



**CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS**
DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

SCHOOL REINTEGRATION AND GUIDELINES

May 28, 2021

Per the Governor of Virginia's *Executive Order 79 effective May 28, 2021, public health restrictions have been lifted in the Commonwealth, apart from continued guidance on mask wearing.

Due to Executive Order 79, the *Emergency Preparedness Instruction Manual*, located on the Employee Extranet, will be discontinued and archived on May 28, 2021 under "Reintegration".

EXECUTIVE ORDER 72:

- SCHOOLS ARE AN EXCEPTION TO THIS AMENDMENT
- **ALL** students, teachers, staff, and visitors **MUST** wear a mask over their nose and mouth while on school property (regardless of vaccination status) on **ALL** school campuses (public and private) for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.
- Our diocesan mask policy will remain in effect for the remainder of the academic school year which ends June 3, 2021. This policy continues to allow for masks to be removed while students are actively eating and drinking. Occasional mask breaks are permitted to be given.
- Masks may be removed when an employee is working in a classroom or office space alone or by small groups of vaccinated employees.

Executive Order 79:

- While this order ends the "Commonsense Public Health Restrictions" (such as social distancing, capacity limits, etc.) our schools will continue to follow through with their current health mitigation plans that have been in place since the beginning of the school year. These plans have served us well and there is no need to implement any new plans with only three days of school left after EO79 is effective.
- SCHOOLS ARE AN EXEMPTION TO THIS AMENDMENT as related to masks
- **ALL** students, teachers, staff, and visitors **MUST** wear a mask over their nose and mouth while on school property (regardless of vaccination status) on **ALL** school campuses (public and private) for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year
- Our diocesan mask policy will remain in effect for the remainder of the academic school year which ends June 3, 2021. This policy continues to allow for masks to be removed while students are actively eating and drinking. Occasional mask breaks are permitted to be given.
- Masks may be removed when an employee is working in a classroom or office space alone or by small groups of vaccinated employees.

Pandemic Leave

- Effective June 1, 2021, Employees will no longer receive pandemic leave for testing positive for COVID-19 or being in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and is required to quarantine. Sick leave would need to be used.

Temporary Telework Policy

- There were very limited positions in schools in which the temporary telework policy applied.
- Previously approved temporary telework based on an employee being in a vulnerable age category, aged 65 or older; underlining medical condition (immunocompromised); having an individual in their household who is immunocompromised; or for childcare considerations, will cease on Friday, June 11, 2021.
- All employees that were approved for temporary telework are expected to return to working at their location starting June 14, 2021.

Summer Camps on School Grounds

- Summer camps being held on school grounds should plan on following the requirements for schools in EO79 regarding masks being worn by all while on school property – when indoors regardless of vaccination status. When outdoors on school grounds, vaccinated individuals do not need to wear masks and unvaccinated individuals can be unmasked if maintaining a 6ft distance.
- Commonsense Public Health Restrictions will have ended with the EO79 being in place so there will not be any social distancing, capacity limits, etc. – however, guidelines adhering to the mask requirements for schools should be followed.

School Workplace After the School Year Ends

- Employee and Visitor Screenings including temperature taking will cease.
- Social distancing and capacity limits will cease.
- Masks will not be required for vaccinated individuals indoors or outdoors.
- Masks should be worn by all individuals over the age of five that are not vaccinated following guidelines and specific exceptions in the EO79.
- Any person not wearing a mask shall not be required to produce documentation that they are vaccinated or that they have an underlying medical condition.

2021-2022 Academic Year

- There is currently no information available for health mitigation requirements for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Diocesan guidelines for the 2021-2022 academic year will be based on CDC guidance and Executive Orders in place as required.
- Guidelines will be shared as soon as more information becomes available.