



## DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

### 2021-2022 COVID-19 REFERENCE GUIDE

- COVID-19 symptoms can include fever (more than 100.3°F), loss of smell or taste, cough, muscle aches, sore throat, shortness of breath, chills, new or unusual headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. Delta variant- watch for cough, runny nose, sneezing, headache and sore throat.
- If a person is sick or being tested for COVID-19 they must stay home and notify the school administrator.
- These are general guidelines and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- The county health department will also be consulted as needed and they may offer specific guidelines which differ from the diocese. The CDC indicates that the local health departments make final decisions on quarantines.
- Cooperation with the school and health department on contact tracing is essential to keeping our schools safe.
- A COVID-19 PCR test is required by the diocese when testing is necessary. The rapid or home test will not be accepted.
- If a household member of a DPB employee/student has tested positive, all DPB employees/students in that household must quarantine per exposure guidelines.
- In the event a school has a positive case of COVID-19, staff members and parents of those individuals exposed will be notified as soon as possible.

#### **Exposed to COVID-19: Cannot Go to School/ Notify the School Administrator:**

- Exposure is defined as close contact within 6 feet of a positive COVID-19 person for 15 cumulative minutes in a 24-hour period whether or not a mask is worn by either person.
- An exposed person must quarantine for 10 days and monitor for symptoms. Quarantine may be shortened to seven days if verification of a negative COVID-19 test taken on day 5 or later of the quarantine is submitted. Person may return to school on day 8.
- Quarantine is NOT required for a person who can provide verification of previously testing positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days, if the person does not develop any symptoms.
- Quarantine is NOT required if verification that the person meets the CDC criteria for being considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 is submitted and the person remains without symptoms. Get tested 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask indoors for 14 days or until a test result is negative.
- In all cases, if symptoms develop during the quarantine, the person must follow the guidance for someone "Symptomatic for COVID-19."

#### **Symptoms of COVID-19: Cannot Go to School/ Notify the School Administrator:**

- If the diagnosis is something other than COVID-19, (e.g. stomach virus, ear infection, sinus infection) follow the normal school illness policies.
- The person must remain home until symptoms improve and when fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
- If a COVID-19 test is taken, stay home while awaiting the test results.
- The person cannot return to school until:
  - (a) The student receives a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test and is asymptomatic; or
  - (b) Ten days have passed since the onset of symptoms or positive test result, the student has had no fever for 24 hours and the student's other symptoms are improving; or
  - (c)The student receives written permission to return to school from a medical doctor licensed under chapter 458, an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 459, or an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 464.

#### **Positive for COVID-19: Cannot Go to School/ Notify the School Administrator:**

- If Asymptomatic, stay home for 10 days since the first positive COVID-19 test, provided symptoms do not develop during the isolation period.
- If Symptomatic, stay home for 10 days since the onset of the first symptom. Remain home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication and symptom improvement.
- The person cannot return to school until:
  - (a) The student receives a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test and is asymptomatic; or
  - (b) Ten days have passed since the onset of symptoms or positive test result, the student has had no fever for 24 hours and the student's other symptoms are improving; or
  - (c)The student receives written permission to return to school from a medical doctor licensed under chapter 458, an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 459, or an advanced registered nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 464.

*Updated August 16, 2021*