



OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
MEMORANDUM
August 17, 2021

Dear Diocese of Palm Beach Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

As you know the COVID-19 transmission level remains high across all four counties in which our schools are located. The latest data indicates that St. Lucie, Indian River and Palm Beach Counties are each now over 600 positive cases per 100,000 population. Martin County fares a bit better at around 400/100,000. These numbers have continued to increase over the last few weeks. The target number is 100/100,000 or less. If the data continues to show higher transmission rates, we may have to consider additional mitigation measures.

About two weeks ago the FDOH and CDC issued new COVID-19 guidance and protocols. The attached Diocese of Palm Beach Office of Catholic Schools COVID-19 Reference Guide, dated August 16, 2021, utilizes their guidance for directives to follow should anyone in our school communities be exposed to COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or test positive for COVID-19. This reference guide should be a helpful tool should your family be confronted with one of these three scenarios. Please remember that this is a general guide, that reports are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and that the local county health department has the final word on when a quarantine is required. I understand that it is stressful to receive a call that your child was exposed and has to quarantine, but please be respectful of our school administrators and staff if they have to call you. It's not a pleasant task for them. **Please remember that if someone is sick, they should not be in school**, and the school administrator must be notified if anyone in your household tests positive or if your child is exposed to COVID-19 or has symptoms.

Since school has started, we have had a number of positive cases among our students and employees, with at least one person in ICU. A growing number of students have had to quarantine due to exposure this week. Please keep all of them and their families in your prayers.

We continue to pray for the health and safety of all our school community.

Yours in Christ,

Gary Gelo
Superintendent of Schools