

Dear St. Cecilia School Parents,

As we experience the latest surge of COVID-19, I thought that I should update you about a few things. I know that some schools in the area have gone all-virtual for the next two weeks. Our neighboring Montgomery County already did the same. We are doing our best to stay open, but we also want to make sure that health and safety are the highest priority.

We know that many of our families have had members who have tested positive. You have been honest with us and have kept your children home. You have been open to us telling you the date your children can safely return. We have spoken to the Philadelphia Department of Health when we had questions and they have been so helpful. Let me share some information that might be helpful to you as well.

- To determine how long a quarantine must last for a student, we count 14 days from the positive test of a close contact. If a student tests positive, then the student may return after 10 days, symptom free, and fever free.
- If a student tests positive, we would need to determine if anyone else could be infected. The infectious period would be considered the three days before symptoms appear. Parents, it is important to keep track of this information.
- To determine if cohort and/or teachers need to quarantine, we would count three days before the symptoms appear
- If multiple members of a family are COVID-19 positive, students would have to quarantine for 14 days after the last positive test.

We have had students test positive. We have not had to quarantine a cohort because the students were not in school during the infectious period. They were already being quarantined at home. No faculty or staff member has tested positive.

It is so important to be honest and to keep us informed. I ask you to email me or call the office to let us know if a family member tested positive, if a student has come in close contact with someone who has tested positive, or if a student has tested positive. We want to continue to keep everyone as safe and as healthy as possible.

It is also important to stop rumors. If you have questions, please call me. I will be as honest as possible with you, but I will also protect the privacy of our faculty, staff, parents, and students.

Let us continue to pray for each other, for our families, and for all who are suffering from COVID-19.

God bless you,
Sister Catherine Irene, IHM