

## COVID-19 ADDENDUM

**Full-Time In- Person Instruction-** The schools in the Archdiocese will operate fully in-person for all students. Schools will be taking all necessary steps to minimize the possibility of exposure and spread of COVID-19 within their buildings. If remote instruction becomes necessary for quarantined GROUP instruction, the school will make arrangements for such. If a student is tested and is infected with COVID-19, a doctor note is necessary for the student to attend virtual class. The student will quarantine for 10 or 14 days, based on what the Health Department officials say and the student will need a doctor's note to return to class.

**Masking-** Governor Murphy signed executive order number 251 on August 6, 2021, making mask wearing mandatory for staff, visitors, and students of schools. This will remain in effect until such time the Governor rescinds the order AND the Archdiocese gives further direction regarding mask wearing in school. Masks may be removed for eating purposes and in extreme heat when students are six feet apart. If a mask interferes with a student's health, a doctor's note must accompany the child with the reason in writing.

**Screening-** Parents will be required to fill out the Google screening form prior to their arrival at school. Random temperature checks may be conducted during the day.

**Ventilation, and Handwashing-** We are increasing ventilation in the school classrooms with new air purifiers. Handwashing and use of hand sanitizer will be used frequently throughout the day, before and after bathroom use, and before lunch and snacks.

**Social Distancing-** Social distancing is an important layer of the COVID-19 prevention strategies. The CDC and NJ Department of Health recommend maintaining 3 ft. of distance between students in classroom settings. Students will also have a clear desk shield for protection. Increased social distancing is recommended when masks cannot be used during eating and drinking. Students will be six feet apart and use dividers during lunch in the school cafeteria. They will also be spaced out for gym class and any activity such as music where extra respiratory action is exerted.

**Vaccinations-** Our schools are obligated to follow state law regarding immunizations required for students to attend school in New Jersey. Although COVID vaccines aren't mandated for students or faculty at this time, the Archdiocese and Department of Health have stressed that vaccination is the leading public health strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. While some may wish to share vaccination information with the school, we do not require individuals to disclose this information.

**Quarantine-** Schools will continue to consult with their local health department regarding individuals diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. Please keep in mind that your local policy regarding quarantine will be influenced by local conditions and circumstances known to the Department of Health and changing community conditions. Accordingly, circumstances for individual schools may vary due to local conditions.

If the school becomes aware of a positive case in the school community, notification will be provided to all parents and employees while making efforts to maintain the privacy of the individual(s) known to have tested positive.

**Close Contact-** In a K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition of being within 6 ft. of an infected person for 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period, excludes students who were within 3-6 ft. of an infected student if the exposed and infected students both wore correct, consistent, well-fitting masks the entire time.

**Testing-** The school in its sole discretion may require any student to remain out of school and undergo COVID testing and produce results if circumstances require.

**An infected person can spread COVID-19 virus starting from 2 days before they have symptoms. for asymptomatic students, it can be two days before a positive reading.**

**Student Absence-** Students should stay home if they are not feeling well. ***Remote instruction is NOT an option for students who are absent because they are not feeling well*** or for students ***who are out for vacations or appointments.*** It is only an option in cases of required quarantine. (group or single) Handbook policies for completing work when home sick will be followed for non-COVID-19 absences.

I am grateful that you entrust your children in our care. Your support is welcomed and appreciated as we get through these times, once again, together. The faculty and staff are the heart of our school and I am grateful and thank them for what they do each day!

They are the heroes that we will remember long after COVID has vanished.

Have a blessed school year!

Ms. Harrigan  
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