



ST. STEPHEN'S SCHOOL

Via Aventina 3, 00153 Rome, Italy

Tel. +39 06 5750605

www.sssrome.it

August 25, 2020

TO: All St. Stephen's Families

RE: **Important information about reopening of school – ACTION REQUIRED**

Will students and teachers be virus-tested before returning to campus?

Yes. We have waited to see what resources exist here in Italy, and the plan is as follows. Day students and boarding students (with the exception of those boarders in quarantine now) must furnish a negative test for coronavirus before rejoining campus life. School employees will also need to furnish a negative test before students return. Boarding students will be tested here in Rome, through our boarding department, unless they arrive with a serological test conducted on or after August 27th.

What test is required, and why?

We are requiring the serological test (blood). However, if you perform a nasal swab test, that is an acceptable substitute. The nasal swab test identifies the infection earlier, but Italy is still not swab-testing asymptomatic people, hence our decision. By protocol, students or employees who have a positive serological test will have a nasal swab test to confirm, because the serological test does occasionally record false positives.

My child is a day student. How can they get a test?

The good news is that the test simply requires the prick of the finger for a drop of blood. It is much less invasive than a traditional venous blood draw. The type of serological test required is as follows (written in Italian):

Sierologico Sars Cov2 IGG/IGM (metodica ELISA or CLIA)

Use that description when you go to the lab. Enclosed are several facilities which we know will do this test. Feel free to use the lab of your choice, as most labs in Rome offer this service.

Please remember that the lab may take up to 48 hours to furnish the report, so we urge you to get the test done THIS WEEK. Some labs are open on Saturday.

<https://upmcsalvatormundi.it/>

<https://www.artemisialab.it/>

<https://www.bios-spa.it/>

Where do I send the results?

Our secure and confidential platform exists in the current system with OpenApply, which all of you use to submit applications, health forms, and other information annually. [Click here for login.](#)



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What will happen if my child does not have the test result at the opening of school?

Students who do not furnish proof of a negative virus test will learn remotely until their test results are provided. Questions about testing can be directed to our head nurse, Mandy Patton mandy.patton@sssrome.it

Does Italy have travel restrictions? Does my child have to quarantine?

Yes. We are following the Italian regulations regarding transit from other regions and countries. Please note the following two documents: [Travel Restrictions](#) and [Self-Declaration Form](#).

Could my child contract the virus at school?

Yes. Our medical advisory team has confirmed that no school can guarantee a virus-free learning environment. We are doing everything in our power to ensure a safe and orderly campus (see our reopening page for details), but we are required to inform you that all of us risk infection from school activity. For this reason, we urge you and your children to become knowledgeable about the disease and its transmission and always follow public health precautions.

When does school start?

[As noted on the web](#), *New & Returning Student Orientation* begins next week.

New Student Orientation (all grades): arrive Wednesday, Sept. 2nd, between 9:00am and 9:30am, and are dismissed at 1:15pm (a mid-morning snack is provided, but not lunch). Thursday orientation is conducted online for new students.

Returning Student Orientation: Thursday, Sept. 3rd, is as follows:

Returning 12th graders arrive between 8:30am and 9:00am, and are dismissed by 1:00pm (a mid-morning snack is provided, but not lunch)

Returning 10th and 11th graders arrive at or before 1:30pm, and conclude by 5:00pm (these students should eat lunch before arrival)

The first full day of classes is next Friday, September 4th. Please note that there is a wealth of other [information about reopening](#) on the school website.

What should I do if I know that, for reasons beyond my control, my child will not be in school for the opening of school?

Please email one of our Assistant Heads, Alex Wreth (alex.wreth@sssrome.it), with a detailed explanation. Please note the following Information for late returning boarding and day students:

- All classes will be live streamed and recorded by request (on approval)



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- Students in remote learning at the start of the year will receive up to 30 minutes per week of additional live time with their teacher in each class. The suggested format is for 20 minutes to be dedicated to reviewing material from the previous week and ten minutes for planning the week ahead.
- There will be a remote learning advisory coordinator to meet with students in remote learning, listen to any issues that arise, raise them with the administration and advocate for the student.
- An academic support group of student peers will be formed (remote learning advisory coordinator will oversee this) to meet with and support students in remote learning answering questions, sharing notes, etc.
- There will be a remote orientation/onboarding program with student leaders (student council, peer mentors, boarding prefects) to integrate the student socially and to the culture of the school as best as possible. Meetings/activities twice per week.

Does my child need to wear a mask?

Yes. By Italian regulation, anyone on campus must be in a mask. When students arrive at the gate, they must be wearing a mask. The first time a day student doesn't have a mask, we will provide one. The second time, they will be placed in isolation until a parent authorizes their return home or a mask is provided to them (boarders have a separate arrangement). Every student should have at least one extra mask, both as an emergency replacement, and because masks sometimes become overly-moist from breathing. Finally, we urge students to use masks off-campus in high-density settings like public transport.

May my child be on campus before school opens?

No. Only boarding students who are moving into the dormitories may be on campus before the orientation program begins.

What do I need to do before my child leaves the house in the morning (if my child is a day student)?

Every morning, please temperature check your child and ask for common coronavirus symptoms (runny nose, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, headache). Please do not send them to school if they have any of these conditions. If your child has a temperature or other symptoms at our gate, they will be taken into an isolation space, and a parent will be called to help them get home immediately. Boarding students will have a symptom and temperature check by the nurse every morning. We have the ability to broadcast live and/or record our classes, so students who need to quarantine will be able to follow their academic program from home.

Has the typical school day changed?

Yes and no. Students will not be allowed on campus before 8:00am, and, after a thermal scan will go directly to the classroom of their first-period class. They will depart campus, unless they live here, at the conclusion of their last scheduled activity. A typical school day remains the same as it did last year, in terms of length of classes and number of classes per day. Large assemblies will be conducted remotely. The class day ends at different times



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depending on students' schedules and activities, and families should make appropriate arrangements for students to return home and not remain on campus.

Does my child need any special supplies for school?

Maybe. Students will not be able to share school supplies, like pens, calculators, and glue sticks, so your child should be prepared with everything that they will need. We will not be lending laptops from the Library, nor is there any printing in the Library. Students will also not be able to leave their bags in public corridors, so they should have a comfortable backpack (not a large purse). Day students will each have a locker. We also recommend a reusable water bottle, and we are installing a contactless water supply station.

Will there be field trips?

In general, no. Because fresh air and sunshine are helpful limitations to virus spread, some classes will have short walking field trips in the neighborhood, but nothing requiring public transportation until we are more confident in the safety of those options.

Are parents allowed on campus?

No. Parents should conduct school business electronically. This is in compliance with Italian regulations and public health advice.

Final thoughts...

Please remember that there is considerable information about re-opening on the school website, [linked here](#).

We urge everyone to settle into healthy school-year habits, including avoiding large crowds, hand-hygiene, masking, and otherwise limiting exposure to the virus. We hope to remain teaching in-person, but controlling virus spread is the responsibility of everyone.