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Dear Archdiocese of Baltimore Catholic School Parents & Guardians,

We continue to receive updated isolation and quarantine guidance from the local health departments in which our Catholic schools reside. This guidance has been used to determine the isolation and quarantine protocols for the Catholic schools within each jurisdiction.

On Thursday, January 6, 2022, we received *Interim K-12 School and Child Care COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Guidance* from the leadership of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). This guidance, which is subject to change, is tightly aligned to the recent changes in COVID-19 isolation and quarantine recommendations put forth by the CDC and extended to the K-12 schools and child care programs in the State of Maryland.

Specifically, the Maryland Department of Health has modified the time periods of isolation and quarantine for those impacted by COVID-19.

- *Isolation* is the period of time an individual who is either confirmed positive with COVID-19 due to testing or presumed to be positive for COVID-19 and must remain away from others, including not attending school.
- *Quarantine* is the period of time an individual must follow depending on the person's vaccination status and source of exposure to COVID-19.

Please see the attached detailed guidance from the MDH/MSDE memorandum.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore operates 40 schools across nine (9) jurisdictions in the State of Maryland and to better manage our schools' COVID-19 protocols and the communication of guidance to our parents and guardians, we will be adopting the MDH/MSDE guidance across all schools going forward.

Please note from our letter to you dated December 30, 2021, our home testing guidance remains and the MDH modified quarantine option of Test to Stay for non-vaccinated students requires that the student or staff exposure occurred in the school setting.

We ask for your continued due diligence in monitoring the health of your child(ren) daily before you send them to school. **Err on the side of caution and keep in communication with your school administration and nurse should there be any issues or questions about sending your child(ren) to school.**

Thank you again for your understanding and support as we work together to manage through the Omicron surge and keep our schools operational for the benefit of your children.

Yours in Christ,

Mr. James Sellinger
Chancellor of Education

Dr. Donna Hargens
Superintendent

Rise
ABOVE

Revised MDH Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

Persons Who Have Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 (Isolation)

All persons who test positive for COVID-19 or have suspected COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should complete isolation as follows:

- Stay home for at least 5 full days from the date of symptom onset if symptomatic or the date of the positive test if no symptoms, whichever occurs first.
 - Day 1 is considered the first full day after symptoms started in symptomatic persons or the date the positive COVID-19 test was administered.
- After Day 5, if the person has no symptoms or if symptoms are improved and they have no fever for at least 24 hours without medication, they may return to school or child care. Those returning from isolation must wear a well-fitting mask when around others* for an additional 5 days.
- If the person is unable to wear a mask around others, they should remain at home for a full 10 days.

Persons Who Are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)

The following recommendations apply to:

- Adults 18 years and older who have been boosted OR completed the primary series of Pfizer within the last 5 months or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months AND they have no symptoms;
- Children 5-17 years old who have completed the Pfizer vaccine series as recommended AND they have no symptoms; and
- Persons who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (i.e. tested positive using a viral test).

1. These persons do not need to quarantine after exposure but should:

- Wear a well-fitting mask around others* for 10 days after the last close contact with the person with COVID-19 (Day 1 is considered the first full day after the date of last close contact)
- Get tested at least 5 days after the last close contact (persons who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days do not need to test).
 - If the person tests positive or develops symptoms they should stay home and follow recommendations for isolation above.
 - If the person tests negative or is unable to get a test, they should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others* for 10 days after the last close contact.

2. The following recommendations apply to:

- Persons of all ages who are unvaccinated; and
- Adults 18 years and older who have completed the primary series of Pfizer vaccine over 5 months ago or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted OR completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not Boosted.
- These persons should quarantine after exposure as follows:
- Stay home for at least 5 days after the last close contact with the person with COVID-19 (Day 1 is considered the first full day after the date of last close contact)
- If no symptoms, get tested at least 5 days after the last close contact.
 - If the person tests negative, they may return to school or child care IF they wear a well-fitting mask when around others* until 10 days after their last close contact;
 - If the person tests positive, they should follow the recommendations for isolation above;
 - If the person is unable to get a test, they may return to school or child care after Day 5 IF they wear a well-fitting mask when around others* until 10 days after their last close contact.
- If the person develops symptoms they should get tested immediately and remain at home; if the test is positive, they should follow the recommendations for isolation above.
- If the person is unable to mask around others, they should remain at home for 10 days from the date of last close contact.

*NOTE: For people who are returning either from isolation (after a positive COVID-19 test) or quarantine (after exposure), the recommendation is that masks may be removed only when eating and during naptime. Unmasked time should be minimized and physical distancing and ventilation maximized during these times. People should not be participating in any other activities unmasked.