEMY

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Eve Postula, Superintendent  
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Dear Saint Bede Families,

We have received another update from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) announced that they have adopted CDC guidance for PK-12 schools that halves the isolation and quarantine period..

As a result, effective immediately, Saint Bede Academy will implement the updated guidance.

Yesterday's announcement does not change the state of Illinois' mask requirement for anyone inside school buildings. The Governor's indoor mask mandate for school is still in effect until further notice. In addition, the CDC and the IDPH continue to state that vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection. A growing body of evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to have a symptomatic case that requires hospitalization, or an asymptomatic infection or to transmit COVID-19 to others than people who are not fully vaccinated.

In addition, we want to pass along information from IDPH and CDC related to quarantine and recommended isolation periods. Below is summary information.

## **Athletic Information:**

Anyone who tests positive or is a close-contact for COVID-19 may not participate in athletic practices/competitions for 5 days. They may return to competition and practices if they are asymptomatic and masked around others following their quarantine or isolation.

## **Determining Exclusion:**

<b>If you test positive for COVID- 19</b>	Everyone, regardless of vaccination status must do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Stay home for 5 days after the first symptom or the collection date from a positive test.</li><li>● Continue to wear a mask around others for five more days after returning to school.</li></ul> Individuals may return to school after 5 days if asymptomatic or if fever-free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours.
<b>If you have COVID-19-like symptoms</b>	Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, must immediately be excluded from school until: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Receiving a negative test result that confirms the symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19; or</li><li>● For a minimum of five days and a maximum of 10 days until fever free without fever reducing medication for 24 hours, diarrhea/vomiting have ceased for 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved.</li></ul> Individuals must continue to wear a mask around others for five more days after returning to school.

	Those testing positive should be excluded from school and follow guidance for persons testing positive.
<b>If you were EXPOSED to someone with COVID-19 and have no COVID-19-like symptoms</b>	
<b>You ARE a close contact and must be excluded from school</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students who are not fully vaccinated with the primary series - two doses.</li> <li>● Individuals 18 and older who have not received the booster dose when eligible.</li> </ul>
<b>You ARE NOT a close contact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A student who was within 3 to 6 feet in a <b>classroom</b> setting for at least 15 minutes with a confirmed case when masking was worn consistently for the entire exposure period.</li> <li>● Students and staff aged 18 years and older who have received all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses, including boosters</li> <li>● A student aged 5-17 years who completed the primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine.</li> <li>● An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days from date of exposure.</li> </ul>

Thank you for your continued support of our students and teachers. It's been an incredibly difficult year, but we will continue to push forward together. We know this changing information can be confusing and overwhelming; however, we know we can work together to support our students and staff.

Sincerely,  
Saint Bede Administration