

UPDATE ON COVID-19 POLICY FOR THE PARISHES AND SCHOOLS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

There has been a reduction in the number of students and faculty quarantined after an exposure or isolated after a positive diagnosis in the schools of the Archdiocese and, in the community, a reduction in the number of COVID cases/100,000, new case positivity, hospital admissions, utilization of ICU beds and deaths. With the community achieving overall reduction in transmission of COVID-19, this provides an opportunity to relax some of the COVID-19 restrictions that have been in place for several months while focusing on improving the vaccination rates of those already eligible for the vaccine and the youngest cohort, 5-11 year olds, expected to be eligible for vaccination in the coming weeks.

With the hope that the improvement in COVID-19 statistics in the schools and the community will be sustained, the following changes are to be implemented, effective November 8, 2021, in the **elementary schools of the Archdiocese of Miami**.

In the schools of the Archdiocese, masks are optional indoors for fully vaccinated students and teachers in the 7th and 8th grades who have provided the DOH vaccination card to the school or for whom vaccination is confirmed via FL SHOTS database.

Masks are required indoors for all faculty, staff and students that are not yet fully vaccinated.

Masks continue for the present time to be required for fully vaccinated teachers of grade 6 and lower where children are not yet eligible for vaccination.

Masks are not required for children under 2 years of age.

Masks are optional for everyone outdoors.

Social distance indoors continues to be required (3' between students in the classroom only, 6' between students in any other setting, 6' between students and adults and between adults).

Quarantine of students or faculty who experience a close contact (as per the CDC definition) continues to require a 7-day quarantine and PCR testing for those not fully vaccinated as per the policy of the ADOM. Asymptomatic fully vaccinated students and faculty are not required to quarantine but must wear a mask indoors and PCR test on day 5 or 6 after exposure.

Isolation for students or faculty requires a minimum of ten days' isolation or until symptoms are resolved as per the policy of the ADOM.

Requirements of quarantine and/or testing following travel continue as per the ADOM policy.

Requirements of reporting exposures or diagnoses continue as per the ADOM policy.

Requirements of use of masks and social distancing defined above for students and faculty in the parish school is also applicable for any activity in the parish church.

Essential visitors and volunteers in the school are required to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status.

ADOM COVID protocol (Aug 15, 2021) remains in effect except for the changes outlined in this UPDATE.