



Mary of Nazareth Catholic School

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



September 22, 2021

Dear Parents,

Thank you for working in partnership as we navigate COVID with over 500 students, faculty and staff on a daily basis. This requires patience, cooperation, and follow through from all stakeholders. We understand how challenging this has been for every family, because it is also extremely challenging for us. We are an educational institution first and learning and adjusting to the implications of COVID in real time. This includes:

- Our faculty, staff and administration are all following proper guidelines and we understand by doing so it may be inconvenient for families. As we communicate, we ask everyone to remain civil and respectful.
- If our Reopening Plan does not explicitly state or outline a required protocol, that does not mean you don't have to comply with a school COVID directive. Every case is handled on a case by case basis in accordance with current guidelines and health department guidance, which are changing daily.
- We are required to maintain confidentiality and to ensure we do not violate HIPAA laws. Mary of Nazareth School cannot control what students text one another or what adults choose to put on social media. Please monitor your children's use of technology and use common sense when deciding whether or not to post something about COVID cases at MoN. Please be responsible and considerate.
- Please be diligent about COVID protocols over the weekend. The number of close contacts from activities outside of school we have had to manage thus far outnumber the number of close contacts from in-school cases.
- The timing and onset of symptoms in the cases we have managed at school have gratefully limited the number of close contacts who have been required to quarantine.
- Mary of Nazareth School is tracking a significant amount of data to ensure we are proactive. Parents who convey a COVID exposure and or positive result are required to fill out this form [HERE](#).
- If your child is going to be absent from school, it is imperative that you call the front office and report them absent in addition to emailing the homeroom teacher.
- If your child is showing any signs of COVID, the school will follow ADW, Montgomery County Health Department and CDC protocol.
 - Symptoms include any one of the following: A fever of 100.4 or higher, a sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache (especially with fever), or new loss of taste or smell.
- If the school is notified of a positive COVID test, the administrative team will identify close contacts, send an email to the parents of the homeroom affected, contact the teachers involved and speak directly to parents of close contacts. We will also contact the Health Department to give them the name of the student who tested positive and the names of close contacts. The Health Department will then speak directly to those families with further steps. The staff is notified of a positive case but not the specifics of which room unless they are directly affected.

- If you do not hear from the Montgomery County Health Department we can provide limited guidance with regards to quarantining from school, CYO Activities and school sponsored events.
- If more than one homeroom is impacted by a COVID exposure, parents from all homerooms will be contacted.
- If a student has COVID symptoms, in order to return to school, we will need proof of either a negative PCR COVID test or a health care provider documenting that symptoms are due to a specific alternate diagnosis. If there was a known exposure, the student may return when quarantine is completed according to Maryland Department of Health and local guidance.
 - Please see Decision Aid [HERE](#) that outlines the Return for Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Persons with COVID-19-like Illness in Schools, Child Care Programs, and Youth Camps
 - In the case of a student experiencing COVID symptoms, we ask that you keep siblings home until COVID is ruled out.
- The Health Questionnaire is required by the ADW and needs to be completed for every child by 8am.
 - Questionnaires that are not completed require us to put students in isolation until their parents return to take their temperature. This began this week per the email sent on 09/20/2021
- All volunteers and substitutes are required to complete [this health check](#) prior to entering the building. There is a QR code in the front lobby to access this health check for your convenience.

Again, we understand there is a learning curve for everyone. Thank you for your assistance as we work in partnership to facilitate a healthy and safe environment here at school. On a positive note, we have created the structure to ensure everyone can be in school to learn, thrive, and grow.

Sincerely,



Michale Friel
Principal and CEO
Mary of Nazareth School