



# ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

Under the direction of the Basilian Fathers

February 15, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We continue to manage the realities of re-opening and daily routines under the pressure to keep people safe and healthy.

We require your assistance to keep us heading in the right direction. Although restrictions around us are gradually lifting, we will continue to proceed with cautious optimism while monitoring the health of our community. Screening, masking, and cohorts will be with us for some time.

We currently have 18 positive cases of COVID, by way of rapid antigen test confirmation, ranging from Grade 9 to 12. Although tracking and cohort dismissal are no longer part of the mandated protocols, we do believe it is prudent to be transparent and diligent in monitoring and communicating risks.

Action required:

a. Remote Access to Classrooms beginning February 22, 2022,

1. The parent of any student who requires remote access to a classroom for COVID-related illness or isolation must contact the school before 8 a.m. at [attendance@smcsmail.com](mailto:attendance@smcsmail.com). This will allow our school nurse to track and follow up as necessary and allow our attendance office to track our COVID impact more accurately at school.
2. Zoom access will now have waiting rooms enabled and only those students who are approved due to COVID illness and isolation will be admitted.
3. If the message is received prior to 8 a.m. students will be provided access to the classroom.
4. If notification is not received before 8 a.m. it will not be processed for that day and the student will
  - i. not be admitted by Zoom,
  - ii. access Edsby for any posted class activity,
  - iii. be prepared for access the following day if still absent for COVID issues.

We continue to be committed to the value of in-person learning, and remote access, although helpful, does not replace our regular programming. Remote access to classrooms is only provided for COVID-related illness or isolation and in support of following our daily screening. We will no longer provide online access to classes for other reasons.

b. Daily Screener:

1. This is our best defence for preventing COVID from entering and spreading at school.
2. Do not send your son to school if they do not pass the screener. Please read it carefully. We trust each other to take this responsibility seriously.
3. Although we have not seen an increase in student absenteeism, we have seen an increase in reported positive COVID rapid antigen tests. So, the virus is, as we know, in the community.

Our goal is always to protect the health of the community and balance the risks of the spread of illness and the ability to return to learning and living that reflects our belief of learning in mind, body, and spirit. We will continue our journey back to more expected routines with likely a few more turns in the road ahead.

Although pending provincial announcements may indicate a quick shift to lifting further restrictions, the school will continue to review current protocols and communicate any changes as we always have, following a review of potential impact and discernment for the health of the community and ability to provide the highest level of programming possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support and care not only of yourselves but of all those in our community who may be impacted in a variety of ways during this transition out of pandemic times.

Enjoy the extended Family Day weekend.

Sincerely,

Mr. James McKinnon  
Principal

