



Diocese of Charlotte Office of Catholic Schools

1123 South Church Street Charlotte, NC 28203

4/30/2021

To: All Catholic School Families in the Diocese of Charlotte

RE: COVID Cleaning Protocols and Mask Update

Since our return to school and in-person instruction in August, we have continued to collect objective data and research from internal and external sources to affirm the safety protocols and decisions made for our schools. Also, we continued to evaluate our multiple safety layers to reinforce what worked best, what could be modified and what could be eliminated with the goal of a return to normal order as thoughtfully and safely as possible.

Over the past months, schools have decreased measures in contact tracing between students to three feet, and students are able to attend field trips and co-mingle amongst classes for lunch and recess. The data collected in tracking our students while implementing these changes have proven that no additional spread has resulted within our schools.

In keeping with the updated guidance from the CDC released on April 5, 2021 in a [Science brief on COVID-19 and surface \(fomite\) transmission](#), we will prioritize disinfecting surfaces that students and staff with presumptive COVID symptoms have touched, and **will return to the routine cleaning and disinfecting done according to pre-pandemic guidelines within all of our schools.**

Also, with the new release regarding face coverings from the Governor of North Carolina, our prior decision to limit mask wearing **only to indoors when social distancing at 3 feet cannot be maintained**, is further supported.

Lastly, we will continue to evaluate our face covering protocols as more information is made available from CDC, DHHS and the Governor's office as we move into June. The health and safety of our students, teachers and staff are of utmost importance as we remain on our path towards a normal return to school in the fall of 2021 and continue to fulfill our mission as Catholic educators by providing a holistic, Christ-centered environment of formation for our students.

Thank you, our wonderful parents and parental figures, in partnering with us to reach this point in a fruitful school year. On behalf of the Catholic Schools Office and Diocese of Charlotte, we are grateful that you continue to place your trust in us, and for your endless support which allows us to keep moving forward towards a successful close to the school year. We continue to pray for you and your family and for all those experiencing challenges during this pandemic.

In Christ,

Dr. Gregory P. Monroe
Superintendent of Catholic Schools