

DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN
SECRETARIAT OF EVANGELIZATION, EDUCATION & FORMATION
1425 Mountain Drive North
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December 15, 2021

Dear Diocesan Educational Community,

As I'm sure you know, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on Friday, December 10th vacated the state mask mandate in schools. This leaves the decision regarding masks in schools up to local districts. 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.

In my letter to our school communities on December 2nd, I communicated that our current mitigation strategies would remain in place until mid-January. I also stated that if there were any change in the mitigation strategies, the school communities would be informed. In accordance with our previously timeline, all Diocesan schools will continue to follow the health and safety protocols established on August 23rd including the mask requirement for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors in our schools until January 10, 2022.

On January 10, 2022, all Diocesan schools will transition to a mask-recommended policy. This timeline allows for a buffer between the Christmas break and our transition to a mask-recommended policy. It also allows additional time for students (whose parents choose) to get fully vaccinated and others to receive a COVID-19 booster. Other COVID-19 mitigation measures will remain in place such as social distancing, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting, handwashing, quarantine protocols when needed, and contact tracing.


While masks will be highly recommended in our schools beginning January 10th, it's important to keep in mind:

- Diocesan schools will continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for quarantine.
- Public (district) transportation still requires that all students wear a mask as part of a federal mandate.
- The Diocese cannot control the decisions of other governmental agencies, including decisions made by the local Intermediate Units. Masks may be required by certain Intermediate Units in order to receive support services.

Given that we remain in a global pandemic, if the situation changes and compromises our ability to keep our schools both safe and open, we will review and revise our mitigation strategies.

My prayerful best wishes to you and your families as we continue to journey through this season of Advent and await the birth of Our Savior.

Sincerely,



Philip J. Fromuth, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Catholic Education