



October 11, 2021

Dear parents and students,

As promised in our mid-August letter regarding Covid protocols, we have continued to monitor Covid conditions in the area. Though Covid is still with us, the rate of infection is one-fifth what it was in mid-August and is now at its lowest rate since early summer. We are also aware that some local school systems and area private schools have dropped the mask mandate, as have most of our churches and local businesses.

Given these rates and the availability of the vaccine for high school age children, **the three archdiocesan high schools**, with the approval of the Office of Catholic Schools, **will no longer require "masks" to begin the second quarter on October 18.** We strongly recommend, but do not require, that students who are not yet vaccinated, continue to wear masks. However, we will not ask students if they have been vaccinated or not, unless they are a close contact and we are trying to determine who must quarantine. Please note also:

- 1) We will continue with temperature checks in the morning;
- 2) We will continue to ask students to socially distance themselves by 3 feet or more while inside.
- 3) We will continue to do contact tracing for those who may be exposed to Covid at the school. Please note: without masks, indoor tracing expands to a 6 foot radius for unvaccinated students. Those who are vaccinated however, or who are wearing masks and separated by 3 feet or more indoors, will not be quarantined.
- 4) We ask that families continue to let us know about exposures in their families.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our students, teachers and coaches for soldiering through the mask mandates until now, in this, our third year! I believe our schools have been exemplary in prioritizing student safety, and I have been edified by the grace and spirit by which everyone has abided by these protocols. We will continue to monitor Covid and make adjustments along the way, including re-instituting masks, if necessary. But let's hope that won't happen!

With our Archbishop and our Archdiocese, I continue to ask that you prayerfully consider getting your child vaccinated if you have not done so.

Sincerely,

Faustin N. Weber
Principal