



September 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Today marks two weeks since September 1 when our parish and diocesan elementary and secondary schools reopened. We are pleased to report that among the 5980 students in the 19 schools, only eight (8) COVID-positive cases have been reported. These eight cases have been in both elementary and secondary schools. The Start-of-School plans of the Diocese and the schools, the preparations by school administrators, the attentiveness of teachers and staff to implementing school plans, and the cooperation of families at home have all led to our success at this time.

While we are grateful to all involved, and encouraged by our initial success, we must remain diligent to the four prescriptive practices that fight the spread of COVID.

- 1. Wear a mask at all times.**
- 2. Practice social distancing in the school building and on school grounds**
- 3. Wash (sanitize) hands regularly throughout the day.**
- 4. Screen students and school personnel prior to their arrival at school each day.**

Keeping these practices in the forefront of our decisions and actions will protect all of us.

Our current school arrangement (in-person, hybrid, and virtual) will remain in place in schools through Monday, October 12. A second learning cycle will be announced by the start of October. This learning cycle (October 13-November 24) will be based upon the directives of the state governments of Delaware and Maryland, recommendations from the Division (Department) of Public Health in each state, research from appropriate sources, and leadership from the Start-of-School Task Force for the Diocese of Wilmington.

You should also know that although there is no quarantine in effect for those travelling into Delaware or Maryland from another state, your school may recommend or even require that those students and their families be tested before returning to school after a trip out of state and/or have them participate in virtual learning for 14 days following their return.

Thank you for all you continue to do to keep your children and our school personnel safe and healthy. Our school personnel pledges to do the same for you. You remain in our prayers as we seek the intercession of Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, on her feast day today for an end to this pandemic.

Sincerely,

*Louis P. De Angelo*

Louis P. De Angelo, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools