



ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL

Via Aventina 3 00153 Rome, Italy
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www.sssrome.it

January 11, 2022

Dear St. Stephen's parents,

The first decree of the year, *DL n.1* of the 7 January 2022, introduced several measures for schools, which we discussed earlier this week in our town hall meeting. The new law mandates the following new protocol called *Autosorveglianza* (Self-surveillance) as an alternative to quarantine and to the T0/T5 protocol that existed before. If there is only ONE positive case in the grade, students in that grade will wear FFP2 masks for 10 days since the last contact with the positive case. In addition to that, students will need to monitor if they develop symptoms within the first 5 days and test immediately if they do develop symptoms. In this case, a negative test will also be required, as well as a doctor's certificate for readmission. During self-surveillance, social contacts (including sports, dinner parties, sleepovers) should be minimized, and students must eat meals two meters apart from each other.

With two positive cases in the grade, an important distinction will be made between these two situations:

- a) Students who received their booster dose or recovered in the past 120 days or have been fully vaccinated in the past 120 days will continue with the "*Autosorveglianza*";
- b) Students who are not vaccinated or are vaccinated/recovered from more than 120 days will do remote learning for 10 days.

With three positive cases, the whole grade will be in remote learning for 10 days.

During the first 5 days of the *Autosorveglianza*, all students will need to pay particular attention to symptoms like fever, sore throat, runny nose, cough, any gastrointestinal symptoms, body aches, chills, headache. If they develop any of these symptoms, they should immediately test for Covid-19 (a rapid antigen test will be enough) and notify the school at nurse@sssrome.it with the Covid manager in copy (fabio.boccuni@sssrome.it). This is very important, as, with three positive cases, the whole grade will need to go in remote learning. Please note that, even if negative, students should be symptom-free for 48 hours before



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returning to school. If they are absent for 5 or more days (including these 48 hours), a medical certificate for readmission is required by regional law. The partnership between the school and families, under these circumstances, is quintessential: please do not send your child to the school with any of these symptoms and let the advisor know immediately if your child is experiencing any difficulties in this unprecedented situation.

Please also note that, at the moment, as per "Ordinanza 26 del 30/12/2021 del Presidente della Regione Lazio" a positivity by rapid antigen test does not need to be confirmed by a molecular test. If someone tests positive at a rapid antigen test taken at a pharmacy or any other authorized provider, s/he can start the isolation without waiting for further confirmation.

Close contacts, as usual, will be identified and notified. In this case, depending on the vaccination status, students might be required to quarantine for 5, 10 days. At the end of quarantine, a doctor's certificate for readmission will always be required. It will be collected by the school and transmitted to the local health authorities.

Boarding families: Please note that congregate living settings are treated with greater care, and frequently more conservative preventative measures around testing and isolation might be taken. Testing and quarantine requirements will be confirmed by the nurses, boarding head, and Covid manager on a case-by-case basis.

Given the changes that we have made to our lunchroom (two-meter distance for all students and partition panels where that distance cannot be kept), we don't expect close contacts to be identified in the school. In this period of the peak of the pandemic, and at least until the end of January, while we wait for the teenage population to get fully vaccinated with a booster dose, it would be better to ensure that our children socialize responsibly, including avoiding parties and sleepovers.

Here is an official poster from the Regione Lazio that explains what happens in case of close contacts (family or friends, school contacts follow the protocol illustrated below):



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Thank you for your attention and collaboration.

Sincerely,

Fabio Boccuni, Covid Manager