



December 30, 2021

Dear Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic School Parents & Guardians,

We hope that you and your family had a blessed Christmas and offer our best wishes for a safe and healthy 2022!

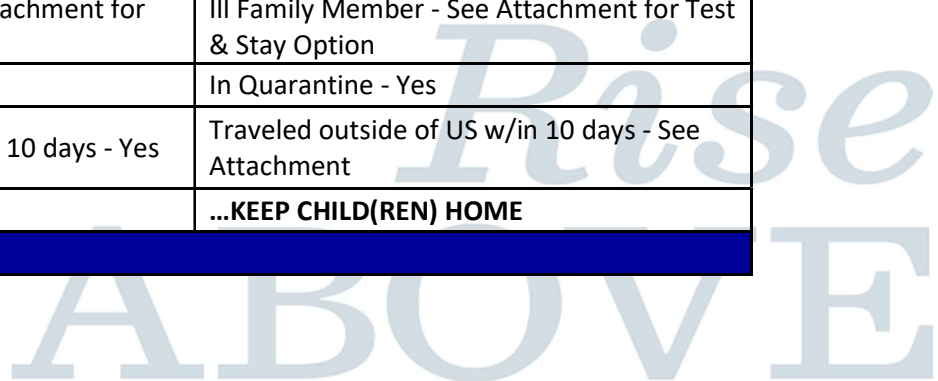
As we enter the second half of the 2021-22 school year, we look forward to welcoming our students back to the classroom on January 3rd. These are unprecedented times with the onset of the Omicron variant. Despite the headwinds that the Omicron surge presents for our families and school communities, we are committed with your assistance to provide in-person instruction across our Catholic schools.

Important Health Wellness Reminders

Your child’s daily wellness is critical for them to safely attend school. We ask that you review the health screening questions each morning before sending your child to school. Depending on the vaccination status of your child, detailed screening guidance is provided in the attachments. The table below is a quick reference guide; if you answer “Yes” to any of the questions, please keep your child(ren) home.

Our ability to continue in-person instruction requires your attention to screening your child(ren) each morning!

When to Keep Students Home	
Non Vaccinated Student	Vaccinated Student
COVID Symptoms – Yes • fever or chills • cough • difficulty breathing • fatigue • muscle or body aches • headache • new loss of taste or smell • sore throat • congestion or runny nose • nausea or vomiting	COVID Symptoms – Yes • fever or chills • cough • difficulty breathing • fatigue • muscle or body aches • headache • new loss of taste or smell • sore throat • congestion or runny nose • nausea or vomiting
Close Contact of Confirmed Positive – See Attachment for Test & Stay Option	Close Contact of Confirmed Positive - See Attachment for Test & Stay Option
Waiting for Test Result - Yes	Waiting for Test Result - Yes
Ill Family Member – See Attachment for Test & Stay Option	Ill Family Member - See Attachment for Test & Stay Option
In Quarantine - Yes	In Quarantine - Yes
Traveled outside of US w/in 10 days - Yes	Traveled outside of US w/in 10 days - See Attachment
...KEEP CHILD(REN) HOME	...KEEP CHILD(REN) HOME





Home Testing

We realize that many of our families have secured and are utilizing Home Rapid Tests capability to test their family members for COVID/Omicron. Although the Maryland Department of Health has not rendered a position on its usage relative to schools, we support its usage as a vehicle to ascertain the wellness of your child before sending them to school. **Home Rapid Tests can be utilized for validating if a child is positive** and may be utilized for confirming your child remains negative as part of the **Test and Stay protocol**. **All Home Rapid Test results related to the Test & Stay protocol should be communicated via email to the school nurse.**

Because COVID-19 is a nationally reportable disease, a positive Home Rapid Test must be reported to your child's pediatrician or your local health department. These two authorities can issue release letters for your child to return to school. It is essential that a COVID-19 diagnosis is documented officially as part of your child's medical record in order for your child to be exempt from future school quarantines. We request that you also contact your school nurse to advise them of your child's positive test result to determine if there were any close contacts and to establish/confirm a return date to school.

New CDC Quarantine Guidance

We have been in contact with the MDH (Maryland Department of Health) and have been advised they are evaluating the new CDC recommendations. We are confident that MDH will provide guidance in the near future. If the MDH or a local county health department in the jurisdiction in which your school is located adopts this guidance, we will notify you immediately and we will follow the guidance.

NOTE: The Anne Arundel County Health Department has adopted the new CDC guidance and therefore our Catholic Schools in Anne Arundel County will adopt the new guidance below.

For your ease of reference here are the updated CDC recommendations:

The CDC has issued new guidance on how long an individual would need to quarantine after a positive COVID-19 test or contact with someone who tests positive. **The new guidance reduces the length of time people are recommended to quarantine in almost all cases.**

The CDC is shortening the recommended time for isolation from 10 days for people with COVID-19 to 5 days, **if asymptomatic**, followed by 5 days of wearing a mask when around others.

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The change is motivated by science demonstrating that the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after.

Therefore, people who test positive should isolate for 5 days and, if asymptomatic at that time, they may leave isolation if they can continue to mask for 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others.

Additionally, CDC is updating the recommended quarantine period for **those exposed to COVID-19**. For people who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, the CDC now recommends quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days.

Individuals who have received their booster shot do not need to quarantine following an exposure, but should wear a mask for 10 days after the exposure. **For all those exposed, best practice would also include a test for SARS-CoV-2 at day 5 after exposure.** If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.

Operating 40 Catholic schools in 9 jurisdictions requires daily monitoring of the health and wellbeing of each school community. In order for us to sustain in-person instruction we must keep our students, faculty and staff and their families healthy.

We ask for your support and teamwork to remain vigilant, disciplined and take personal responsibility by monitoring the health of all members of your household. Please err on the side of caution and keep in communication with your school administration and nurse should there be any issues or questions about sending your child(ren) to school.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support as we work together to manage through the Omicron surge and keep our schools operational for the benefit of your children.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Sellinger".

Mr. James Sellinger
Chancellor of Education

Attachments

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna M. Hargens".

Dr. Donna Hargens
Superintendent

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Health and Wellness Survey for **Vaccinated** Students

For each consideration answered in the affirmative, documentation addressing the particular concern must be provided as required by the school.

Symptom Checker

Has the student experienced any of the symptoms in the list below in the past 48 hours? Answer yes even if you believe the symptom is because of some other medical condition.

- fever or chills
- cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- fatigue
- muscle or body aches
- headache
- new loss of taste or smell
- sore throat
- congestion or runny nose
- nausea or vomiting

Is there a medical explanation for any of the symptoms experienced by your student such as allergies, a migraine headache or other underlying medical conditions?

Response Protocol if answered "Yes"

If there is no acceptable specific explanation for the symptoms experienced by the student, the student must remain home until such time as either the student tests negative for COVID-19, has received an alternative diagnosis from a medical provider or completes a 5 day period of isolation returning on the 6th day from onset of symptoms and assuming the student is without symptoms.

Close Contact

Within the last 14 days, has the student been in **close physical contact** with: (1) anyone who is known to have a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 test result OR anyone who has any symptoms consistent with COVID-19?

Close Physical Contact

Outside of School

Close physical contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected/symptomatic person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 48 hours before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic individuals, 48 hours prior to test specimen collection).

Inside of School

Close physical contact inside of school is defined as follows: 1.) being less than 3 feet away in the classroom from another student who is infected/symptomatic for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period, regardless of mask use; or 2.) being less than 6 feet away from another student who is infected/symptomatic for 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period, while unmasked; or 3.) being within 6 feet of an infected/symptomatic faculty or staff member for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 48 hours before illness onset.

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Response Protocol if answered "Yes"

If the student is determined to be a close contact, the student may attend school. However the student **must be masked** while around others, even if masking is not mandated in the school at the time. The student is to be **tested on or after the 5th day** following exposure. If the student tests negative and there is no masking mandate, the student can discontinue the use of the mask. If the student tests positive, the student must begin a period of isolation which is currently 5 days.

Quarantine

Since completing your student's most recent wellness screening, is your student waiting for a COVID-19 test result, been tested positive with COVID-19, or been instructed by any health care provider or the health department to isolate or quarantine?

Response Protocol if answered "Yes"

If the student meets any of the above conditions, the student may not return to school till either a negative test result is received, the prescribed period of isolation is completed or the student has been released by the health care provider or health department from the isolation or quarantine.

Since completing your student's most recent wellness screening, have you or other family members living in the same household and not isolating from other family members waiting for a COVID-19 test result, been tested positive with COVID-19, experiencing COVID like symptoms and therefore worried may be sick with COVID-19 or been instructed by any health care provider or the health department to isolate or quarantine?

Response Protocol if answered "Yes"

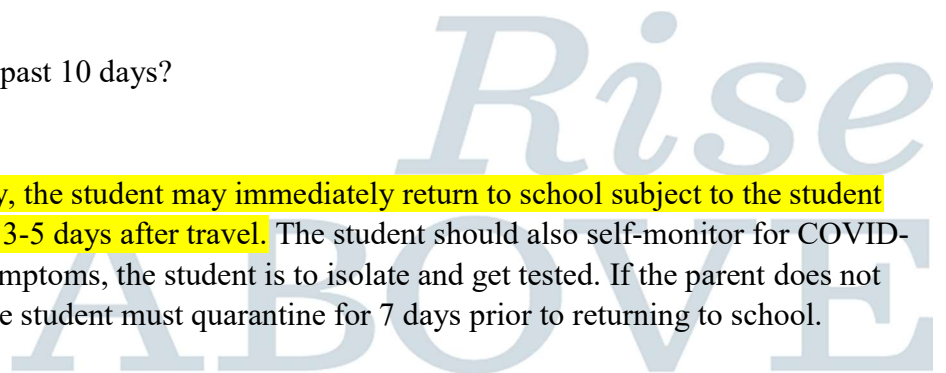
If a member of the student's household meets one of the above conditions, the student may attend school. However the student **must be masked** while around others, even if masking is not mandated in the school at the time. The student is to be **tested on or after the 5th day** following exposure. If the student tests negative and there is no masking mandate, the student discontinue the use of the mask. If the student tests positive, the student must begin a period of isolation which is currently 5 days.

Travel

Have you traveled internationally in the past 10 days?

Response Protocol if answered "Yes"

If the student has traveled internationally, the student may immediately return to school subject to the student being tested with a COVID-19 viral test 3-5 days after travel. The student should also self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. If the student develops symptoms, the student is to isolate and get tested. If the parent does not wish to have their student tested, then the student must quarantine for 7 days prior to returning to school.





Health and Wellness Survey for **Non-Vaccinated Students**

For each consideration answered in the affirmative, documentation addressing the particular concern must be provided as required by the school.

Symptom Checker

Has the student experienced any of the symptoms in the list below in the past 48 hours? Answer yes even if you believe the symptom is because of some other medical condition.

- fever or chills
- muscle or body aches
- congestion or runny nose
- cough
- headache
- nausea or vomiting
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- new loss of taste or smell
- fatigue
- sore throat

Is there a medical explanation for any of the symptoms experienced by your student such as allergies, a migraine headache or other underlying medical conditions?

Response Protocol if answered "Yes"

If there is no acceptable specific explanation for the symptoms experienced by the student, the student must remain home until such time as either the student tests negative for COVID-19, has received an alternative diagnosis from a medical provider or remains isolated for 5 days from date of symptoms and returns on the 6th day assuming the student has no symptoms.

Close Contact

Within the last 14 days, has the student been in **close physical contact** with: (1) anyone who is known to have a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 test result OR anyone who has any symptoms consistent with COVID-19?

Close Physical Contact

Outside of School

Close physical contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected/symptomatic person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 48 hours before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic individuals, 48 hours prior to test specimen collection).

Inside of School

Close physical contact inside of school is defined as follows: 1.) being less than 3 feet away in the classroom from another student who is infected/symptomatic for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period, regardless of mask use; or 2.) being less than 6 feet away from another student who is infected/symptomatic for 15 minutes or more during a 24-hour period, while unmasked; or 3.) being within 6 feet of an infected/symptomatic faculty or staff member for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 48 hours before illness onset.

Response Protocol if answered "Yes"

If the student is determined to be a close contact, the student must begin a period of quarantine. The period of quarantine can be administered up to one of two ways: 1.) the student can remain in quarantine for 5 days and return on the 6th day if they have no symptoms; or if available at the school, the student can remain in school but



must be tested every other day while in school for a period of 5 days. As long as the test results are negative the student can remain in school.

Quarantine

Since completing your student's most recent wellness screening, is your student waiting for a COVID-19 test result, been tested positive with COVID-19, or been instructed by any health care provider or the health department to isolate or quarantine?

Response Protocol if answered "Yes"

If the student meets any of the above conditions, the student may not return to school till either a negative test result is received, the prescribed period of isolation is completed or the student has been released by the health care provider or health department from the isolation or quarantine.

Since completing your student's most recent wellness screening, have you or other family members living in the same household and not isolating from other family members waiting for a COVID-19 test result, been tested positive with COVID-19, experiencing COVID like symptoms and therefore worried may be sick with COVID-19 or been instructed by any health care provider or the health department to isolate or quarantine?

Response Protocol if answered "Yes"

If a member of the student's household meets one of the above conditions, the student must begin a period of quarantine. The period of quarantine can be administered up to one of two ways: 1.) the student can remain in quarantine for 5 days and return on the 6th day if they have no symptoms; or if available at the school, the student can remain in school but must be tested every other day while in school for a period of 5 days. As long as the test results are negative the student can remain in school.

Travel

Have you traveled internationally in the past 10 days?

Response Protocol if answered "Yes"

If the student has traveled internationally, the student is to be tested with a COVID-19 viral test 3-5 days after travel. The student is also to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms. If the student develops symptoms, the student is to isolate and get tested.

The student must stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel, even if the student test negative at 3-5 days. If the student is not tested, the student must stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.

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