



**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ❖ OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS & CENTERS**  
Pastoral Center ❖ PO Box 40200 ❖ St. Petersburg, FL, 33743-0200 ❖ PH: 727-347-5539 ❖ Fax: 727-341-6848

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Dear Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

August 10, 2021

In consultation with Bishop Gregory Parkes, the OCSC staff reviewed and revised the guidelines for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of St. Petersburg (DOSP). The main goal is to keep students/staff healthy and schools open all year long. This past weekend we received some clarity about Executive Order 21-175 and the Department of Health Emergency Order 64DER21-12. By using the best data available combined with practical experience from last year, the guidelines have been adjusted, effective immediately.

### **Temporary School Changes while Community Transmission is High**

**If the weekly new case rate is greater than 100 per 100,000 population and the positivity rate is above 10% in a given county as documented by the Florida Department of Health website, we will move to a mask requirement while indoors for students in schools in that county. Parents will be given the opportunity to submit an opt-out form for their children if they so choose.** These forms will be available directly from your school. The requirement for all unvaccinated staff and visitors to wear masks while indoors is unchanged. These measures will continue for the following week until the next report comes out. As soon as community transmission drops below 100 per 100,000 population **and** the positivity rate is below 10%, schools will return to a mask-optional status.

### **Quarantine Information**

Quarantines for students who have direct, prolonged contact with someone who is Covid-19 positive have changed. Based on the [Florida Department of Health Guidelines](#), students who have a prior Covid-19 diagnostic test in the past 90 days and students who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine as long as they are asymptomatic. All other students will be able to return to school or school-sponsored activities if they are asymptomatic and

- a. receive a negative diagnostic COVID- 19 test after four (4) days from the date of last exposure to the COVID- 19 positive individual OR
- b. seven (7) days have passed since the date of last exposure to the COVID- 19 positive individual.

The table below is official data from the Florida Department of Health website. Parents can find it at [Home | Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Outbreak \(floridahealthcovid19.gov\)](#) by clicking on the “Weekly Florida Covid-19 Data” button. These reports are generated weekly (not daily) and published each Friday. In making decisions about schools, we focused primarily on two measures of community transmission:

1. Weekly new cases above 100-per-100,000 population
2. The seven-day average of new case positivity (the percentage of all coronavirus tests performed that are actually positive) above 10%.

JULY 30-AUG 5					
County	County Population	Percent vaccinated (ages 12+)	Cases (new)	New case positivity	Cases per 100K
Citrus	151,314.00	54%	816	27.2%	539.3
Hernando	195,123.00	52%	1346	27.2%	689.8
Hillsborough	1,508,560.00	58%	8583	22.8%	569
Pasco	549,517.00	58%	6457	24.3%	619.5
Pinellas	992,298.00	61%	10608	18.0%	516.5

Every family is encouraged to speak to their primary care physician about the benefits and risks of vaccinations and other preventative measures to keep your family and others safe. In addition, parents are asked to err on the side of caution by keeping their children home from school and getting them tested if they are experiencing Covid-like symptoms. In general, symptoms of the Delta variant are the same as the symptoms of other Covid-19 strains: fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, temporary loss of taste or smell, flulike respiratory and digestive problems, muscle aches and fatigue.

As Catholic communities, we are called to help and support one another through our actions and prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,



Christopher L. Pastura  
 Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Centers  
 Diocese of St. Petersburg