



September 10, 2021

Dear All Saints School Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well. These last 19 months have been full of uncertainty and it is very hard to believe that we are now in a third school year that is being impacted by this pandemic.

I am reaching out today to provide you with the details of what the school is doing to keep your children and our employees safe while they attend school, and how we can improve our communication of COVID incidents.

Our first priority is for the safety and well-being of our students and employees, and this is something we take very seriously. We are following the CDC guidance as well as the requirements from the State Health Commissioner. Mr. Kelleher sent an email earlier this week outlining several of the policies and procedures that are in place, and I will highlight a few here.

- MASKING: All individuals are wearing masks while indoors at the school regardless of vaccination status. Per the CDC, some of the exceptions to masking include when students are eating, drinking, napping, exercising, and masks are not required when students are outdoors.
- SOCIAL DISTANCING: The CDC guidance recommends students maintain a 3-foot distance within classrooms. All Saints is blessed to have some of the largest classrooms in the diocese which allows for 3-foot distancing or more and in many cases, students are at a 6-foot distance.
- CLEANING AND DISINFECTING: Classrooms and common areas are cleaned and sanitized throughout the day and after school hours.
- QUARANTINING AND ISOLATION: we continue to require anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 remain quarantined and out of school for 14 days. Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 are required to remain in isolation and remain out of school for 10 days and can only return if their symptoms have improved and they have not had a temperature for 24 hours without taking fever reducing medications.
- LUNCH IN CLASSROOMS: effective September 7th students began having lunch in their classrooms.
- VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION: the school has the capabilities to revert to virtual instruction of a class as needed for the overall health and well-being of the students and staff.

- NOTIFICATION OF CASES: The guidance from the Office of Catholic Schools for this school year has been that if an individual at the school – employee or student tests positive for COVID-19 any individual who was in close contact with the positive individual would be notified and would need to quarantine for 14 days from their last direct contact with the individual. At no time is the identity of the person who has tested positive to be shared with the individuals who were in close contact with the person who tested positive or the school community as a whole- which is a HIPPA privacy rule. Those who were not in close contact with the person who tested positive are not considered to have been exposed. This is the same guidance that the Virginia Department of Health uses for contact tracing and notification.

I have heard some concerns that this guidance on communication of COVID cases has not been as transparent as the community would like it to be. Mr. Kelleher and I acknowledge those concerns specific to your school community and some changes can be made.

Effective immediately, the school will notify the entire class if someone in their classroom has tested positive, an employee they would have closely encountered is positive, or if a household member of a classmate has tested positive; so that all can be extra vigilant in monitoring for any symptoms. Those who were in direct close contact with a positive person at school during the time they would have been contagious will be notified individually and be told to quarantine out of school for 14 days. If it is necessary to have the entire class quarantine, all will be notified and revert to virtual instruction for the 14 days from the last contact with the positive individual. However, the identity of any individual who has tested positive will not be shared or confirmed.

The school has had a total of 4 positive COVID cases since students returned to school on August 24th – 2 have been students and 2 have been employees. There have been 4 reports of students within 2 families who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive outside of school. There were 2 siblings who tested positive prior to the school year beginning, so they were not in school until after they recovered. It is not possible to know for sure, but there does not appear to be any connection between these positive cases, which is why out of an abundance of care and caution, the third grade and kindergarten classes have reverted to virtual instruction.

The All Saints community is a very special family and as we continue to navigate through this time of uncertainty that remains ever-changing, I ask that we pull together, extend grace and prayers to all, and trust in each other. It is important that anyone who is sick stay at home and that you notify the school if anyone has been in contact with someone with COVID or tests positive.

Thank you for your support of All Saints and for Catholic education in the Diocese of Richmond.

God bless and stay well,

Kelly Lazzara

Kelly M. Lazzara
Superintendent of Schools