



Very Reverend Daniel B. Carson

Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

Dear Brother in Christ,

I write today to provide you with updates and will continue to share with you information as needed.

Use of Masks in Archdiocesan Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs

From the Secretary for Catholic Schools:

The letter linked [here](#) and the Parent Safety Information Sheet linked [here](#) were sent to the parents/guardians of Archdiocesan Catholic School students yesterday.

If you have any questions, you may reach out to Chris Buchleitner, Assistant Superintendent for School Operations and Student Services at buchleitnerc@adw.org.

From the Director of Catechesis, regarding Religious Education:

The following information was sent to Parish Religious Education leaders yesterday:

I share with you important COVID-19 information communicated earlier today by the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Washington to school communities.

Due to the rise of COVID-19 cases, both locally and across the country, including the increasing number of cases from the Delta variant breakthrough cases in the fully vaccinated, we must require that all adults and children wear masks inside all Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) school buildings, regardless of vaccination status, until further notice. This is certainly disappointing, but it is an important strategy to keep students and staff safe. Our decision is based upon the prevailing guidance from health experts, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), state and local health officials, and our consulting experts, all of which

have recommended universal indoor masking in schools, regardless of vaccination status. Our mask protocols are listed below:

- Universal masking indoors for everyone age 2 and over, regardless of vaccination status
- Masks are not required outdoors
- Ventilation should be increased throughout school buildings as much as possible

Parish religious education programs are required to abide by the same universal masking mandates for all students and volunteers. We continue to work closely with local health departments. In the event of a COVID-19 exposure, parish leaders should follow health department guidance and directives for quarantine and isolation.

Should you have any questions, you may reach out to Sara Blauvelt at blauvelts@adw.org.

Remind the Faithful of Information on the Website

The archdiocesan website is updated regularly. Please see adw.org/coronavirus for information related to the coronavirus, adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/ for a listing of live stream Masses and prayers, and cathstan.org and elpreg.org for the *Catholic Standard* and the Spanish-language *El Pregonero* newspapers.

As always, should you have questions or need assistance from my office and the Pastoral Center, please let us know.

With gratitude for your priestly ministry, I am
Sincerely in Christ,
Very Reverend Daniel B. Carson
Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia