

9995 N. Military Trail
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410



January 20, 2021

561-775-9500
www.DiocesePBSchools.org

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Let me begin by wishing you a Happy New Year and many blessings for 2021. The past year has certainly presented us with many challenges and stretched our capabilities extensively. I am grateful for all of our school employees and families and their cooperation and perseverance throughout this pandemic. While we are all suffering from some pandemic fatigue, we must continue to be vigilant and take the necessary precautions over the coming months and, most likely, through the end of this school year.

The Office of Catholic Schools has revised two documents, which you will find attached. The first document is a one-page summary of our guidelines for the second semester; the second document is the decision tree used in COVID-related situations. Parents are now being asked to continue to check for symptoms and temperatures each day before sending your child to school. If your child has symptoms or is sick, please keep him or her home. If you are awaiting COVID-19 test results or have tested positive, please stay home and follow the guidelines. We need to continue to wash hands, social distance, wear facial coverings, and minimize the size of gatherings.

I am also attaching the memorandum from the diocese that indicates requirements following air travel, whether it be international or domestic. Given the increasing number of cases around the country and travel at peak periods, this has become a necessary measure. I understand that this could impact some families' plans for spring break and other long weekends for the remainder of the school year.

For our families with students in the elementary grades, the TerraNova assessments will be given in February/March. All students, including at-home learners, will have to come onto campus to take the assessments. Please work with your school administrators and counselors to see what accommodations might be available for at-home learners concerned about social distancing and being on campus. Please note that any students receiving state scholarships are required by the state to take this assessment.

On behalf of all of our administrators, thank you for your continued cooperation and assistance in keeping our campuses safe and healthy for our students and employees. Hopefully, as the vaccines become more readily available and people choose to be vaccinated, our communities will become safer and restrictions will be lifted. We are grateful to you for all you do to keep our children and employees safe.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Gelo', written in a cursive style.

Gary Gelo
Superintendent of Schools



Diocese of Palm Beach Office of Catholic Schools **SCHOOL COVID-19 PLAN** For Spring 2021, REVISED January 20, 2021

“Educating is an act of love; it is like giving life.” -Pope Francis

The Office of Catholic Schools in collaboration with the Florida Department of Education, Florida Catholic Conference of Bishops, local health officials, administrators, and other diocesan staff has worked diligently to develop a school COVID-19 plan that allows students on campus in a manner that reduces health-related risks while maintaining an environment in which we focus on the education of the whole child. The diocese is modifying protocols for the spring semester of the school year.

Our schools will continue to provide both on-campus and at-home learning opportunities for students. At-home learning options will vary from school to school. This plan may be updated regularly based on the guidance of local and state health officials, as well as the CDC. School principals will share updated information on the school’s website and distribute all updates to parents via the school information system.

Please refer to the Office of Catholic Schools COVID-19 Decision Tree for guidance on symptoms and exposure. Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is awaiting test results must stay home and follow these guidelines. The PCR COVID-19 test is required, not the antigen test. This plan, and any other related policies and procedures, may be revised at any time with or without prior notice and the specific provisions may be subject to the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools and school principals. This plan may differ from other entities within the Diocese of Palm Beach due to varying local laws and the unique nature of the services and population that each entity serves.



On-Campus & At-Home Learning

Schools will continue to offer on-campus and at-home learning options as we enter the second semester of the school year. At-home learning options will vary from school to school. Please watch your school communications for further details, deadlines, and updates.



Temperature & Symptom Screening

Anyone with a temperature higher than 100.3 degrees may not be in school. A doctor’s note will be required prior to returning to school. Random temperature checks may be done throughout the school day. Anyone with a temperature, feeling ill, or exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and seek medical attention to maintain a healthy school campus.



Cleaning & Disinfecting

Enhanced cleaning protocols have been established to disinfect the campuses daily. High-touch surfaces will be regularly disinfected throughout the school day. Teachers and staff will be provided the necessary cleaning and disinfecting materials.



Strategic Social Distancing

Students, teachers, and staff are required to wear facial coverings in compliance with local ordinances. Classroom seating will be arranged to maximize strategic social distancing and to limit face-to-face contact. Whenever possible, all should practice social distancing by staying away from and minimizing contact with others. Please also refer to the diocesan policy on air travel.



Visitors & Facial Coverings

Schools and centers will not allow normal visitation to the campus until future notice. Any approved visitor on campus will check in at the main office. This requirement is now in place based on the need to limit the exposure of our students, faculty and staff.

Facial coverings continue to be required on all campuses.



Mass, Large Gatherings & Sporting Events

School Masses will follow the protocols in place by the diocese. All athletic or sporting events must adhere to state and local guidelines. Assemblies and large gatherings are not recommended.

DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS COVID-19 DECISION TREE

Updated January 20, 2021



- COVID-19 symptoms can include fever (more than 100.3°F), loss of smell or taste, cough, muscle aches, sore throat, shortness of breath, chills, new or unusual headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- *Exposure to COVID-19 is generally considered: direct physical contact, less than six feet apart for more than 15 minutes
- These are general guidelines and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
- The county health department will also be consulted as needed and they may offer specific guidelines which differ from the diocese.
- Cooperation with the school and health department on contact tracing is essential to keeping our schools safe.
- If a household member of a DPB employee/student has tested positive, all DPB employees/students in that household must quarantine for 14 days

IF COVID-19 SYMPTOMS ARE PRESENT:

Person/parent/guardian will:

1. Notify administrator and stay home or, if at school, person will be isolated and needs to be picked up within 60 minutes
2. Contact physician and follow medical care/advice and notify school administrator of results if COVID-19 testing is recommended. The PCR COVID-19 test is required, not the antigen test
3. Work with administrator to determine contact tracing if person tests positive for COVID-19



If person tests positive for COVID-19 using a PCR test or physician diagnosis COVID-19, the person can return to school when:

- 24 hours have passed since complete recovery
- AND
- 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared



If person tests negative using a PCR test or it is determined that the symptoms are not COVID-19 related, the person can return to school when:

- Administrator has been notified in writing of PCR test results
- AND
- 24 hours have passed since being symptom-free and no fever and no use of fever reducing medicine

IF EXPOSED* TO COVID-19:

Person/parent/guardian will:

1. Notify administrator and stay home or, if at school, person will be isolated and needs to be picked up within 60 minutes
2. Contact physician and follow medical care/advice and notify school administrator of physician's recommendations (including potential COVID-19 test scheduling and results) The PCR COVID-19 Test is required, not the antigen test.



Person can return to school when:

- Person has quarantined for 14 days since exposure, while monitoring to ensure there are no symptoms of COVID-19 (if person develops symptoms, see chart to the left) and a negative COVID-19 PCR test result provided to administrator
- Or as determined on a case-by-case basis by the administrator in consult with the health department and diocese

9995 N. Military Trail
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410



561-775-9500
www.DiocesePBSchools.org

Diocese of Palm Beach, Office of Catholic Schools
Guidelines for School Employees and Families
on Domestic and International Air Travel
Effective January 4, 2021

A COVID-19 test should be taken no sooner than five days after returning from flying with a negative test result required for return to school/work on the sixth day or the date of the negative test result, whichever is later. Without a COVID-19 test, a quarantine of 10 days from the date of return will be required unless any potential COVID-19 symptoms develop. If ANY potential COVID-19 symptoms develop at any stage, individuals must quarantine and follow the Office of Catholic School decision tree and other prescribed protocols.