



January 17, 2022

Dear SHS Community,

I am writing to share a new procedure for us to communicate current Covid-19 data with you, outline an update to our potential close contact procedures, and give new information about our temporary masking period. Like many communities across the state, SHS has seen an increase in positivity rates since returning to school after Christmas break. Families have been incredibly patient and supportive in working with both me and our nurse Ashley Davis, and we greatly appreciate the partnership and kindness.

Current Covid-19 data for SHS:

Starting Tuesday, 1/18, our Covid-19 data will be updated each day on the SHS website by 5pm. *(Note: Starting next week, weekend/holiday data will be reported on the next school day.)*

You can access the up to date info by going to our school website>>About Us>>Covid-19 Guidelines 2021-2022. We will no longer email this information out on Friday afternoons.

Direct contact emails will not be sent with each case unless it's a unique situation (*see next section*). Please check the link referenced above to access our up to date information starting on 1/18.

Close Contacts:

Given the increase in positive cases in the local community and at school, we believe that families should operate as if their child/ren are a potential close contact if someone in their class tests positive.

If there is a positive case(s) in your child's class (or grade level for Junior High), please assume they are a potential direct contact. Monitor your child for symptoms, plan to stay home and test them if symptoms arise, and reach out to us if you have questions. Students who are potential direct contacts at school do not need to quarantine. If a student is a direct contact to a positive case at home, please contact Nurse Davis.

Remember, you can monitor daily Covid-19 information following the steps in the section above. It will be updated by 5pm each day.

Positive Cases - Procedure for Return:

Any community members who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate for a minimum of 5 days. Community members who have tested positive for COVID-19 may end isolation on day 6 if they have a negative rapid antigen test taken on day 5 and any symptoms must be improved including being fever free for 24-hours without the use of fever reducing medication. This testing strategy is an added precaution and as recommended by the CDC (and noted in the plans released by NH-DHHS).

If your student tests positive again on day 5, they will need to continue to isolate at home through day 10 after their initial positive test or first day of symptoms. All students returning to school on day 6 will also need to mask while at school through day 10. Community members may not return to school until cleared by Nurse Davis.

Regarding testing on day 5, the test taken should be a *rapid antigen test*. Home tests are acceptable. If using a home test, the test must be labeled with the community member's name, the date, time the test was administered, and a photo of the resulted test emailed to Nurse Davis at healthoffice@shshampton.org.

We understand how difficult obtaining testing can be. For those who are not able to administer an at-home rapid test or do not have access to one, we will provide a rapid test when the student arrives on campus on the morning of their return on day 6, before going to class.

Arrangements for this service must be made with Nurse Davis during school hours the day before, if you bring your student to test on day 6. Parents will need to wait in the parking lot while their child is being tested—if their child tests positive, they must return home to finish the remainder of their 10-day isolation period. If they test negative, the student may return to class.

Please know that we can only offer tests, in the event that a family doesn't have one, while we have the supplies to do so. We are happy to offer this as an option, and also appreciate families using an at-home test when they are able to. Nurse Davis and Mrs. Koelker will continue to work together to have as many tests on hand, which are provided by the State free of charge as supplies are available, as possible.

Masking Update:

We have been in regular consultation with the Catholic Schools Office and Fr. Gary. As we are currently in "outbreak" status at SHS, we are continuing our temporary masking period through 1/28/2022. At that time, we will be in touch to let you know if we can return to mask choice for parents/staff. While this current surge is challenging for us all, we are optimistic that it will subside in the coming weeks. Until then, we are grateful for everyone's continued vigilance and support.

Please continue to keep our school community in your prayers. Despite the challenges Covid-19 continues to put in our path, our school community continues to demonstrate faith, resilience, and kindness on a daily basis. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Maegan Koelker

SHS Principal

Ashley Davis

SHS Nurse