



OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am sure that you have been hearing about revised guidelines regarding isolation and quarantine measures for those who test positive or have been exposed to COVID-19. The changes came last week, when the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced changes in their community guidelines. The changes prompted the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to adopt the revised guidelines for isolation and quarantine. The schools in the Diocese of Greensburg will follow their lead and use these new guidelines.

In an effort to keep parents and guardians updated on the most current information, I want to share these new guidelines with you so that you will be aware of the expectations for your child should she or he be a close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID or should your child actually test positive for COVID.

I have summarized the most relevant information for your use. You may also refer to the full document at:

https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/HAN/2021-PAHAN615-12-30-UPD-Iso%20and%20Quar_GenPop1.pdf

Recommendations for Individuals Who Test Positive for COVID-19	
Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:	Stay home for 5 days.
	If the person with COVID-19 either has no symptoms or has resolved or improving symptoms (including no fever) after Day 5, the person may leave the house provided they wear a well-fitting mask when around other people for 5 additional days. Day 0 is defined as either the date of symptom onset, or the date the test specimen was collected if the person is asymptomatic.
	If someone develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, testing is recommended regardless of vaccination or prior infection status.

Individuals Exposed to Someone with COVID-19	
If you: *Have been boosted for at least 2 weeks OR Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months and are not yet eligible for the booster vaccination OR Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months *Heterologous (mix-and-match) dosing may occur for the booster dose.	Quarantine is not required.
	Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
	Test on day 5, if possible. If positive, follow the recommendations above for individuals who test positive.

If you: Are unvaccinated OR Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine OVER 6 months ago and are not boosted OR Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted	Stay home for 5 days.
	After that, continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
	Test on day 5 if possible. If positive, follow the recommendations above for individuals who test positive.
	If you develop symptoms, get tested and stay home until results are received. If someone in your family has symptoms and is being tested, please stay home until test results are received. This can help prevent the spread of COVID.

Guidance for Students When Household Member Tests Positive for COVID	
If the student is not vaccinated:	She/he will need to quarantine for the same period of time as the person who is COVID positive has to isolate.
	If they have no symptoms after that time, they must continue to quarantine for another five (5) days.
	Should the student test positive at any point during the quarantine she/he must follow the updated guidelines for testing positive.
If the student is vaccinated:	She/he is permitted to attend school but must wear a mask for 10 days from the date of exposure.

As a reminder, face coverings are strongly recommended for students, but are not required. I urge you to consider the health and safety of your loved ones and make a decision that is best for your child.

Because the pandemic continues to be a very fluid situation, community guidance may change accordingly. Should the PDE make any further changes, we will be sure to update members of our Catholic school community as quickly as possible. Thank you for your patience.

I wish you and your families a happy and healthy New Year.

May God bless you,



Dr. Maureen Marsteller
 Superintendent of Catholic Schools
 Managing Director of Faith, Family, and Discipleship