



December 7, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I want to inform you that an LAC student who was last in our school building on Friday, December 4th, has tested positive for COVID-19. This student is now self-isolating. We share this news in our effort to be fully transparent with you and compliant with protocols from the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Because we are living in a pandemic, we anticipate that we will have individuals test positive at times. We care about all of you, and our primary goal is to keep our faculty, staff, and students healthy and whole in body and spirit.

Upon learning of this news, we have been in contact with the Mason County Health Department and because it was determined that there were close contacts (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period) in the two days prior to the individual developing symptoms or getting tested, we have been instructed that these students will need to quarantine. We are following their protocols for assisting with contact tracing. As a proactive measure, we have called the parents of students determined to be close contacts (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period) with the student in the two days prior to developing symptoms or getting tested. The Mason County Health Department has been provided with a list of close contacts and will contact the parents of those students with further directions, including the requirement to self-quarantine for a 10-day period. The new CDC/health department guidelines call for a full 10 day quarantine and if students do not present with signs/symptoms of Covid, they may return on day 11 (December 15th).

These students will now switch to our remote learning model. The teacher will contact those families with the plan. We understand that some of you would like more information; however, in compliance with HIPAA and FERPA laws we cannot disclose detailed information that may expose personally identifiable information.

Following this individual's most recent presence in the school building, the school was cleaned and sanitized according to our procedures, which follow current [CDC guidance](#).

This news should reinforce our vigilance of wearing facial coverings in school and following all requirements of our return to school plan, [Living Our Mission in Today's Reality](#), including staying home if you are sick, maintaining proper social distancing, and washing your hands regularly. All students, faculty, and staff should continue to follow these safety guidelines.

As a precaution, continue to monitor your children for symptoms and contact their physician if they become ill. A link to the CDC's informational page regarding COVID-19 may be found here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

The Mason County Health Department is an essential partner in our work to provide the safest environment possible for our school community, and we are grateful for their guidance and for your continued trust. We will continue to provide timely communication and welcome your questions or concerns. Let us continue to pray for all those with COVID-19 and for each other!

In Christ's Work,

Mrs. Jan Bigalke

Mrs. Bigalke, RN, BS, MEd
Principal