



**CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS**
DIOCESE OF RICHMOND

August 13, 2021

Dear School Administrators, Faculty, Staff, and Parents,

Following the Aug. 12, 2021, announcement by Virginia's State Health Commissioner, we are updating our policy on the wearing of masks indoors in our diocesan schools. The statewide public health emergency order requires the wearing of masks in K-12 schools when indoors regardless of vaccination status.

This Order was effective immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until the CDC guidelines for K-12 schools change, or unless this Order is sooner amended or rescinded.

- **Indoors:** Masks are required for all individuals aged 2 years and older, including students, teachers, staff, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.
- **Outdoors:** Masks do not need to be worn when outdoors.
- **School Buses:** Passengers and drivers are required to wear a mask on school buses.

Masking indoors and on buses is subject to the exclusions and exemptions allowed by the CDC, including but not limited to when eating, drinking, exercising, and playing musical instruments.

In keeping with our mask policy from this past school year, supervising teachers may permit students to remove their masks for limited periods of time, when appropriate physical distancing, students being at least 6 feet apart, is in place.

Any person with a medical condition that prohibits wearing a mask should contact the school nurse or principal for a medical accommodation form that will need to be completed and signed by a medical health care provider.

The previously given guidance of schools utilizing multiple layers of prevention strategies, everyone monitoring their health and staying home when sick, and our schools monitoring exposure and positive cases will remain in place.

We will continue to monitor all guidance from the CDC, VDH, and the Commonwealth of Virginia and notify you of any changes. We appreciate your ongoing support and patience during this continued time of uncertainty. We remain steadfast in our desire to provide the same excellent education our Catholic schools are known for, one that focuses on the academic, social, emotional, and spiritual growth of our students.

Yours in Christ,

Kelly M. Lazzara

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Superintendent of Schools