



PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Michelle A. Peduto
Director of Catholic Schools
Diocese of Pittsburgh
mpeduto@diopitt.org
Office: (412) 456-3090
Cell: (412) 400-6257

February 15, 2022

Dear Catholic School Community,

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged our schools since March 13, 2020. We had the initial lockdown until June 2020. We charged ahead with in person instruction for the 2020-21 school year, as we continued to take every precaution in order to keep our students on an engaging instructional path. Our good work continued this year with protocols designed to limit quarantines and deliver in class instruction. Our teachers and administrators are to be commended for their continuing dedication and commitment! The next step in this journey is the reason for this communication today.

Today I write to share that the Diocese of Pittsburgh is updating the COVID -19 protocols for our schools and parishes:

Beginning in parishes on Saturday, February 26 and in diocesan schools on Monday, February 28, masks will not be required, except in limited circumstances.

For schools, limited circumstances include current quarantine protocols.

This applies to all students and staff in diocesan elementary schools and high schools, to everyone involved in diocesan faith formation programs, and to clergy and parishioners during Mass and other activities. **Masking will continue on school buses**, as required by federal law. Masks will also be required for anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, for five days after their return to work or school.

It is my prayer that with better masks for those who want them, available vaccines, and improved medical intervention we find ourselves in a much better place. For more than two years, we have worked **together** diligently to protect our students, each other, and our community from COVID-19. We thank God that local infections have dropped and pray that our anticipated adjustments will be the first of many steps toward resuming ways of worship and learning that we have all missed so much.

God bless,

Michelle A. Peduto