



**February 10, 2021**

Dear St. Stephen families,

With Winter Break and Easter Break fast approaching, I thought I would address some of the travel protocols. I made a revision to the amount of time to stay home, ten days as opposed to fourteen, after Christmas. Since that time, the office has been scouring the Center for Disease Control, Michigan Department of Education, Wayne RESA, and Wayne County Health Department websites for any changes in protocol.

Here is what we found according to the CDC as of January 26, 2021, pertaining to international travel: the order states that travelers coming in from a foreign country should quarantine for 7-days (even with a negative test) upon return to the U.S. Pertaining to domestic travel: there are currently no CDC orders or mandates, but they would like one to “consider not to travel” and “consider not to participate in non-essential activities” for 7-days upon return.

We are not going to mandate anything more than what the CDC recommends. In fact, the only request that we will make is that if you do travel out of the country, please follow what the CDC suggests. As far as domestic travel, the CDC has no mandates, nor does anyone else. I will ask that you continue to communicate with us and keep your children home if they are not well. Now that vaccines are becoming available, and there are no mandates to quarantine after domestic travel, I believe the quarantine of fourteen, ten, or seven days are not necessary. Unless, of course, you think that you came in contact or were exposed to COVID.

The goal posts keep moving. The protocols of the various agencies are as clear as mud. While I would like to err on the side of caution, it is time for common sense. We still want to keep our school open, and we need your cooperation. Please remember to keep us informed, as you have been, and we will continue to keep cleaning, disinfecting and social distancing. Be vigilant and stay healthy!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Christine Vaughan