

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

As of November 30, 2021, the statistics in our schools and in our community related to the risk of COVID-19 transmission have shown continued and sustained improvement. With the community achieving overall reduction in transmission of COVID-19, this provides an opportunity to further relax some of the COVID-19 restrictions that have been in place in our schools for several months while focusing on improving the vaccination rates of those now eligible for the vaccine.

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 30, 2021, in the **elementary schools of the Archdiocese of Miami**.

In the schools of the Archdiocese, masks are already 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. Effective November 15, 2021, any student fully vaccinated or with a PCR positive test within the last six (6) months can opt out of wearing a mask in school if the vaccination card is provided to the school or the positive PCR test result received within the last six (6) months is provided to the school.

The COVID-19 protocol of the Archdiocese strongly recommends, as per the CDC guidelines, that the unvaccinated continue to wear facial coverings/masks when indoors.

Masks continue to be required indoors for all faculty and staff who teach 6th grade and lower regardless of vaccination status. Masks are optional for everyone outdoors. Masks are not required for children under 2 years of age.

Effective November 30, 2021, with respect to students not yet fully vaccinated, in light of the reduction in transmission in the community, the ADOM will accept the decision of the student's parent or legal guardian to opt out of compliance with the policy to wear a mask indoors in the schools.

In order for the parent to communicate consent for the student to opt out of the policy recommending mask usage, a consent form is available on the website of the Archdiocese of Miami at https://www.miamiarch.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=Schools_Forms. The form needs to be completed and signed by parent/guardian and be provided to the school. It may be sent via email to an address designated by the child's school or sent by USPS or hand delivered to the School Office. The form must include the signature of the parent/guardian and is effective once provided to and received by the school.

The ADOM continues to monitor the community statistics, the advice of its physician advisors, the guidance of the CDC and County Departments of Health. As community transmission risk changes, the ADOM reserves the right to re-implement the requirement for mask usage in schools for those who are unvaccinated or for all persons regardless of vaccination status.

Social distance indoors should be maintained wherever possible:

- At least 3' between students in the classroom,
- 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. The quarantine protocol in the elementary classroom remains the "inner circle/outer circle" protocol.

- For unvaccinated students not wearing a mask, any student closer than 6' to a person who is contagious for longer than 15 minutes in a day is quarantined.
- For unvaccinated students regularly wearing a mask in the classroom any student closer than 3' from the contagious person for longer than 15 minutes is quarantined.
- Fully vaccinated students do not need to be quarantined following a close contact but must wear a mask indoors until a negative result is received from PCR test taken 3-5 days after exposure. A student who has recovered from a COVID infection within the last 6 months follows the protocol of the vaccinated student.

Anyone who has experienced a close contact (as defined by CDC) where transmission may have occurred, and subsequently develops symptoms is to be isolated for a minimum of 10 days for resolution of symptoms.

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

International travel	VACCINATED: No quarantine needed, PCR test day 3-5
Travel within FL	VACCINATED: No quarantine or testing needed
Travel outside FL but within US	VACCINATED: No quarantine or testing needed
International travel	UNVACCINATED: 7-day quarantine, PCR day 6
Travel within FL	UNVACCINATED: No quarantine or testing needed
Travel outside FL but within US	UNVACCINATED: no mandatory requirement; school may require 7-day quarantine, PCR day 6, depending on destination and activities during travel
Persons within 90 days of recovery from a COVID infection do not need to quarantine following return from international or US travel. However, they should monitor for symptoms and if symptomatic, isolate for the full 10 days or until symptoms resolve.	

- Requirements of reporting exposures or diagnoses continue as per the ADOM policy.
- Policy for use of masks and social distancing defined above for students and faculty in the elementary 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.