



**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

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Dear Parents,

As many of you know, our CSO plan to bring our students back to school was based on several foundational principles. One of those was an enhanced partnership with our parents. Key to this was the enhanced monitoring of the health of the students prior to coming to school. This has been tremendously effective and is key to the extremely low rate of COVID in our schools.

During the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, we will rely on that partnership even more, particularly as it pertains to travel. We understand that some families need to quarantine prior to travel to visit aging or compromised family members. To facilitate this, we have virtual learning available during this period to make it easier for you. Please communicate with your teacher and administration to facilitate this transition. Also, please understand that if your child/our student travels to a state or location listed on the PA quarantine list they do need to quarantine and learn from home for 14 days following your return.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

A negative test does not allow for a return from quarantine. If the destination is added to the state list while you are there, even if it was not on the list prior to travel, students would still need to quarantine. If this is in your plans, please let your teacher and administration know and plan to pick up all materials prior to your travel.

Another area of concern in which we need your help relates to keeping your child at home if a member of the family has been exposed to COVID. Moving your child to virtual learning in this situation, can prevent the unnecessary quarantine of other students and provide a safer environment for all.

Traveling to spend time with families is an important activity and one that we value. However, it requires additional planning during the pandemic times to ensure the safety of all those that travel and those that remain at home.

Yours in Christ

Andrew M. McLaughlin