



August 20, 2021

The following Health and Safety protocols are provided to our students, families, faculty and staff as a supplement to the procedures outlined in our Student-Parent Handbook. Please read over the procedures below, which are updated from last year, and are informed by the guidance of federal, state, and local authorities. Be on the alert for updates as environmental factors fluctuate and require a new response. Thank you for your role in safeguarding the health of our community!

I. The School Day

Arrival on Campus

Freshmen and sophomores will be dropped off in Lot C, closest to The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Auditorium and enter the main building by Door 17. They will go to their advisee check-in areas. Juniors and seniors will be dropped off or will park in Lot A, and enter the main building by Door 1. They will proceed to their advisee check-in areas.

Campus Hours

The campus will be open from 7:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. To facilitate cleaning, no students should arrive before 7:15 a.m. or stay beyond 4:15 p.m., unless in a supervised student activity. Students who are attending athletic practices have been advised of the careful guidelines they must follow to attend practice.

Dismissal

Students not participating in after-school activities must be picked up by 4:15 p.m. Students should be picked up at the same locations as they were dropped off. Freshmen and sophomores are to be picked up in Lot C; juniors and seniors are to be picked up in Lot A.

Dress Code and Uniform

Students should arrive on campus in full uniform. Students who have a physical and health education class on a particular day should bring their gym uniforms to school. They will be able to change in the locker rooms.

When a Mercy Girl has dance (Dance Appreciation, Apprentice Dance Company, or Dance Troupe), she will bring her leotard and tights and change in the Weinberg facilities assigned for this purpose.

Lockers

Each student will be assigned a locker and must use a school issued lock. Freshmen and sophomores will receive a school issued lock. Juniors and seniors will bring their school issued lock or purchase a new lock from the school store during orientation.

Lunch

Students will be able to bring their lunch or order from Yay Lunch. Students can bring a water bottle to fill from our touchless water stations. Vending machines and microwaves will be available. Students may choose to eat lunch in the dining hall, Weinberg Auditorium lobby, or outside in the Sisters of Mercy Athletic Field on grassy spaces. Adirondack chairs and new picnic tables are available. Students will be socially distanced during lunch.

Student Activities

All student activities are in person and each moderator will determine the meeting schedule. More information will be available at the Club Fair for students on Thursday, September 16.

II. Health and Safety

Daily Health Awareness

All students, faculty, and staff are required to check themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19 and stay home if they are ill.

At this time, students, faculty, and staff will not need to submit a daily health screening form.

Anyone awaiting a COVID test result may not come to campus.

COVID-19 Vaccines and Flu Shots

The Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland State Department of Education encourage all students and school staff to receive a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they are able, as well as a flu shot. These precautionary steps will help safeguard our community and reduce quarantine time for those identified as close contacts through the contact tracing process. The State of Maryland provides an easily searchable database of clinics that administer the vaccine here:

<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/vaccine>

Masks

All students, faculty, and staff, as well as any vendors and visitors, must wear a face mask when inside campus buildings, as required by our local jurisdiction. Face masks are also required on any school-sponsored transportation (for example, on buses for field trips or athletic activities) as mandated by federal authorities. Student cloth masks must be in accordance with uniform standards. These are black, grey, red, and white

masks with no visible symbols or words. Students may wear disposable masks, which may be in solid colors. Masks purchased from the school store are acceptable.

Whenever social distancing is not practical in outdoor spaces, masks must be worn outside.

Contact Tracing and Notification

It is essential that all families, faculty, and staff report to the school nurse if anyone in the household has been diagnosed with COVID-19, has COVID-19 symptoms, or otherwise has reason to believe they have contracted COVID-19.

Observing these reporting procedures enables us to identify any on-campus exposure and to efficiently partner with the Baltimore City Health Department on necessary contact tracing and outreach.

In the event of a positive transmission within the community, contact tracing will be conducted by the nurse in collaboration with the Baltimore City Health Department. In the event that it is necessary for students to quarantine, families will be notified immediately. All communication will be shared in a timely manner and will be strictly confidential.

Health Room Procedures and Information

Mercy High School's nurse, Ms. Mary Rizzi-Ayd, RN, BSN, will be available to answer any questions or concerns any student, families, faculty or staff have. She will also be involved in any contact tracing, when necessary, in collaboration with Dean Mary Ella Marion and Principal Kathryn Adelsberger.

The Health Room is the home base for the school nurse. The Attendance Office, also located off the lobby, will handle non-critical health issues. An Isolation Room has been identified for anyone who might need separation from others in the school. Students presenting possible COVID-19 symptoms should be picked up from school within 30 minutes of notification.

Our School Nurse



With a deep background in education and nursing, Ms. Mary Rizzi-Ayd, RN, BSN is exceptionally qualified for her work at Mercy High School. Beginning her career as a middle school English teacher, she made a career change, completing her BSN at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Ms. Rizzi-Ayd has more than 25 years of nursing experience, including seven years as the school nurse at St. Ursula School and two years at the Institute of Notre Dame. She is in close communication with nurse colleagues working in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, as well as private schools throughout Maryland. Ms. Rizzi-Ayd has developed a strong relationship with local public health authorities and is a key partner to Mercy's leadership team in managing school protocols and procedures. She begins her second year at Mercy this fall.

Out-of-state Travel

Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to limit travel to areas with substantial levels of COVID-19 community transmission.

Visitor Policy

All visitors must wear masks and will be required to complete a health screening upon entering the reception area.

Facilities Safety and Cleaning Procedures

High-contact areas of the school will be cleaned on a daily basis. Ventilation and HVAC filter enhancements maximize air flow and quality. Protective plexiglass is installed as needed in many offices, some classrooms, and other spaces on campus.

Hand sanitizer stations are available throughout campus. Signage related to optimal daily hygiene and adherence to social distancing are posted throughout the campus.

Student desks are positioned three feet apart in classrooms. In some science labs where this is not possible, plexiglass has been installed between students. Between classes, classroom desks and chairs will be sanitized. Students have assigned desks in all classrooms to facilitate contact tracing.

Three feet markers have been placed in many other campus spaces, including the library, dining hall, and auditorium.

We continue to consult with our colleagues on Mercy Medical Center's infection control and prevention team regarding our protocols.