



# OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

## ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

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MR. MICHAEL J. DEEGAN, SUPERINTENDENT

November 2, 2020  
Feast of All Souls Day

Dear Catholic School Families,

I hope your family enjoyed a fun and safe Halloween weekend. Last week you received a comprehensive email with reminders about the protocols set in place, which are crucial to continued safe operation of our schools during the COVID public health crisis. Along with the [updated daily checklist](#) and a link to the revised [New York State COVID Toolkit](#), we also addressed Governor Cuomo's travel advisory, which was modified over this past weekend.

*\*Almost without exception, any positive COVID cases associated with our school communities have been related to after school activities, sports and social gatherings. Given many of you are making decisions about Thanksgiving travel right now, we felt it important to deliver the following information as soon as possible so you can make the right choices to keep your families and our schools as safe and healthy as possible.*

The new protocol, effective **Wednesday, November 4**, provides residents traveling outside of the states bordering New York the option of quarantining for 14 days, **or** they may choose to *test-out* of that otherwise mandatory isolation by following these guidelines:

**For travelers who were in another state for more than 24 hours:**

- Travelers must obtain a test within three days of departure from that state.
- The traveler must, upon arrival in New York, quarantine for three days.
- On day four of their quarantine, the traveler must obtain another COVID test. If both tests come back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of the second negative diagnostic test.

**For travelers who were in another state for less than 24 hours:**

- The traveler does not need a test prior to their departure from the other state and does not need to quarantine upon arrival in New York State.
- However, the traveler must fill out the traveler information form upon entry into New York State and take a COVID diagnostic test four days after their arrival in New York.

**If your family travels as outlined by the governor's executive order, your child will need to receive a note of medical clearance and two negative PCR COVID tests to return to school. The Office of the Superintendent of Schools does not accept rapid tests for school return. You will be required to provide full medical documentation.**

Local health departments will validate tests, if necessary, and if a test comes back positive, will issue isolation orders and initiate contact tracing. The local health department must make contact with the state the traveler came from, to ensure contact tracing proceeds there as well. All travelers must continue to complete the traveler information form upon arrival into New York State to contribute to New York State's robust contact tracing program.

The ability to keep our homes and schools safe rests in our hands. Thank you for your partnership in doing exactly that by making responsible decisions and good choices as the holidays approach.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael J. Deegan  
Superintendent of Schools  
Archdiocese of New York