



Moderator of the Curia

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

Dear Brother in Christ,

As you know, I try not to email our priests with updates on Fridays but with the recent announcement of the United States Supreme Court, I feel it is important to send this information to you today.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) COVID-19 Vaccine and Testing Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) Enforcement Blocked

On January 6th, we shared with you that the Archdiocese was implementing a vaccine and testing policy to meet OSHA's January 10th ETS compliance deadline, and that we were monitoring an emergency appeal filed in the Supreme Court. Yesterday, the Supreme Court ruled that the OSHA ETS was unlawful and blocked its enforcement nationwide.

Therefore, the *Vaccination, Testing, and Face Covering Policy for Employees of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington* that was published on January 6th, as required by the ETS, is rescinded due to the Court's ruling. Locations do not need to implement the mandatory staff testing programs as set forth in the policy.

Please note that our schools in the District of Columbia should continue to test unvaccinated staff per the Mayor's local order. In addition, schools may also choose to implement their own voluntary testing programs for staff and students. This week, the Catholic Schools Office has distributed information to principals about a free COVID-19 testing program for Maryland schools offered by the State, and a summary information sheet on the Maryland program is linked here.

Finally, we continue to strongly encourage all employees to get vaccinated, and vaccinated employees must submit proof of vaccination to the designated human resources representative at their location. This information will be kept confidential and maintained in the employee's confidential health file.

Other Updated COVID-19 Protocols Still in Effect

The other COVID-19 policy updates shared in our January 6th update remain in effect:

- **New CDC Return to Work Guidance:** The CDC has issued new guidance on when employees can return to work following a COVID-19 positive case or exposure, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>. The CDC now allows employees who tested positive to return to work if their symptoms have resolved after 5 days in isolation (reduced from 10 days).
- **Updated COVID-19 Illness Policy:** The Archdiocese has updated its *COVID-19 Illness Policy*, linked **here**, to implement the new CDC return to work guidance. Effective January 6th, vaccinated employees are recommended to obtain a negative rapid test, and unvaccinated employees must obtain a negative rapid test, in order to return to work after 5 days.
- **Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Leave Policy:** The Archdiocese has also updated our *Covid-19 Vaccine Leave Policy*, linked **here**, effective January 6th, which includes a new leave benefit for employees to get their children vaccinated.
- Should you have any questions about this guidance, please email archdiocesehr@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