



SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION In Time of Pandemic

2 September 2021

Dear St. Mary PSR Parents,

At our P.S.R. Orientation this past Sunday, I shared that I would be drafting a document outlining some guidance for our P.S.R. program during the pandemic. I've adapted relevant guidance from the Diocese Office for Catholic Schools and our own Parochial School and done my best to ensure this document includes the most recent guidance from the C.D.C. and O.D.H.. As we all know well, things can change, and so adaptations may need to be made as the year unfolds. Thank you for your support and careful review of this document and any changes forthcoming.

- Students who are experiencing illness or symptoms **MUST** stay home. We ask a parent to do a health-check of their child before the PSR session. See the next page for list of illness indicators.
- For any cases of Covid, the policies and guidance of our local health department for quarantining must be followed. If your child tests positive or has been identified with direct contact, when the local health department gives a phone call, please be sure to let them know of your child's attendance at St. Mary P.S.R.. Since our P.S.R. Program is not a school proper, I'm unsure at this time if they will contact me with guidance and contact tracing information or ask you to relay proper information and direction to me. Please be sure to communicate any contact tracing health direction for our program to me as soon as possible for the good of the others.
- Social distancing is not required but continues to be recommended by the ODH and CDC. I've asked our P.S.R. teachers to spread the students out in the desks as much as possible – so we can maintain a 6-foot distance as much as possible. Doing this, especially if a child is wearing a mask, really reduces quarantine implications in contact tracing and, of course, lessens risk.
- Continue to encourage good sanitizing and hand-washing habits in your child.

On Masking

The Diocese of Columbus has not set forth a mask mandate because of varying local conditions, but schools in areas of high Covid rates are encouraged to do so. Local mandates should be temporary and reviewed regularly as conditions change. At this time, the CDC is recommending counties with substantial or high community transmission encourage masking for all persons regardless of vaccination status. Fairfield County is categorized as high at this time. We will continue to monitor our status and update recommendations.

At this time and in light of what we are learning about the Delta variant and CDC recommendations, we strongly encourage everyone to wear masks, regardless of vaccination status. There is no mask mandate – just strong encouragement.

On Vaccination

The Diocese of Columbus maintains its position of encouraging all who are eligible to be vaccinated. However, vaccination is not required. Individuals should discuss vaccination with their health care providers.

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Signs of illness

- **Fever** - Fever is defined as having a temperature of 100.4 F. A child needs to be fever-free for a minimum of 24 hours without the help of fever reducing medication before returning to school.
- **Diarrhea, stomachache and/or vomiting** - The student must remain home for 24-48 hours after stomachache, diarrhea, or vomiting has stopped. The child should be feeling better and food intake should have returned to normal before returning to school.
- **Difficulty breathing** - Student should stay home until he or she is feeling better and his or her activity level has returned to normal.
- **Sore Throat** - Student should stay home if he or she has a red throat, swollen glands, and/or difficulty swallowing.
- **Loss of Taste and Smell** - Student should seek medical evaluation.
- **Uncontrolled cold symptoms interfering with the student's ability to learn (i.e., persistent coughing and/or persistent/active runny nose)** - Student should stay home until symptoms are improving and he or she can participate in class.
- **Other symptoms** - Students exhibiting symptoms such as extreme fatigue, body aches and/or headache, and/or are not able to participate in class should stay home until recovered and/or see their healthcare provider.

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