

COVID-19 Informed Decision

The Federal Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) has identified two means by which Covid-19 can be transmitted. First, people can become infected with Covid-19 by touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes. The CDC further advises that person to person transmission may occur when people are within six feet of each other, “primarily from respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.”

Saint Mary’s College has initiated enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of common areas of residence halls and academic buildings. These enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols are CDC compliant. The food service operation will comply with all CDC, Indiana, and St. Joseph County Health Department regulations regarding food service. At this time, the Indiana Governor’s COVID-19 Executive Order 20-32 does not allow its use, but when it can be used, the Noble Family Dining Hall has been configured for appropriate physical distancing.

Saint Mary’s requires that all members of the campus community (students, faculty, and staff) wear a cover over their nose and mouth when in buildings, as recommended by the CDC. The cloth for facial coverings must be opaque and not have any openings that would allow respiratory aerosol or droplets to escape. Saint Mary’s has initiated a self-screening protocol for individuals on campus. Employees or commuter students who have a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms will not report to campus. Quarantine and isolation space is available for residential students.

Saint Mary’s has reconfiguring classrooms to accommodate appropriate physical distancing. The filters on the air handling system for buildings on campus have been upgraded. A contact tracking system is in place.

For the safety of the entire community, Saint Mary’s strongly recommends that members of the campus community do not engage in large gatherings or frequent events or establishments that pose a high risk of infection. Students engaged in academic, volunteer, or clinical education or work at agencies in the community, must follow the COVID-19 safety guidelines of Saint Mary’s and those of the agency.

Saint Mary’s College is taking steps to reduce the risk of transmission as much as possible. However, before an efficacious vaccination is widely available, communal living, dining, and learning are endeavors that entail risk.

August 6, 2020