



# DIOCESE OF COLORADO SPRINGS

## OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents,

As the positive cases of COVID 19 continue to escalate, we need your help. If you or someone in your household is sick or concerned enough to get a COVID test, please keep your child/ren home until you receive your test results. Inform the school that someone in your family is being tested and request for your child/ren to move to online learning until results are received. This practice could help prevent the need to quarantine an entire cohort. We are all working hard to keep our students safe, and our schools open for in-person learning.

In all our Catholic schools we have had three teachers and two students test positive and two presumed positive cases (in close contact with positive case and showing symptoms). Currently, there are three cohorts/classes in quarantine among all our Catholic schools. To clarify, an outbreak is defined as two or more positive cases in one cohort where individuals are not related. To date there have been two confirmed outbreaks. One is resolved (students are back, off quarantine, and no new cases) and one is active. Our transmission rate is less than 1%. Most of our cases that result in a quarantine are coming from parents or family members who test positive so students need to quarantine. This can be contained to one family if you keep your kids home in the event they don't feel well or if someone in your family is getting tested. School is a safe place for your children to be because we follow the guidelines of wearing masks, distancing, washing hands, and disinfecting frequently.

I believe that one of the gifts of a Catholic school is the faith community that is formed by those families who attend. In the graduation speeches given each year we hear eighth grade students declare that their school has become like a "second family/home." Please care about your extended family by following state mandates and guidelines.

As the big districts around us begin to discontinue in-person learning, I am praying that we have an edge to stay open because our families truly care about those in their "second family" and are willing to make a few sacrifices to keep everyone safe and our schools open.

Thank you for your support, and please pray God continues to bless our efforts!

Holly Goodwin  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Diocese of Colorado Springs