

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present you requests to God. - Philippians 4:6

February 21, 2022

Dear Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

May the peace of Christ be with you!

The Diocese of Orlando continues to monitor COVID-19 cases across Central Florida. While COVID-19 continues to impact our communities, recent statistics have improved significantly. Over the past several weeks, reported cases in our schools have declined and local positivity rates are trending downward.

<u>Masks are now optional</u> in our schools and COVID-19 protocols have been updated for students who test positive and those who have been directly exposed.

COVID-19 Positive Student

COVID-19 positive students must remain home for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or positive test result. Students may return after day five if they are asymptomatic or the student is fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved fever-free for at least 24 hours. The student must also have a new COVID-19 test with a negative result. If using a home test, a photo with the child's name, date of birth, and test date is required for early return.

• COVID-19 Directly Exposed Student

<u>We no longer require quarantine for exposed, asymptomatic students</u>. If a student has been directly exposed but remains healthy with no symptoms, they may remain in school. However, students must wear a mask around others for five days after direct exposure regardless of vaccination status. Parents may still request a 5-day quarantine for their exposed child.

***Please note:** If a student becomes symptomatic following direct contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, the procedures for COVID-19 positive students will apply.

We will work with individual school communities to make temporary adjustments if there is a significant rise in COVID-19 cases at a particular school. Thank for your patience and cooperation throughout this process. As we continue this year's theme, Made In God's Image, may we see the face of Christ in all we meet.

Respectfully in Christ,

Herry Fort

Henry Fortier Secretary for Education/Superintendent of Catholic Schools Diocese of Orlando