

## Policy on Contagious Illness at Seton School

“Persons who are sick should stay home”.

Seton’s policies on Contagious Illness revolves around this statement. The school will make every effort to support this approach through encouragement of parents, screening students on arrival at school for fever and symptoms of serious illness, separating students who become ill during the school day while at school, and working with parents to allow continued education during/after recovery.

### Encouragement of parents to keep students home when sick:

Recognizing that parents are the primary educators of their children, we also understand that parents have the greatest role in their children’s healthcare. The decisions made by parents for their children in regard to illness will affect the school community. Therefore, Seton will encourage parents to keep their children at home when the child is sick or likely to be able to spread a contagious disease to the school community.

- If symptoms of illness occur, parents will need to make decisions about school attendance with careful regard to the nature and severity of the symptoms. For example: a headache would warrant consideration as to the likely cause but would not necessarily indicate a contagious illness. However, a fever / chills unrelated to air conditioning would necessitate absence from school for the duration of illness and 24 hours after the last fever.
- Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 or has had **close contact** with someone with COVID-19 will need to follow the CDC **quarantine / isolation guidelines**.  
*NOTE: The VA Department of Health will continue to use the standard definition of close contact, i.e. being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more. Per CDC guidance, the use of face coverings is not a factor in the assessment of close contact.” (from Phase Guidance for Virginia Schools, July 1, 2020)*
- Quarantine keeps someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others while Isolation separates a person infected with the virus away from people who are not infected.
  - “Quarantine if COVID-19 is suspected, Isolation if Sick”
- For Close Contact with a person infected with COVID-19 needing to Quarantine:
  - Stay home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19
  - Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19
- Quarantine can end 14 days after last close contact with an infected person
- Isolation of a person infected with COVID-19 can end when more than:
  - At least 3 days have passed with no fever **and**
  - Respiratory symptoms have improved **and**
  - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared (or 10 days have passed since positive test for COVID-19 virus if no symptoms have occurred)

### Return to School

*If COVID-19 test is positive, or if a student is a close contact of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, a doctor’s note will be required to allow the student to return to school.*

*If a student was kept home from school out of an abundance of caution due to close contact with a person whose COVID-19 test turns out to be negative, a parent's note explaining the circumstances will suffice.*

*Student absence for other illnesses not related to COVID-19 will be treated as any other absence.*

#### Screening students on arrival at school:

In order to safely reopen our school, we need to do our best to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in our school. To that end, we need to screen arriving students for fever (>100.4° F), cough, and shortness of breath. Students will be asked to enter the school using a designated arrival station. Entry into the school will depend on a negative screen for fever and absence of major COVID-19 symptoms. This procedure is intended to be streamlined to avoid delay in entry for arriving students, but parental cooperation is essential.

Included in exclusionary conditions will be “fever / chills in the last 24 hours”. In other words, if a student is not suspected of having COVID-19 but has had a fever on the previous day, they should not present themselves for entry to the school on the day following the last fever. If a student has been tested for COVID-19, they should not come to school until it is known that the test is negative. (If the test is positive, isolation per CDC guidelines is mandatory).

#### Separating students who become ill during the school day:

Any student who develops symptoms of contagious illness will be immediately separated from other students. We are setting up Infirmary / Isolation areas which will allow an ill student to rest while awaiting the arrival of a parent to take the student home. This area will be kept cleaned and disinfected according to the schools intensified cleaning program.

#### Working with parents to allow continued education during / after recovery from illness:

Contingency plans are in place for students who must remain at home due to illness or possible illness due to close contact with a person infected with COVID-19. It will be important for parents to contact the school through the Absent / Tardy line as usual for any student absence. But in order to ensure efficient establishment of accommodation for schoolwork for students with an anticipated extended medical absence, it will be important for the teachers to be aware if the student is at home and able to continue school work remotely, or if illness incapacitates them and continued schoolwork is not possible for that student. Please clearly communicate your student's ability or inability to participate remotely with current classwork. Updates to this situation will be necessary. **Please contact the absent tardy line attn: Jennifer Albin or Erin Vanderwoude (703-368-6604) if your student will be out for COVID-19 or COVID-19 related issues to ensure that all necessary accommodations can be made for the education of your child.**

### **1. Policy for “extended absence due to illness” (EAI) ( Covid-19)**

- a. Students may return to school after a normal (non-COVID) febrile illness: Fever, symptom free for 24 hours = return to school.

- b. Parent Communication Requirement: During Extended Absence, parents must communicate with Jennifer Albin or Erin Vanderwoude (703-368-6604) regarding health and ability of the student to work throughout the time at home.
- At what time the health condition of the student changes, the parent must contact school to inform the school that the student is capable of doing work while continuing to quarantine at home. At this point the student will be expected to begin to make up missed work while still at home.
  - If they continue on quarantine, but are healthy or able to work, students are expected to keep up with classes via live streamed classes (as possible) and teacher/scribe notes.
- c. Teachers will be notified by Jennifer Albin of students that will be doing school at home for extended time. Teachers will provide live zoom classes (if possible) and teacher/scribe notes upon request of student - OR teacher will make a recording to send to student
- d. Test/Quiz Make-up: This is left to individual teacher discretion with the two options below.
- Parent Proctored Tests (preferred): Teachers are encouraged to send tests home or test over Jupiter Ed/online. Parents will be provided instructions for doing this.
  - Students must contact their teachers on their first day back from EAI to plan for making up tests (that were not done at home during extended absence). Taking into account total number of tests missed.
- e. Assignment Makeup: Absences are considered as Absence/NOT able to do schoolwork or Absence/ABLE to do schoolwork (quarantined). EX. If a student is sick for x-days they are given at least x-days to make up work following established sick/absent school policy in the student handbook.