



Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Schools: Preparing Scholars, Leaders, & Saints

Covid-19 Protocol Update

“Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!”

- Saint Josephine Bakhita

February 15, 2022

Dear Catholic School Families,

Greetings! Last week we celebrated the Feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita – an enslaved woman from Sudan who traveled to Italy, became a Christian, and sued for her freedom. What a difference time can make! Just a few weeks ago, several of our Catholic schools had to close due to Covid-related personnel issues. More recently, our own case counts, as well as those for 5-17 year-olds in our area, have dropped significantly – while the number of people in our communities that have now recovered from Covid-19 is at an all-time high. In addition, we are encouraged by the relatively less serious effect the omicron variant has had on school-aged children, the wide availability of vaccines for those who desire them, and more accessible Covid-19 testing.

The Diocese of Knoxville Catholic Schools remains committed to keeping our communities safe, keeping our schools open, and keeping our parents informed so that they can make choices for their families. At this time, the following updates to our Covid-19 Mitigation Policies will go into effect:

- 1) Parents continue to have the option to send their children to school wearing masks.
- 2) Parents will continue to notify schools of positive test results in their families; keep symptomatic children home from school, and seek Covid-19 testing for symptomatic family members.
- 3) Schools will continue to send community-wide notifications of positive cases by class/grade level, and, when possible, will notify parents of close contacts.
- 4) Students identified as close contacts will not have to quarantine unless they develop symptoms.

As always, these protocols are subject to change as the situation warrants. We thank you for partnering with us in leading our youth to become Scholars, Leaders, and Saints!

God bless,

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Updated Quarantine Protocol As of February 8, 2022

School parents and staff will report any positive Covid-19 cases in their families and abide by the guidance provided by the school in regards to isolation, quarantines, and masking. Schools will continue to notify their communities of positive cases by grade level. Our goal is to keep our communities safe while keeping our schools open.

