

Updated Criteria Based on Current Guidance for 2021

Following the latest CDC and Department of Health guidance, we are updating the Operational Criteria. St. Thomas uses as our Operating Guide a combination of key indicators, including:

- Safety provisions, supplies and adequate staffing available to maintain our COVID Health Policy and reliability of operation
- Number of known transmissions, both active and cumulative as well as the number quarantined due to an identified close contact
- Community Health Measures, including current Transmission Rate Levels by CDC

Following the state guidelines and best practices of our local school districts, St. Thomas will monitor and assess these indices on a weekly basis each Wednesday to determine any action needed for the following week to help ensure ongoing operations for both the school and parish. Each level will call for specific protocols of capacity and protective measures. We take these measures in an effort to better minimize the risk of infectious disease; we cannot eliminate all risks associated with COVID. Our policies and procedures stand subject to change within the context of the pandemic.

Applying CDC Transmission Rating & Guidance to Operations for St. Thomas

Level 1 - Blue	Level 2 - Yellow	Level 3 – Orange	Level 4 - Red
Low Transmission 1 - 9.9	Moderate Transmission 10 - 49.9	Substantial Transmission 50 - 99.9	High Transmission 100+
Those not fully vaccinated are expected to utilize face masks as appropriate, masks optional for those fully vaccinated. STNS: • Masks Reserved area available. • Full programming for Church and School (STNS)	In addition to Level 1: Face masks for ALL (children < 3 are exempt) are recommended while indoors • Modified / hybrid programming in place for Church and School (STNS) • Reserved masks area available	In addition to Level 2: Face masks for ALL (children < 3 are exempt) are highly recommended. • Communion with intinction • “Mask Required” zones • Modified activity & duration • Intersession Cleaning Protocols	In addition to Level 3 Face masks for those ALL (children < 3 are exempt) are highly recommended regardless of vaccination status and social distancing measures followed. • Modified Communion • Liturgical practice variance • “Mask Required” zones throughout building • Limited capacity controls
STNS: • Lower student to teacher ratio • Enhanced cleaning protocols • Staggered drop-off & pick-up • Frequent hand-washing	Additionally for STNS: • Home health screening expected • Limited non-essential visitors • Cohort (pod) class arrangements • Air-filtration protocols • Hybrid programming	Additionally for STNS: • Staff use of face shields • Modified programming	Additionally for STNS: • Face masks required in common areas • Staff use of Masks & PPE throughout the day

Protocols are subject to change, based on updated data, guidance, recommendations and guidance received. Following the state guidelines and best practices of our local school districts, St. Thomas Nursery School would assess the key indicators on a weekly basis (each Wednesday) to determine the operational level and any needed actions for the following week.