



Guidance for PARENTS Revised August 15, 2022

PARENT INFORMATION ON THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

This statement is an update to the Archdiocese of Miami (ADOM) COVID PROTOCOL and addresses a fully revised policy consistent with the most recent updated CDC guidelines.

MASK USAGE

In schools, parish offices and churches of the Archdiocese, MASKS ARE OPTIONAL with the exception of those completing EXPOSURE or ISOLATION PROTOCOLS when a well-fitting mask is required for 5 days following return to school. Mask usage is encouraged especially for those not vaccinated or immunocompromised, but remain the choice of the individual regardless of vaccination status.

On extended travel on a school or commercial bus, masks are required. Schools should inquire at the Office of Catholic Schools whether a particular trip requires mask usage. Compliance with local requirements is required.

REPORTING EXPOSURES OR INFECTIONS

Schools and parishes must continue to use the ADOM EXPOSURE/INFECTION FORM (single for for students and adults) to report exposure or diagnosed infections. Forms are to be sent to the Chancery with copy retained at the school.

RULES FOR DETERMINING CLOSE CONTACT

A CLOSE CONTACT is believed to be one in which transmission of the virus can occur from the infected person to other person(s). The protocol for determining a close contact is based on *distance from*, and *time with a contagious person* – and therefore the mandatory **EXPOSURE PROTOCOL** for the person depends on **ALL** of the following criteria:

1. **PROXIMITY** - Was the person within 6' of the infected (COVID positive) person **AND**
2. **DURATION** - Was the person that close (within 6' of the infected (COVID positive) person) in excess of 15 minutes, either for short periods or for continuous contact during a 24 hr period? **AND**
3. **CONTAGIOUS PERIOD** - Did the encounter in #1 and #2 (above) occur within 2 days prior to the onset of symptoms of a symptomatic patient or 2 days before the date the infected person tested positive or even after the infected person tested positive?

If the answer to #1, #2, and #3 are **ALL YES**, then there is a reasonable probability that the encounter was a CLOSE CONTACT and transmission of the virus may have occurred from the infected person to another person(s) who met those criteria. If so, the **EXPOSURE PROTOCOL** is required for the person exposed.

EXPOSURE PROTOCOL

ADOM EXPOSURE PROTOCOL summary

WEAR MASK FOR 5 DAYS + PCR

5 full days of wearing well-fitting mask required - then
Testing no sooner than day 5 -- PCR test required
Continue MASK until NEGATIVE results received
Monitor symptoms for 5 more days' of virus' 10 day incubation

IF ELECTING NOT TO TEST:

WEAR MASK FOR 10 DAYS

Wear well-fitting mask for 10 full days
No testing required



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WHEN EXPOSED PATIENT DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS (ISOLATION REQUIRED)

A patient who has experienced a close contact and, while wearing a mask and awaiting PCR testing on Day 5 (as per the EXPOSURE PROTOCOL), develops symptoms is then considered to be **POSITIVE**. The count for the minimum of five (5) days of isolation begins with the onset of symptoms counting as day zero (0) of the **ISOLATION PROTOCOL**.

ISOLATION PROTOCOL

A positive COVID diagnosis, whether the student is symptomatic or asymptomatic, requires isolation for a minimum of 5 full days. After 5 days, isolation can conclude if the infected student is without symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication. Even when the student ends isolation and returns to school, a well-fitting mask must be worn for five (5) days.

ADOM ISOLATION PROTOCOL *summary*

TESTED POSITIVE AND/OR SYMPTOMATIC
MINIMUM five (5) full days of ISOLATION required
Clearance to leave isolation only when all symptoms resolve
More than 5 days of isolation, if needed
Restoration of loss of taste/smell not required to leave isolation
NO TESTING to return to school/work
Return to school/work but wear well-fitting mask for 5 days
Children under 2 unable to wear mask, 10 days' isolation

Alternative to 5 days wearing a well-fitting mask following ISOLATION PROTOCOL:

- After the resolution of symptoms and after the minimum 5-days of isolation,
- Two (2) sequential **NEGATIVE** antigen tests (rapid, at-home) at least 48 hrs apart, mask may then be removed without completing the 5 day post symptom resolution requirement,
- Test results (dated photo of test results is sufficient) need to be shared with the school/parish for the student/employee to return without wearing a well-fitting mask following the ISOLATION PROTOCOL after a positive diagnosis.

VACCINATIONS AND VACCINATION STATUS

The CDC and health care professionals, local and national, continue to recommend vaccination for all eligible persons and for those eligible, a booster. The Archdiocese of Miami encourages vaccination as the best way to protect against serious illness from the COVID-19 virus and its variants. All are encouraged to get vaccinated unless a physician has documented a medical reason that prohibits vaccination.

TRAVEL

The CDC has not updated its travel guidelines as of Aug 15, 2022. Currently there are no testing or quarantine requirements for travel within the USA. There is no quarantine requirement upon return from travel for the fully vaccinated although a PCR test is required 3-5 days after return from **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL**. The unvaccinated, as of the Jun 13, 2022 guidelines, are required to quarantine 5 days and PCR test 3-5 days upon return. As quickly as CDC guidance is updated, the ADOM guidance will be updated as appropriate.

While the Archdiocese of Miami is grateful that the threat of COVID in the community has diminished, it will continue to monitor community statistics related to transmission and, with the guidance of public health professionals and physician advisors, adjust its protocol accordingly.

Based on amended ADOM Policy – COVID Mitigation Protocol, August 15, 2022