



OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MEMORANDUM

January 14, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The two-week mask requirement in our schools is scheduled to end today. The number of COVID-19 cases is still extremely high in the four counties in which our diocesan schools are located. Parents are advised that high quality masks are **strongly recommended** going forward. **Please remember that anyone who is sick should not come to school.** These are key components of our mitigation strategies. If you exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, a PCR test is recommended. Report symptomatic or positive cases to your school administration. As always, we will continue to evaluate our ongoing COVID-19 protocols as needed.

School pastors, presidents and principals are asked to exercise their judgement in approving large indoor gatherings, after-school activities and sports. Schools may resume these activities once sufficient safety protocols are in place. Such safety protocols may include social distancing, proper ventilation, limiting spectators at games, temperature checks, and other precautions at the discretion of the school pastor, president and/or principal as appropriate for your school. School pastors, presidents and principal may also implement mitigation strategies for particular classrooms, grade levels or events that may include requiring masks, quarantines, or at-home learning in instances where there is cause. These strategies must be approved by the superintendent.

Attached are revised guidelines for individuals who test positive or are exposed regarding periods for isolation and/or quarantine.

Protocols adopted by the Diocese of Palm Beach for its schools related to COVID-19 are the product of considered judgement and a function of religious autonomy in the administration of its private religious schools. All parents are expected to cooperate with the school administration on this and all school policies.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those families who have suffered illness and loss due to COVID-19 and let us ask the Lord to bless our families with strength for this journey and good health for the coming weeks and months.

Yours in Christ,

Gary Gelo

Gary Gelo
Superintendent of Schools