



DIOCESE OF COLORADO SPRINGS

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Dear Parents/Guardians of the Catholic schools of El Paso County:

With the promise of transparency and following the data, I would like to update you on what is happening with COVID. The numbers of positive cases in both El Paso and Douglas County continue to rise. The number of positive cases now are equivalent to what we saw at the height of the spring. On Sept 10th, we saw a high of 414 cases in El Paso County. Those under 17 averaged 29% of positive cases in El Paso County from Sept 1st through Sept 13th. During this same time frame, those under 17 make up 6% of the hospitalization (N=10). Last September they made up 17% of all cases.

The adult ICU's at the local hospitals are full and elective surgeries are being rescheduled. Although we are still not seeing hospitalizations in children like they are in other states, I would like to reiterate that I strongly recommend that you vaccinate your child if they are eligible and I strongly recommend that children wear masks in school. Many public schools are having to quarantine whole classrooms because students are not wearing masks in school. Currently, the local health department will NOT recommend quarantine if students are masked or vaccinated. This is a short-term answer for keeping our kids in school.

If your child is wearing a mask, please make sure it fits snugly over their nose and mouth. If they wear a cloth mask, please wash daily. If disposable, please use a new one daily. See website below for more information.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

Please feel free to email me with any questions you may have.

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