

November 2020

Dear Families of the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Fall River:

First and foremost, the school nurses and administrators are available anytime to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

With the recent increase in local COVID-19 cases, and the enactment of stricter regulations from governors of both Massachusetts and Rhode Island, I thought this was a good time to remind everyone of some of the DESE guidelines that we have put in place to keep our students, staff, and families safe.

**Please keep your child home if they have any of the symptoms listed:**

- ☐ Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
  - ☐ Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
  - ☐ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
  - ☐ New loss of taste or smell
  - ☐ Sore throat
  - ☐ Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
  - ☐ Muscle aches or body aches
  - ☐ Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
  - ☐ Fatigue *when in combination with other symptoms*
  - ☐ Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*
- If your child is considered a close contact of someone who has tested positive for the virus, they must self-quarantine for 14 days, whether or not they get tested. Even if your child tests negative, they must still self-quarantine for the full 14 days from the last exposure they had with the close contact who tested positive. Symptoms can take up to 14 days to appear, and if tested too early, the virus may not be detected right away.
  - If your child tests positive for COVID-19, then self-isolation is for a minimum of 10 days. If your child tests positive and has any symptoms, in order to return to school, they must isolate for a minimum of 10 days **and** they must be fever-free for 24 hours without any medication, and with a marked improvement of any other symptoms they may have had or receive medical clearance.

During this holiday season, many families may decide to travel outside of Massachusetts. The COVID-19 Order No. 45 states that, if an individual travels outside of Massachusetts, he/she must quarantine for 14 days upon return if they do not get a COVID-19 test done within 72 hours prior to arrival back to Massachusetts. One can discontinue this quarantine if they choose to get a COVID-19 test upon arrival to Massachusetts and are able to produce proof of the negative test

result on request. It also does state that children 10 years and younger who are traveling with an adult from their household are NOT required to be tested due to the parents being tested. All travelers in this situation (including the children age 10 and under) must quarantine until the COVID-19 test results are received.

Further information about this Order No. 45 is found at this link:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/july-24-2020-travel-order-pdf/download>

It takes a community to get through challenging times like these, and we are very appreciative of your support, transparency, and flexibility.

Best regards,

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