

A Plan for Containment

SRCS will operate the school in cohorts

Education is a relational experience. Contact between students and teachers is necessary. However, if you look at how schools are organized, generally students spend most of their day with a select group of people, namely their classmates and teachers. Therefore, instead of thinking of the school as one big group of students from PK-12, we can view it as a group of smaller cohorts. This is very easy to envision when you consider the self-contained classrooms we operate in PK-6. For example, Mrs. Dreyer's 4th Grade class will be viewed as a cohort. The Upper School (Grades 7-12) is a little more challenging because of the scheduling, but we can adjust the schedule to help each grade level operate as a cohort.

Inside the cohort

When students arrive in the morning, they will report directly to their classroom (cohort). There will be no before care, and students will not congregate to wait for the building to be open. Classrooms will open at 7:30 am, and when a student arrives at their class, their temperature will be checked at the door. Consider this passing through the "gate" and entering the cohort. Parents will not be permitted to enter the cohort, but they can walk their child to class and release them at the door. Once a student is in the cohort, every effort will be made to keep them contained in the cohort throughout the day. ***Masks will be optional inside the cohort.***

Intermingling of cohorts

Realistically, there are times when cohorts intermingle – drop-off/pickup, chapel, class changes, etc. During these times of intermingling, masks will be required. Requiring masks during intermingling times is the most logical preventive measure we can take to preserve the integrity of a cohort. ***Therefore, masks will be required when there is an intermingling of cohorts.***

Rationale for cohorts

The primary purpose of operating in cohorts is to limit the impact of a positive case of COVID-19. In the event of a COVID-19 case, we hope we can continue to operate most of the school in a normal fashion and only take action within the affected cohort. In essence, make a big problem a smaller problem. We have broken down COVID-19 events into six levels with action plans at each level. All action plans assume that any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 will quarantine for 14 days.

Level One: A single student in a cohort tests positive for COVID-19

Questions: Was the student sick at school? Was the student sick away from school and did not encounter a member of the class when they fell ill?

Actions: The day school may continue, **or** we may close the entire class for a minimum of 5 days, with students continuing instruction online at home. Students who test negative after 5 days can return to the day school. Students who test positive must remain home and work online.

Level Two: A staff member tests positive

Questions: Was the staff member sick at school? Was the staff member sick away from school and did not encounter a member of the class when they fell ill?

Actions: The day school may continue, **or** we may close the entire class for a minimum of 5 days, with students continuing instruction online at home. While the staff member will remain quarantined, students who test negative after 5 days can return to the day school. Students who test positive must remain home and work online.

Level Three: More than one student tests positive in a single cohort

Actions: Close the *entire class* for a minimum of 5 days, with students continuing instruction online at home. Students who test negative after 5 days can return to the day school. Students who test positive must remain home and work online.

Level Four: Multiple students test positive across cohorts in a single grade

Actions: Close the *entire grade* for a minimum of 5 days, with students continuing instruction online at home. Students who test negative after 5 days can return to the day school. Students who test positive must remain home and work online.

Level Five: Multiple students test positive over multiple cohorts within a building/division

Actions: Close the *building/division* (PK and Kindergarten, Grammar Building, Grades 4-6, Grades 7-12) for two weeks, with students continuing instruction online at home.

Level Six: Multiple students test positive over multiple cohorts across buildings/divisions

Actions: Close the *entire school* for two weeks, with students continuing instruction online at home.