



## COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Effective April 10, 2022

This guidance is for all Diocesan Catholic Schools and is based on CDC and VDH recommendations.

- COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters are recommended for all school employees. Parents have the choice to decide what is best for their children regarding vaccinations and boosters.
- Regardless of the COVID-19 community level, school employees, students, and guests have the choice of wearing a mask or not. This includes vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.
  - If a school is in an area that COVID-19 levels are at a high community level, please note that masks are recommended in schools by the CDC and VDH. Parents always have the option to make the decision for their child. Your school will notify you if the community is in a high level.
  - This guidance replaces the Student and Employee Mask Policies that went into effect on January 24, 2022. Mask election forms are no longer necessary. If parents want their children to wear masks, they should send them to school wearing a mask and discuss their wishes with their children.
- School Entrance signs regarding mask wearing are no longer required.
- Schools can continue to implement the COVID-19 mitigation plans that work best for their individual schools.
- Schools can decide how and when they report close contact and positive COVID-19 cases to their individual school communities. Reporting cases is not required.
- Isolation for positive cases and quarantining for close contact cases in schools will continue to follow CDC and VDH guidance. Current guidance continues to remain the same and is as follows:
  - If you have tested positive for COVID-19, stay home from school and all school activities, and isolate for at least 5 days from the date your symptoms began. If you are fever-free for at least 24-hours and other symptoms have improved after 5 days, you may leave isolation and return to school and mask for 5 additional days. If parents do not want their children to wear a mask at school, they need to remain home for the 5 additional days.
  - If you are not symptomatic and have tested positive for COVID-19, stay home from school and all school activities, and isolate for at least 5 days from the day you had your test done. If you continue to be symptom-free after 5 days, you may leave isolation and return to school and mask for 5 additional days. If parents do not want their children to wear a mask at school, they need to remain home for the 5 additional days.
  - If you come into close contact with someone with COVID-19, you should quarantine for 5 days if you are not vaccinated or not up to date on COVID-19 vaccines. If you are vaccinated and up to date on your vaccines, you do not need to quarantine. Everyone should wear a well-fitted mask in school for 10 full days from last contact.