

Good morning SJS Community,

Effective immediately, St. John School will abide by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) guidelines for COVID and other respiratory viruses. We no longer have mandatory absences for COVID. Just as when a student has the flu, students will be encouraged to stay home if they don't feel well and can return to school when they have an improvement in symptoms and are fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. Masking upon return is optional with all respiratory illnesses but can help to prevent the spread of viruses. See attached for a nice visual snapshot.

You can find more information at [Staying home to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses | Mass.gov](#).

Please let Nurse Stephanie or me know if you have any questions.

Chris