



DIOCESE OF COVINGTON  
Department of Catholic Schools

April 20, 2021

Dear Parents,

As we near the end of the 2020-2021 school year, I wanted to provide a few updates to you regarding the latest changes to our COVID-19 protocols. Last week, our Diocesan COVID Committee approved significant updates to our church, school, and athletic protocols in light of the many changes that keep coming from the CDC, the Kentucky Department of Health, and our local health department.

First, our church protocols have been updated and can be accessed by clicking [here](#). If you haven't been to Mass because of the pandemic, I encourage you to return and bring your children. We have been able to offer in-person Mass safely since our churches reopened in the spring of 2020.

Our school protocols have also been updated. Your school principal will share the updated document with you and I encourage you to read it in its entirety. Some of the changes include ceasing the morning temperature/health checks upon entry into school (these should be done at home), allowing in-person meetings with distancing and masks, and updating the vaccine guidance.

I also want to clarify a change the CDC made a few weeks ago regarding schools and student distancing. The CDC reduced its six feet spacing rule in classrooms to three feet. While this sounds like a positive change, the quarantine definition for a close contact has not changed. It still states that if you were within six feet of a positive case, masked or unmasked, for a duration of 15 minutes then you are a close contact and would have to quarantine. As a result, our schools are encouraged to leave their current distancing plans in place. It is also important to note that the mask requirement for schools remains in effect. This is expected to continue through the end of this school year.

Another change that we have made is with our sports requirements. Earlier this year we created a specific document relating to athletics. We will no longer be using that document and in its place a sports section has been added to our *COVID-19 Return to School Requirements*. Since the protocols seem to be universal across activities, this shortened version should be easier to follow and understand.

As more people are vaccinated and cases continue to decline, we anticipate that the CDC and the state of Kentucky will continue relaxing more of the COVID-19 safety protocols. When this occurs, we will review the latest guidance and determine what changes, if any, will be made in our schools. This can take time to review, and we appreciate your continued prayers and patience as we make decisions that are best for our school communities.

We are also hard at work on the end of the school year. Announcements will be coming soon regarding graduation plans for our seniors and eighth graders. It is truly a blessing that conditions are improving enough to plan these important school events.

I do want to express my gratitude to Bishop Foys, the Diocesan COVID Committee, principals, and the faculty and staff of our schools for all of their hard work this school year. It is incredible that we have been able to teach in-person for nearly the entire school year. Their efforts have made that possible.

I also want to thank you and your children for your support and cooperation with the safety protocols this year. While the requirements may not have always been easy, our school communities have been successful this year. I ask that you continue to follow these updated protocols so the end of our year will be a success too.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Kendra McGuire  
Superintendent of Schools