



To our Partnered Diocesan Schools and Families:

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays approach, we are thankful for the part that each of you has taken in helping the school to remain safe and open, but also reminded of the increased risks of COVID-19 transmission at gatherings and by traveling this holiday season. All of our joint efforts to protect the school community have only been effective because of school-wide adherence to protocols. The interconnected risks of COVID-19 necessitate continued and unified effort to stop the spread of this disease, especially around the holidays.

Please remember, that all non-essential travel and gatherings are still prohibited in New York State and advised against by the CDC. While we strongly discourage any travel and gatherings as the holidays approach, please exercise extreme caution and continue to follow all COVID-19 protocols while away from school if you do intend to travel.

While we encourage anyone traveling away from home to exercise enormous caution and judgment, we are now also updating our travel policies to reflect New York State Executive Order 205.2, which went into effect on November 4, 2020. If you wish to return to school after traveling to any state that is not contiguous with New York State prior to the end of a 14-day quarantine period, you will be required to:

- Obtain a negative COVID test within 72 hours of departing the state you traveled to.
- Fill out the NYS Traveler Health Form, available at <https://forms.ny.gov/s3/Welcome-to-New-York-State-Traveler-Health-Form>
- Quarantine upon returning to New York and receive a negative COVID test on day 4 of your quarantine in New York.
- Experience no signs or symptoms of illness prior to returning.

Additionally, pursuant to the updated guidance issued by the NYSDOH regarding returning to New York following out of state travel totaling less than 24 hours: you must fill out the NYS Traveler Health Form and receive a COVID test on your fourth day after arriving back in New York, but are not required to undergo a 14-day quarantine, so long as your results are negative.

While the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are a time for family, faith, and celebration, please remember how important it is to keep our schools safe for everyone. Thank you for everything you have all done so far and for your continued adherence to your school's COVID-19 policies.

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