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| **ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL** **COVID-19 UPDATE FOR THE FALL OF 2021** |

Lifting the Covid Protocols for the coming fall.

Last year was difficult for everyone. It should be no surprise that we are excited to return to a greater sense of normalcy in the fall at St. Mary Catholic School. A couple of weeks ago, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services issued recommendations for the COVID protocols for schools. Father Dan and I believe it is important to inform all of you of our intentions and decision around such protocols at St. Mary.

* Given the health trends within Livingston County (and the state of Michigan as a whole), we are not planning to enforce masks, social distancing, or grade-level cohorts in the fall. If you choose to have your child wear a mask, that will be optional at your own discretion.
* We will also not be requiring vaccinations or documentation of COVID-19 vaccinations of our students. The decision to get a vaccine or not for your children is a very personal decision that cannot be taken from you the parents.
* We will also not be participating in the State of Michigan “Health of the Whole Child Program,” which requires frequent COVID testing of all students. We will continue to recommend reasonable health and safety measures such as staying home if your child feels ill and reporting test results to our school office of any communicable diseases. We will also continue to recommend getting your child tested for COVID-19 if he/she is exhibiting symptoms.
* We will also no longer require daily health screening for students before school: temperature checks.

If COVID data changes significantly in the fall, the Advisory Team of the COVID Task Force will prudently reassess the situation and communicate any necessary changes. Unless anything changes significantly, we will stick with these decisions.

Peace,

Veronica Kinsey

**Mission Statement: We partner with parents providing a Catholic school rooted in the gospel teachings of Jesus Christ, modeled by Mary our mother, encouraging a virtuous life following the Catholic faith and pursuing academic excellence.**