

Dear Students and Host Families,

We hope you had a restful holiday. As we enter into the New Year, our highest priority is to continue to ensure the health and safety of our students and host families.

School is open, as scheduled, and has resumed as of January 3rd for all students. The following are the most up to date answers to the many questions that we have received.

**1. If a student tests positive for Covid-19, what are the next steps?**

In the event that a student tests positive, the host family must notify the SJB Health Office by email at [HealthOffice2@sjbdhs.org](mailto:HealthOffice2@sjbdhs.org) .

This applies only to the student testing positive (not a host family). The [SJB Nurse's Office](#) will then inform the school. The student should then monitor his / her health and be sure to rest, drink lots of fluids, and focus on recovery while isolating in their room. Many current Covid cases are resulting in mild symptoms which are improving quickly, sometimes without the need to go to a doctor.

**2. If a student tests positive for Covid-19, when are they allowed back at school?**

Any student that tests positive (vaccinated or unvaccinated) must quarantine for a length of 5 days. The day the student first experienced symptoms is day 0, the next day is day 1, and on day 6 they are allowed back in school if they have **no symptoms**. Full guidance from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services can be found here:

[COVID-19 Guidance and Isolation Information Specific to Suffolk County](#)

**3. If a host parent or other household member tests positive, how does this affect the student?**

A student and host family in this situation must do their best to isolate themselves from each other as we cannot move students to a new host family under these circumstances.

If a member of the household (other than the student) tests positive, a *vaccinated* student can continue going to school as long as they show no related symptoms and remain isolated from the household member that is infected. If the student is *unvaccinated*, the student must quarantine for 5 days before returning to school with no related symptoms.

**4. If a student does not have Covid-19, but does not feel comfortable going to school, what are the options?**

School is open and students are supposed to attend classes normally. Currently, there is NOT a school wide Online / Remote study option.

Therefore, students are expected to study in person on campus. The school has asked teachers to do their best to help students that are remaining home because of these COVID protocols.

If a student chooses to miss school out of concern, please have the host family notify the SJB attendance office directly. Below is their contact information.

**SJB Attendance** - [attendance@sjbdhs.org](mailto:attendance@sjbdhs.org)

It is important that students monitor their email for continued official updates from St. John's High School.

**5. Will the school provide Covid-19 testing?**

Currently, the school is not providing Covid-19 testing. If a student needs a Covid test immediately, our recommendation is they should purchase an at-home testing kit, or they should go to an urgent care facility.

**6. Can a student receive the vaccine or the booster (3<sup>rd</sup> shot)?**

Students are eligible to receive the Covid vaccine. This is free and a student can schedule a vaccine appointment with a local CVS pharmacy (or similar) as soon as they would like. Regarding the 3rd shot of the vaccine, a student is only eligible to receive the booster 5 months after the second dose of the vaccine.

Additionally, our nursing staff will have the Covid vaccine or booster available on campus for their February visit. If a student wishes to receive the vaccine during this visit, they must let our office know. However, if they wish to receive the vaccine or booster immediately, this must be done at a local pharmacy.

Sincerely,

St. John's High School International Office