



Catholic Diocese of Saginaw

9/28/20

Dear Catholic School Families,

On Friday, September 25, 2020, Governor Whitmer issued [Executive Order 2020-185](#). This order will impact mask use during the school day when a school is operating in Phase 4 of the MI Safe Start Plan. The order also requires schools to report positive cases of COVID-19.

Effective October 5, the order requires that students in kindergarten through 5th grade wear a mask in school, except when eating or drinking. A previous executive order only required masks in common areas for kindergarten through 5th grade. Barring any changes to this order, students in kindergarten through 5th grade that are able to tolerate a mask, should be prepared to wear a mask in the classroom beginning no later than October 5.

Executive Order 2020-185 also requires schools to “publish information about any cases of a probable or confirmed COVID-19 individual present on school property or at a school function during the period of infection.” I am awaiting specific instructions from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services as to how schools can meet this requirement. At the current time, communication related to COVID cases in our schools is clearly established in the [Diocese of Saginaw, Catholic Schools, COVID-19 protocol](#):

- What happens if another student or staff member in my child’s class/activity tests positive for COVID-19?
 - School will contact appropriate students and staff to inform them of a positive case.
 - In all COVID-19 positive cases, schools will consult with the county health department for the next steps related to contact tracing, need for others to be tested and/or quarantined, as well as the impact on the operation of the school.
 - A classroom, portion of a building, entire building and/or activity could be shut down due to a positive test(s). Response may vary based on social distancing and level of cohorting that is in place.

Many of our schools have exceeded this expectation and have communicated with families in the event that a student or staff member has been in close contact with a known positive case.

Building principals will provide more specific information as to how this executive order will impact your child’s classroom experience. Thank you for your continued support of the measures that will allow us to continue to provide in-person instruction.

Respectfully,

Cormac Lynn

Superintendent of School

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