



November 14, 2020

Dear Administrators, Faculty, Staff, Parents and Students,

Late yesterday afternoon, Governor Northam announced **new statewide measures** to help contain COVID-19. These measures include limitations on *social gatherings* larger than 25 people and face coverings being required for all people over the age of 5.

Our schools WILL remain open! It is stated in Amended Executive Order 67 that “the presence of more than 25 individuals performing functions of their employment or assembled in an educational instructional setting is not a “gathering”. Our schools will resume in-person instruction five days a week on Monday.

In our schools, all adults and students of all ages have been wearing face coverings based on our face mask policy that was implemented in August 2020. We are already in full compliance of Amended Executive Order 63, which states all individuals over the age of 5 are required to wear face coverings. All our students will continue to wear face coverings as they have been regardless of age since we returned to school.

I am incredibly proud of our entire diocesan school community for adhering to the health mitigation plans our schools have put in place and have allowed us to continue to provide in-person instruction. I know that it has not been easy, and I am grateful for your support and commitment to these policies and procedures. As the holidays are approaching, I ask that you be mindful of these new statewide guidelines for VA and wherever your travels may take you. Please continue to carefully monitor yourselves for any symptoms of COVID-19 and do not come to school if you are not feeling well. This abundance of care and caution is for the health and well-being of our entire school community and our greater community as well.

The Office of Catholic Schools will continue to review these new measures and consult with diocesan leadership, the Virginia Council for Private Education, and your school administrators to make sure you are all fully informed.

Let us continue to pray for all those affected by COVID-19 and those that care for them.

Yours in Christ,

Kelly M. Lazzara

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Superintendent of Schools