



Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School

611 Knowles Ave ∞ Southampton, Pennsylvania 18966
215-357-1300 ∞ www.school.olgc.org

February 10, 2022

Dear Our Lady of Good Counsel School Parents,

I write this letter to provide you with an update regarding our COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan and mitigation strategies. With the cooperation and collective efforts of each of you, we have been able to keep our students in school for in-person instruction, limit the number of quarantines, and keep our students and staff safe. At the beginning of January, we saw a high number of students and staff testing positive for COVID-19 and a number of students and staff needing to quarantine. Thankfully, we have recently seen a significant decline in isolation and quarantine numbers, and we have amended our mitigation strategies.

Beginning Manday, February 14th, Our Lady of Good Counsel School will transition to a mask optional policy with mask mitigation as a strategy to slow down any potential spread in school. We do not make this decision lightly, and we know that both those in favor of masks and those who strictly oppose masks will probably not agree with aspects of the plan. However, we believe this change and this plan is what is best for our students and school community. We make this decision based on our current case counts, past case counts, vaccination rates, and in consultation with the Bucks County Health Department, our Leadership Team, and the Office for Catholic Education. Our plan is outlined in detail on our school website and highlights are below.

While masks will be optional beginning February 14th, it is important to keep in mind that there are several situations where individuals will still be mandated to wear a mask in school. Below are some key points from our revised plan:

- We encourage staff and students who prefer to wear a mask to continue to wear a mask to their comfort level.
- Masks will be required to be worn:
 - If over a 5 day span, more than 8% of our school community has tested positive for Covid. In this case, our entire school will be required to wear masks. Masks would be required for 5 consecutive days (when in the building).

- If there are more than 2 cases in a homeroom over a period of 5 days, that homeroom will be required to wear masks for 5 days.
- To meet quarantine guidelines after returning due to testing positive. This would be after at least 5 days and no longer presenting any symptoms and to day 10 of symptom onset.
- To meet quarantine guidelines after a confirmed exposure for 5 - 10 days.
 - Household exposures are 10 days from isolation.
 - Exposures outside of the household have the option to test out at day 5 following the exposure.
- If the nurse or administration requires it due to the presence of any Covid symptoms.
 - The parent has the right to come pick up their child if they do not want them to wear a mask.
- Due to Federal Regulations, masking is still required on school buses.
- If you do not want your child to wear a mask in any of the above situations, you may choose to keep your child home. They will be considered absent and make up work as they would for any other absence. Synchronous or asynchronous instruction **will not** be provided.
- As we have over the last 18 months, we will continue to rely on our parents to move forward and keep our students in school.
 - We must continue to keep sick children at home.
 - We must report all positive Covid cases in a household to our school administration to ensure proper protocols are being followed.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate our next steps during the Covid-19 pandemic.

God's Peace,



Mrs. Barbara Riley
Principal