



THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

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July 6, 2021

Update on Anticipated Covid Protocols for the Fall

Dear Families of the Diocese of Columbus,

Once again, I'd like to thank you for your cooperation during the extraordinary 2020-21 school year. Because of your support and the tireless work of our administrators, teachers, and staff, all of the schools in the Diocese were able to operate safely. This allowed more than 16,400 students to have a school experience that was as close to normal as possible. I am grateful to everyone for making the sacrifices needed to ensure an uninterrupted education for our students and most grateful to God for giving us the strength to persevere through this year.

As we look ahead, schools are being asked about what Covid protocols will be in place for the 2021-22 school year. Although it is still too early to be completely certain, it is appropriate to share with you what our schools anticipate doing. As always, our top priorities will remain the health and safety of our students and staff and the continuation of an excellent academic experience.

To make this decision, the Covid Task Force - comprised of principals, teachers, medical professionals – are considering the recent trends in Ohio, the availability of vaccinations for people 12 and older, the lower risk that Covid poses for children, the guidance of our healthcare partners, and the experience of reopening our parishes to their normal activities. At this point in the summer, we expect that schools will utilize a personal protection approach and be able to return to pre-pandemic operations:

- Students who are experiencing illness or symptoms **MUST** stay home.
- For any cases of Covid, the policies of the local health department for quarantining and reporting will be followed.
- Social distancing will not be required.
- Masks will not be required, they will be optional. Policies will be in place to ensure that all who wish to wear a mask may do so comfortably and without fear.
- Regular occupancy numbers in classrooms, lunchrooms, and other spaces will resume.
- Normal classroom instruction will resume without hybrid learning, digital, or all-remote options.

Catholic Diocese of Columbus | Office of Catholic Schools  
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- Athletic and extracurricular activities may resume their normal schedules and procedures.
- Vaccinations continue to be encouraged by the Diocese but are not mandatory.

The Covid situation, particularly information about variants, will be closely monitored and the above protocols may be amended at any time. Protocols also may be increased at any school at any time depending on the local situation or local directives. Again, the protocols above reflect our current situation today and may be modified later this summer.

Thank you for your continued support. Please keep our schools and our students in your prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Adam J. Dufault  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Diocese of Columbus