



**COVID-19 MITIGATION PROTOCOL AND REPORTING FOR  
PARISHES AND SCHOOLS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI**  
*(Revision August 16, 2021)*

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**DEFINITIONS**

- ✓ **Fully vaccinated:** Persons are **FULLY VACCINATED** beginning *two weeks after the final shot* in their vaccination protocol (for example, 2 weeks after the 2<sup>nd</sup> shot for Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or 2 weeks after the only shot for J&J vaccine). All are encouraged to get vaccinated unless a physician has documented a medical reason that prohibits vaccination.
  
- ✓ **Break through case:** a fully vaccinated person can contract COVID. If so, the person may test positive and be symptomatic or asymptomatic. If tested positive, isolation (minimum of 10 days) is needed for resolution of symptoms. Fully vaccinated persons are far less likely to have a severe case of COVID, or require hospitalization.
  
- ✓ **Close Contact: Close Contact through Proximity and Duration of Exposure:** Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, *three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes*). An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation.
  - **Exception:** In the **P-12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition **excludes students** who were within **3 to 6 feet of an infected student** (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where
    - both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting face masks; *and*
    - other P-12 school prevention strategies (such as universal and correct mask use, physical distancing, increased ventilation) were in place in the P-12 school setting.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

**Public Health Recommendations:** Except in certain circumstances, people who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should quarantine. However, the following people with recent exposure may NOT need to quarantine:

    - People who have been fully vaccinated
    - People who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months (90 days).
  
- ✓ **Social Distance:** CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, and 6’ distance between adults and children and

between adults and other adults. The use of plexiglass dividers on tables or desks enhances social distance and provide an additional barrier to transmission.

- ✓ **Quarantine:** period of time after an exposure (a close contact), of a minimum of 7 days, to allow symptoms to develop and be tested, to determine if the quarantined person was infected; without follow up testing on day 6, required quarantine time is 10 days.
- ✓ **Isolation:** period of time after testing positive if asymptomatic, to remain isolated for 10 days or after onset of symptoms, to remain isolated for a minimum of 10 days or longer, to allow for full resolution of symptoms. No follow up testing is needed after 10 days or resolution of symptoms.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

All employees should remain at home if sick, or in contact with someone who is, or is thought to be, infected with COVID-19. ***This includes remaining at home while awaiting test results*** (fully vaccinated persons or those with a positive COVID diagnosis within the prior 90 days are not required to quarantine). In addition, they are directed to immediately notify their supervisor.

All students should remain at home if sick or in contact with someone who is, or is thought to be, infected with COVID-19. ***This includes remaining at home while awaiting test results.*** In addition, they should immediately notify their appropriate school official.

Consistent use of face coverings (masks) INDOORS and social distance (INDOORS AND OUTDOORS), frequent hand washing, normal cleaning of the work or school area, minimizing contact with others, avoiding crowds all help to mitigate the possibility of transmission of the virus. **EXCEPTIONS TO THIS MASK REQUIREMENT FOR FULLY VACCINATED PERSONS ARE OUTLINED LATER IN THIS POLICY.**

The school's daily screening and/or temperature checks of employees and students should be discontinued. Parents should continue to monitor their children for any symptoms. Likewise, employees should self-monitor for symptoms even if fully vaccinated. Parents, for their children, and parish and school employees are required to contact the parish or school when sick, when they have had close contact with someone who is infected or when awaiting testing results and are REQUIRED not to come to school or work until cleared by the school or parish.

Pastors and principals, or their designees, are asked to continue **REPORTING EXPOSURES** or infections of any student, employee or priest to the Chancellors' Office ([eworley@theadom.org](mailto:eworley@theadom.org)) using the ADOM form provided. Cooperation with quarantine (when exposed) or isolation (when infected) is vital to reducing the transmission of the virus.

Visitors to schools should be limited to the extent possible.

## **PLEXIGLASS DIVIDERS**

Already existing plexiglass dividers on student desks or classroom tables or in the cafeteria should be maintained as long as useful as they provide additional protection against transmission especially when not otherwise possible to maintain adequate social distance. Existing plexiglass barriers on teacher's desks should be maintained until teachers using the classroom desk are fully vaccinated and may be retained longer at the discretion of the school.

## **HALLWAY PASSING PROCEDURES**

Schools should continue whatever hallway passing procedures (during change of classes) or directional guidance in/out of indoor space that have been in place during the past year to the extent possible, with a continued effort to reduce face to face contact of students.

## **CLASSROOM ARRANGEMENTS AND SEATING**

While social distance of 6' or more provides sufficient distance believed to generally inhibit transmission of the COVID virus, classes maintained as a cohort are deemed safe by the CDC with seating arranged 3' between students, and 6' from any adults in the classroom. It is likely that with return of all students to the campus, many classrooms will not be able to maintain a 3' to 6' distance separating each person. In the event that classroom furniture arrangements in any classroom cannot be 3' apart (in cohort classrooms) or 6' apart in all other classroom where students change classes, schools should maintain the maximum social distance possible. In the event of an infection of a student in the classroom, it may be necessary to quarantine the UNVACCINATED students within 6' radius of the infected student for the [7 day + PCR quarantine](#). Contact [eworley@theadom.org](mailto:eworley@theadom.org).

Classroom seating should continue to be arranged facing all in one direction (and not face-to-face), unless plexiglass partitions are in place

*As of Aug 15 until Aug 31 or later, this section is suspended for all parish elementary schools and pre-school programs—and masks are required of all faculty and all students, age 2 or older.*

### **MASK REQUIREMENTS FOR FULLY VACCINATED PERSONS 12 or OLDER**

MASKS ARE OPTIONAL for fully vaccinated persons 12 or older in the following settings:

- When *outdoors*; and
- When *indoors* and able to maintain social distance of at least 3' for children from children and 6' for adults from children and adults from adults.
- Fully vaccinated persons 12 or older wishing to exercise the option to not wear a mask provide documentation to the school or parish (*see section below for acceptable documentation*).

Some parents may recognize that it is beneficial for their fully vaccinated child to use a mask outdoors or indoors and the parental decision is to be supported by the staff of the school or parish.

### **MASK REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONS NOT FULLY VACCINATED of any age** **Outdoors**

MASKS ARE OPTIONAL for persons of any age not fully vaccinated when OUTDOORS if able to maintain social distance at least 3' for children from children and 6' for adults from children and adults from adults.

## **Indoors**

MASKS are REQUIRED for all persons not fully vaccinated *with the exception of*

- children younger than 2 years of age
- children in school recess or athletic programs outdoors and socially distant, and
- while eating.

Masks are not a *substitute* for social distancing. Both masks and social distancing are required practices for safety of all.

## **DOCUMENTATION OF VACCINATION OR NATURAL IMMUNITY**

If an individual (adult or student 12 or older) indicates she/he is a fully vaccinated person, the school/parish asks for documentation of the vaccination including the date of the last shot in the vaccination protocol. A scan/photo of the vaccination CDC card including the date of the last vaccination is kept on file using the individual's last, first name or other appropriate identifiers. The documentation of the vaccination is retained in a secure, confidential manner.

If an individual (adult or student 12 or older) indicates they have previously recovered from COVID in the last 90 days and therefore have natural immunity and do not need to quarantine, the school/parish asks for documentation of the positive COVID diagnosis including the date of testing. A scan photo of the diagnosis is kept on file using the individual's last, first name or other appropriate identifiers. The documentation of the positive COVID diagnosis is retained in a secure, confidential manner – ***and is used only within the 90 days after recovery of COVID.***

Documentation of the vaccination or natural immunity for an employee of the ADOM is retained in a secure and confidential manner, SEPARATE from the personnel record.

## **TRAVEL and POSSIBLE NEED TO QUARANTINE**

The need to travel out of Florida, to another State in the US, or outside the country is best discussed with the pastor, principal or school leader ahead of the travel. Schools are asked to provide the **ADOM TRAVEL FORM All Persons** (8-16-21 revision) to anyone considering travel outside of the State of Florida. The ADOM TRAVEL FORM (8-16-21 revision) provides information to parent/student and/or priest or lay employee regarding requirement of quarantine and testing upon return depending on vaccination status and destination.

The ADOM TRAVEL FORM may be submitted to the parish or school **BEFORE** travel and used after travel for any discussion regarding quarantine related to the rules below.

Employees should be aware that if they are required to quarantine related to personal travel, that the days out of work will be paid as vacation/personal days, if the employee has vacation/personal time available. Quarantine time following personal travel is NOT paid as sick time.

**The requirements related to travel are applicable to all clergy, religious, lay employees and students working or studying in the entities of the Archdiocese.**

## **TRAVEL WITHIN FLORIDA FOR ANY STUDENT, PRIEST, LAY EMPLOYEE**

There is no required quarantine following travel within the State of Florida for any student, clergy or laity, regardless of vaccination status.

## **TRAVEL WITHIN UNITED STATES FOR UNVACCINATED PERSONS**

An employee, clergy or student returning from travel within the United States MAY BE REQUIRED TO QUARANTINE after travel within the US but outside of Florida. A decision for quarantine is at the discretion of the school or parish based increased risk of exposure. If required, the 7-day + PCR testing is required. That is, quarantine for at least seven (7) full days of quarantine (not including the day of travel to return to S. FL) including testing no sooner than day 5 or 6 (PCR test for COVID-19, not antigen testing) and remain quarantined through the 7<sup>th</sup> day until negative test results are received. Negative test results are then presented to the school or parish to authorize returning to school or work.

## **TRAVEL WITHIN UNITED STATES FOR FULLY VACCINATED PERSONS of any age**

Wear a mask when traveling on airplanes or other public transportation as per federal guidelines. Avoid crowds and social distance at least 6'. Upon return NO quarantine and NO testing is required for the fully vaccinated or naturally immunized person who has recovered from symptoms of COVID-19 and developed *natural immunity* within 90 days prior to travel.

See [DOCUMENTATION OF VACCINATION OR NATURAL IMMUNITY](#) for documentation to confirm the individual is fully vaccinated or has natural immunity following recovery earlier in this document.

**SUMMARY: QUARANTINE – TRAVEL WITHIN USA - PCR protocol**

Day 0 travel back to S Fl

**FOR UNVACCINATED PERSONS, if quarantined is required**

*At the discretion of the school or parish based on concern about increased risk of exposure during travel*

Day 1- Day 4

Four full days' quarantine at home, minimize exposure to family, stay home, use vacation or personal time

Day 5 or 6 get tested – PCR test required and continue quarantine

Day 7 remain quarantined for 7 days even if negative test results received; if negative, present results to school/parish to return to school/work on Day 8;

Day 8 return to school/work

If **diagnosed positive**, then follow protocol for positive COVID diagnosis.

Alternatively, if the person does not wish to test, quarantine for 10 full days.

For those who **have recovered from COVID within the last 90 days**: No quarantine needed upon return; no testing needed – unless symptoms develop. See

[\*\*DOCUMENTATION OF VACCINATION OR NATURAL IMMUNITY.\*\*](#)

**FOR FULLY VACCINATED PERSONS of any age.....wear mask during air travel**

No quarantine needed upon return

No testing needed or required upon return (unless airlines requires).

**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR UNVACCINATED PERSONS**

**(upon return, mandated quarantine and PCR testing)**

An unvaccinated employee, priest or student returning from international travel **must** quarantine for at least seven (7) full days of quarantine (not including the day of travel) once returned to the US, followed by testing (PCR test for COVID-19, not antigen testing) and remain quarantined until negative test results are received. Negative test results are then presented to the school or entity to authorize returning to school or work.

**INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FOR FULLY VACCINATED PERSONS of any age** returning from international travel, there is **no need to quarantine**. However, PCR testing is required within 3-5 days after return to US. Report test results to ADOM school or entity

**SUMMARY: QUARANTINE – INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL - PCR protocol**

***Unvaccinated travelers – get tested 1-3 days before departure from USA***

All international travelers returning to the USA will require a negative COVID test in order to board the flight back to the USA; check with your airlines.

Day 0 travel back to S Fl

**FOR UNVACCINATED PERSONS.....wear mask during air travel**

Day 1 - Day 4

Four full days' quarantine at home, minimize exposure to family, stay home, use vacation or personal time

Day 5 or 6 get tested – PCR test required and continue quarantine

Day 7 remain quarantined for 7 days even if negative test results received; if negative, present results to school/parish to return to school/work on Day 8;

Day 8 return to school/work

If ***diagnosed positive***, then follow protocol for positive COVID diagnosis.

If you don't wish to get tested, then quarantine for 10 full days.

**FOR FULLY VACCINATED PERSONS of any age..... wear mask during air travel**

No quarantine needed upon return – but – Day 3 – 5 get tested – PCR test required;

Present results to school/entity when received



## **RESPONDING TO A POSSIBLE EXPOSURE**

All exposures must be reported to the Chancellors' Office (Sr Elizabeth Worley) using the electronic exposure forms:

- **ADOM COVID EXPOSURE REPORT – EMPLOYEE** for employees or volunteers, and
- **ADOM COVID EXPOSURE REPORT – STUDENT** for students.

If it is determined that the infection exposure is potentially school based or may have affected persons in the school community, the exposure is also reported to the County Department of Health. Specific forms and guidance are available from Sister Elizabeth for reporting to the DOH.

All exposures are reviewed as per the ADOM protocol below, including:

- communication regarding the exposure or infection, including to the DOH, and
- required consultation for clearance before the employee or student returns to work/school

Procedures for isolating a possibly infected student and contacting parent/guardian is outlined in the School's *Return to School Plan*.

As per the CDC guidelines anyone with a **close contact** to **someone who is infected with COVID-19** needs to quarantine using either **QUARANTINE 7 DAYS + PCR** or **QUARANTINE 10 DAYS** protocols outlined on page 9 in this policy.

Regarding quarantine for those with natural immunity or persons fully vaccinated, please see the links to: [\*\*IMMUNITY – WHEN QUARANTINE IS NOT REQUIRED\*\*](#) and [\*\*DOCUMENTATION OF VACCINATION OR NATURAL IMMUNITY\*\*](#).

## **SCHOOL EXPOSURE**

If there is a possible exposure on the school campus from a sick child or adult, as well as providing for the needs of the sick child or adult:

- The School notifies the pastor for elementary schools, and the Office of Schools as quickly as reasonably possible; *Exposure forms for employees and/or children, as applicable, are filled in and sent by e-mail to Sr Elizabeth.* Communication with Sister Elizabeth determines the reportability of the case to the DOH.
- Guided by directions from Sr Elizabeth, the School notifies the County Department of Health (DOH) for guidance regarding management of the exposure.
- Any classroom or school-wide closure is determined in collaboration with the County Department of Health and the ADOM Office of Catholic Schools with consultation with Sister Elizabeth.
- Cleaning and sanitization protocols are conducted consistent with the CDC guidelines and the local ordinances. Reopening will occur only after the risk of exposure has been fully evaluated.

## **EMPLOYEE EXPOSURE**

If there is a possible exposure on the school campus from a sick employee (or contractor)

- the employee/contractor is sent home; testing may be recommended.
- If it is a school employee and a reasonable expectation that the exposure may have occurred at school, Sister Elizabeth is notified and the DOH is contacted by the school as per guidance from Sister Elizabeth.

- Any classroom or school-wide closure is determined in collaboration with the County Department of Health and the ADOM Office of Catholic Schools with consultation with Sister Elizabeth.
- Any closure of parish offices or other entity offices is determined in collaboration with the pastor/administrator and the Chancellors' Office based on the guidance of the County Department of Health.
- Cleaning protocols consistent with the CDC guidelines will be implemented. Reopening will occur only after the risk of exposure has been fully evaluated.
- Return of the employee/contractor to work follows this ADOM protocol.

All exposures or infections, students or employees, priests or religious, must be reported to the Chancellors' Office (Sr Elizabeth Worley) using the electronic form sent by e-mail:

**ADOM COVID EXPOSURE REPORT – EMPLOYEE** for employees or volunteers,  
**ADOM COVID EXPOSURE REPORT – STUDENT** for students

## **ADOM PROTOCOL FOR TESTING, QUARANTINE/ISOLATION**

### **TESTING and QUARANTINE for symptomatic patient to rule out COVID infection**

The ADOM protocol is based on the CDC determination based on symptoms and approved by the FL Department of Health (DOH).

1. A person may be tested when he/she is symptomatic and testing is sought to confirm or rule out COVID-19 infection,
2. A person who is awaiting COVID-19 test results (as in #1) must remain self-quarantined until results are received.
3. A person who is symptomatic and who receives negative test results to rule out COVID-19 is able to return to school or work 24 hrs after the symptoms resolve.

### **TESTING and QUARANTINE after CLOSE CONTACT with infected patient**

1. A person may be tested when there is reason to believe a close contact with an infected person has occurred (*a CLOSE CONTACT (within 6' (or, with the cohort classroom, a minimum of 3') for up to 15 minutes, intermittent or continuous) with the infected person up to 2 days before that person's on-set of symptoms or testing or for 10 days thereafter*).
2. Anyone who has experienced a close contact (as defined by the CDC) and has negative results from a COVID-19 test must still follow the defined **quarantine protocol** (See below in this policy) for the full 14 day incubation period of the virus as counted from the date of the LAST exposure to the infected person who was the close contact (*criteria for a close contact on page 2 of this policy*) unless they qualify under the Section **IMMUNITY – WHEN QUARANTINE IS NOT REQUIRED**.
3. A patient who is quarantined after a close contact (see #1 in this section, above), who later develops symptoms while on quarantine is required to have a minimum 10 days' isolation for resolution of symptoms, counted from the date of on-set of symptoms, before returning to school or work. **NO ADDITIONAL TESTING IS NEEDED OR RECOMMENDED** to return to school/work after 10 days and resolution of symptoms.

## QUARANTINE PROTOCOL

Quarantine applies to those who are potentially exposed to COVID-19 via CLOSE CONTACT with an infected person. One who is quarantined must stay at home, avoid contact with others, and is recommended to wear a mask at home when with others. Note the exception to quarantine below for those who are fully vaccinated or may have natural immunity.

**ADOM PREFERRED: QUARANTINE 7 DAYS + PCR and caution until 14<sup>th</sup> day**

6 full days of quarantine - then

Testing no sooner than day 6 or later, PCR test required  
quarantine continued until NEGATIVE results received

quarantine must include at least 7 full days

present negative results to supervisor/school

return to normal life after negative results and completion of 7 full days of quarantine

EXTRA caution for 7 more days/monitor symptoms for full 14 days' incubation period

**IF ELECTING NOT TO TEST: QUARANTINE 10 DAYS and caution until 14<sup>th</sup> day**

10 full days of quarantine

NO testing

Return to normal life after 10 full days of quarantine if NO symptoms have begun

EXTRA caution for 4 more days/monitor symptoms for full 14 days' incubation period

## IMMUNITY – WHEN QUARANTINE IS NOT REQUIRED

Persons who have natural immunity by having recovered from COVID do not need to be quarantined from a close contact exposure if the recovery from the virus occurred **within 90 days of the exposure**. If longer than 90 days prior to the current exposure (close contact), quarantine is necessary.

Fully vaccinated persons of any age do not need to be quarantined from a close contact exposure unless they are symptomatic. If symptomatic, they should be tested and isolate.

Fully vaccinated persons of any age do not need to quarantine after exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19. However, they do need to get tested 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days after the exposure or until they receive a negative test result.

Please see [DOCUMENTATION OF VACCINATION OR NATURAL IMMUNITY](#) in this policy for the documentation to be requested to determine the individual student or employee is fully vaccinated or has natural immunity and may exercise the option not to wear a mask indoors.

Unvaccinated persons who have tested antibody positive within 3 months before or immediately following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and who have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure do not need to quarantine, provided there is limited or no contact with persons at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness, including older adults and persons with certain medical conditions. Test results should be provided as documentation.

**TESTING POSITIVE: requires ISOLATION** *for individuals infected with COVID-19; exposure form must be sent to Sr Elizabeth.* Isolation applies to those who have tested positive with COVID-19, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic and lasts for at least 10 days

from on-set of symptoms or date the patient tested positive. **NO REPEAT TESTING** is recommended or required by the CDC, ADOM or DOH.

1. Anyone who tested **positive and has remained asymptomatic, including one who is fully vaccinated**, must isolate for a minimum of 10 days from testing date before consideration to return to work; if any symptoms appear, including fever, report immediately to the individual's supervisor; after 10 days, supervisor confirms clearance via Chancellor's office for employee/student to return to work/school (**NO repeat testing needed**)
2. Anyone who had tested **positive and has mild to moderate symptoms** of the virus, including one who is fully vaccinated, the symptoms, including temperature, should be monitored and reported to supervisor; that once the symptoms resolve AND a minimum of 10 days has passed from the onset of symptoms AND at least 2 days had passed without fever, supervisor confirms clearance via Chancellor's office for employee/student to return to work/school (**NO repeat testing needed**)
3. Anyone who had **serious symptoms** of the disease (especially if treated in a hospital) will need to contact their physician and will require medical clearance from a physician to return. The physician may prescribe additional tests. The individual must remain isolated until medical clearance is received to return to work. **Contact Sr Elizabeth Worley with questions (305.450.6420, eworley@theadom.org)**

#### **DETERMINING IF AN ENCOUNTER REQUIRES QUARANTINE**

It can sometimes be confusing to determine if an encounter that occurred with an infected person is actually a CLOSE CONTACT as per CDC – or if it is NOT a close contact. **A CLOSE CONTACT is believed to be one in which transmission of the virus can occur from the infected person to other person(s).** There are several specific thresholds and ALL must be met for an encounter to be a CLOSE CONTACT – and require person(s) to be quarantined.

The quarantine protocol is based on the fact that the corona virus has a 14-day incubation period within the person who has contracted the virus and that almost all persons who will develop the virus will do so within the first 7 days of that 14-day period -- which is exactly why the **QUARANTINE PROTOCOL** is based on a mandatory 7-day quarantine + PCR testing and if negative, return to normal life *with extra caution for the remainder of the 14 day period.*

The protocol for determining a close contact is based on *distance from*, and *time with a contagious person* – and therefore the mandatory quarantine for the person depends on **ALL** of the following criteria:

1. DISTANCE - Was the person within 6' of the infected (COVID positive) person (or, for a student in the cohort classroom, within 3' of an infected classmate)? **AND**
2. TIME - Was the person that close (within 6' of the infected (COVID positive) person (or, for a student in the cohort classroom, within 3' of an infected classmate)) in excess of 15 minutes, either for short periods or for continuous contact during a 24 hr period? **AND**
3. CONTAGIOUS PERIOD - Did the encounter in #1 and #2 (above) occur within 2 days prior to the onset of symptoms of a symptomatic patient or 2 days before the date the infected person tested positive or even after the infected person tested positive?

If the answer to #1, #2, and #3 are **ALL YES**, then there is a reasonable probability that the encounter was a CLOSE CONTACT and transmission of the virus may have occurred from the infected person to another person(s) who met those criteria. Quarantine is required unless the person having the close contact has natural immunity from having the virus within the last 90 days or has been fully vaccinated.

If the answer to any one of the questions above, #1, #2, and #3, is NO, then the probability of transmission is less (risk of illness is lowered) – but not able to be eliminated or specifically quantified.

**Additional Questions and answers to determine if a CLOSE CONTACT has occurred:**

- Q. If a person who is fully vaccinated experiences a CLOSE CONTACT, is quarantine or testing needed?
- A. Fully vaccinated persons of any age do not need to quarantine after exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19. However, they do need to get tested 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days after the exposure or until they receive a negative test result.
- Q. What if the date of onset of symptoms of the infected person is not known or if they were asymptomatic?
- A. Use the 2-day time period prior to the testing date (when positive test result was received) to answer #3.
- Q. What if the person is determined to have had a CLOSE CONTACT and the person gets tested (PCR) and receives negative results? Are they virus free and can they return to school or work?
- A. Absolutely not. A negative test result for someone in quarantine as a result of a CLOSE CONTACT with a person who is POSITIVE for the COVID-19 virus *only confirms that as of the day of their test, the symptoms have not yet developed*. It is necessary that the entire Quarantine protocol be followed for the full 7 days and that PCR testing NOT OCCUR until day 6 following the exposure to the infected person.
- Q. What if the person is determined to have had a CLOSE CONTACT and the person gets tested and receives positive results or symptoms do develop during the quarantine?
- A. The person is required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days from date of testing, if asymptomatic, or date of on-set of symptoms, if symptomatic.

A minimum of ten days of isolation is required although more may be need for resolution of symptoms. And the last two (2) days of the isolation period, the person must have a normal temperature without the use of fever reducing medication before return to school or work. This isolation period may be shorter or longer than the 14-day quarantine already underway, depending on when the virus causes symptoms or the testing (which was positive) occurs.

Once a person on quarantine develops symptoms or receives positive test results, the protocol for isolation until resolution of symptoms (for a minimum isolation of 10 days for mild or moderate symptoms), becomes the determinant for the length of isolation and eventual clearance to return to school or work.

- Q. What if the person who experiences a close contact with one who is infected and has had COVID-19 within the last 90 days?

- A. The person does not need to quarantine and can rely natural immunity, as long as the exposure was within the 90-day look-back period. See [IMMUNITY WHEN QUARANTINE IS NOT REQUIRED](#).

### **ATHLETIC PROGRAMS AT SECONDARY AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

Athletic programs at **High Schools** are guided by this policy and the sport specific guidelines provided by FHSAA. **OUTDOORS**, no masks are required for student athletes provided that social distance is maintained when students are stationary (such as sitting on the bench) and close contact is avoided during play.

**INDOORS**, masks are optional for the fully vaccinated or immunized high school students IF documentation has been provided to the school according to [DOCUMENTATION OF VACCINATION OR NATURAL IMMUNITY](#). **For the unvaccinated students, masks are required except when engaged in rigorous physical activity.** Athletes should maintain social distancing when stationary (such as sitting on the bench) and avoid close contact during play.

For the safety of all participants on a high school athletic team and to avoid disruption of the season, high school athletic teams require the student players (and support staff who have contact with the team) to:

- get tested (PCR) weekly at testing site of their choice and at their expense and provide such documentation to the school; or
- athletes may opt out of the weekly testing requirement if they have been fully vaccinated (and provide documentation to the school) or provide documentation they have had a positive COVID diagnosis within the last 90 days (but good only for 3 months after the diagnosis as proof of immunization and proof they can't yet get vaccinated).

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Athletic programs at **elementary schools** are guided by this policy and the sport specific guidelines provided by the ADOM Office of Catholic Schools. **OUTDOORS**, no masks are required for students provided that social distance is maintained when students are stationary (such as sitting on the bench) and close contact is avoided during play.

*As of Aug 13 until Aug 31 or later, this section is suspended in all parish elementary schools.*

**INDOORS**, masks are optional for 12 and older students who are fully vaccinated IF documentation has been provided to the school according to [DOCUMENTATION OF VACCINATION OR NATURAL IMMUNITY](#).

**For the unvaccinated students 2 years old or older, masks are required except when engaged in rigorous physical activity.** Athletes should maintain social distancing when stationary (such as sitting on the bench) and avoid close contact during play.

The following applies to **both elementary and secondary schools**.

**SPECTATORS, OUTDOORS** are not required to wear masks if social distancing is possible.

**SPECTATORS, INDOORS**, for the safety of students and others present, are required to wear masks and socially distance REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS. Limits on those who may attend the event as a spectator may be needed depending upon the space available



and the ability for spectators to socially distance. This is left to the discretion of the School leadership to determine if needed.

Student athletes should bring or be provided with their own water bottles (vs. using a communal drink container).

**CONCESSIONS** may not be sold at sporting events.

Athletic equipment and facilities (including seating) should be cleaned at the end of the day after games or practices.

### **COACHES (for elementary and secondary sports)**

For the safety of all participants on elementary and high school athletic teams and to avoid disruption of the season, schools require the coaches, whether ADOM employees or volunteers to:

- get tested (PCR) weekly at a testing site of their choice and at their expense and provide such documentation to the school; or
- coaches may opt out of the weekly testing requirement if they have been fully vaccinated (and provide documentation to the school) or provide documentation they have had a positive COVID diagnosis within the last 90 days (but good only for 3 months after the diagnosis as proof of immunization and proof they can't yet get vaccinated).

### **SOCIAL EVENTS FOR STUDENTS SPONSORED BY SCHOOL**

School dances are not permitted at this time. Other large-scale school social events such as field days, pep rallies, homecoming events (excluding a homecoming dance) are allowed if they occur outside. Please see **SPECTATORS** and **CONCESSION** on page 13-14. Masks are optional for such outdoor events, although social distancing is required.

### **MEDICAL EXEMPTION TO REQUIREMENT TO WEAR A MASK**

If a parent requests a medical exemption to the requirement of wearing a mask because of anxiety or other mental health issues, or dermatological issues or respiratory issues, the school should ask the parent to provide a written statement (signed and with a current date) from the child's medical provider explaining the child's current issues/medical status, and the reason(s) that the child is unable to tolerate a face mask of any kind while in school.

The parent should be requested to send the medical provider's explanation to [eworley@theadom.org](mailto:eworley@theadom.org). The request will be reviewed by one of the physician advisors assisting the ADOM. If an exemption is granted the parent and the school will be notified in writing if an exemption to mask wearing is accepted.

### **COMMUNICATION REGARDING INFECTION OR EXPOSURE**

- With the County Department of Health is required if an exposure occurs in school. Contact the Chancellors' Office for guidance. 305.450.6420
- With the parents, faculty or school staff, in the event of a school exposure, contact the Chancellors' Office for guidance (Sr Elizabeth Worley) with respect to possible exposures experienced by anyone in parishes, schools or other entities of the ADOM. 305.450.6420 or [eworley@theadom.org](mailto:eworley@theadom.org).

## **MIAMI DADE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONTACT**

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## **MONROE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONTACT**

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## **COMMUNICATION OF REQUIREMENTS OF ADOM POLICY**

This policy is effective as of August 15, 2021 and is subject to change as conditions or requirements are changed. When revised the policy will be published to schools, parishes and other facilities of the Archdiocese of Miami with a summary made available to parents and other interested parties. The summary is also made available on the ADOM web.

## **CLEANING AND SANITIZING FACILITIES**

Normal daily cleaning of all areas of the school or parish is the standard for cleaning. However, if a person diagnosed with COVID has been in a room within the last 24 hrs, then the space should be ventilated, then cleaned and disinfected. Otherwise, regular daily cleaning is sufficient.

Areas used for young children or persons without masks may need more frequent cleaning. High touch areas should be cleaned at least once daily.

## **FMLA**

For employees out of work because of a COVID related exposure or employees who are sick, the usual process toward implementing FMLA is used; bookkeepers should contact ADOM HR with questions.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES AND YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES**

Religious education classes may be held in person within the parish or school facility. Masks are required for all catechists, employed or volunteer, and all students of any age, regardless of vaccination status.



Youth ministry activities may be held in person. When held in-doors, masks are required for all youth ministers, employed or volunteer, and all participants, regardless of vaccination status.

## **IN-PERSON MEETINGS IN SCHOOLS AND PARISHES**

In all activities sponsored by the parishes and schools of the Archdiocese of Miami and within the property and facilities of the Archdiocese, the following basic principles must be observed by all persons at all times. These principles apply to everyone, including persons who have been fully vaccinated and/or developed natural immunity by previously contracting the COVID-19 virus with a subsequent full recovery.

1. Persons of any age who are diagnosed with COVID-19 or sick with COVID-19-like symptoms, or those who have been tested for the presence of the virus and are awaiting test results ARE NOT PERMITTED to participate in-person in any meetings, activities or fund raisers events.
2. Persons of any age who are not fully vaccinated or do not have natural immunity following recovery from COVID within the last 90 days who experience a CLOSE CONTACT with one who is infected (that is, those who are quarantined) ARE NOT PERMITTED to participate in-person in parish or school activities.
3. Unvaccinated persons of any age who participate in parish or school meetings, pastoral activities, social or fund-raising events held INDOORS, are required to wear a face mask, at all times when with any other person(s) except when eating.

*This section is suspended as of Aug 15 until at least Aug 31. All persons are required to wear masks regardless of vaccination status.*

For vaccinated persons, please review [\*\*MASK REQUIREMENT FOR FULLY VACCINATED PERSONS.\*\*](#)

4. Arrangement of tables and seating in meeting rooms, classrooms or conference rooms; seating within the church or parish hall; set-up of booths at outside events or any similar grouping of furniture that will likely determine where participants will gather must provide for a minimum of 6' distance between each person in all directions around each person. Theater style arrangements are preferred where possible. If persons are seated at tables, table must be at least 6' wide with 6' space between individuals to the right and left on each side. For tables that are less than 6' in width, persons may not be seated directly across from each other but must be staggered so that distance diagonally across the table, person to person, meets the 6' distance minimum. Masks are required for those not vaccinated in addition to 6' social distance.
5. The pastor has the authority to delegate to the leader of a parish ministry or organization that meets at/in the parish property so that the leader may have the responsibility to direct participants' compliance with all provisions of this policy, for their safety and the safety of all present.
6. Traffic into and out of an enclosed area (conference room, classroom, parish hall, church, etc) should be managed with the use of signage such that traffic is one-way at entrance and exit points, avoiding when possible persons passing in close space, face to face.

7. Assure that meeting space or indoor gathering space is of sufficient size that the participants remain socially distanced (at least 6'), that the space is well ventilated, is regularly cleaned and that hand sanitizer is always available to participants.
8. Additional attention must be paid to restrooms provided for participants in meetings and/or social or fundraising activities to have them be fully cleaned daily.
9. If parish or school kitchen facilities are used, the number of persons in the area must be kept to a minimum, each person should have sufficient space to meet the social distance requirement, the period of time working in the kitchen should be kept to a minimum, and masks must be used for anyone not fully vaccinated.
10. Whenever possible, cooking of food for parish fund raising events should be safely conducted outdoors.
11. Food to be served and/or sold at a parish event/festival/carnival is best ordered in advance, paid in advance, maintained at a safe temperature (hot or cold) depending on the food served, and picked up by the customer to be consumed off-site, ideally, through a drive-through distribution point. While this may require additional coordination, it provides the safest delivery to the participants.
12. If food is to be served and consumed on-site, a designated seating area must be provided for the consumption of the food, with the arrangement of the seating to preferably be OUTDOORS, with seating socially distant as per the requirements of the CDC (a minimum of 6' in every direction) and participants remaining in the area as brief a period of time as possible.
13. If it is required that participants wait for a particular service, minimize the wait by taking reservations, having participants wait in their car, or if on foot, marking floor or pavement in order to space individuals with sufficient distance (6') from each other and from those providing the service.
14. Movement of participants in and around the activities planned (games, rides, sports participants, spectators observers, food booths, or whatever) must be carefully planned to observe social distance at all times and in all places. Contracts with vendors (such as carnival vendors) need to be adjusted as to spacing of rides, queueing of lines for rides, spacing of persons on rides, etc.
15. While the positivity rate and the vaccination rate of the local area may be favorable to reduce transmission, food or carnival ride vendors may reside in an area of the country that is less favorable. Rules to socially distance and wear masks apply to vendors and their employees at all times while on ADOM property regardless of their vaccination status. Any contracts signed related to events should include a statement to comply with ADOM policy regarding COVID-19 procedures. An ADOM parish carnival contract must carry a policy revision date of March 15, 2021 or later in order to ensure this language has been included.
16. Rides or games that have space (seats on rides, for example) used by participants or items touched by participants (ring toss, for example) should either be disinfected between each use or closed and not made available to the participants.
17. Kiddie rides should be disinfected between rides or be closed and not made available to the participants.
18. Security and safe management of participants at fund-raising events remains a concern and should be adequately addressed in the planning of event. Trained volunteers can be of great assistance in supporting a safe and enjoyable fund-raiser by directing traffic on foot or in cars, assuring that unvaccinated participants are wearing face masks and socially distancing.

19. Signage providing reminders about COVID-19 safety (masks, social distance, hand washing), and directions for movement of people or cars should be used as needed. A public address sound system, if available, can enhance the parish's ability to broadcast information and directions to a large group of persons to improve safety.
20. Limit attendance at events, discourage gathering in crowds, reduce the need to line up for events/services, direct pedestrian traffic in one-direction, and use the PA to frequently make announcement reminders to comply with the use of a mask and social distance.
21. In order to expect participants to understand requirements for attendance at meetings, parish activities, carnivals or fund-raising activities, communication and signage before and at the event are critical and should be included in planning.
22. ADOM License for Space Use and ADOM Carnival Contract should carry a revision date of March 15, 2021 or later in order to assure that the language requiring compliance with the ADOM COVID-19 policy is agreed to. The documents are in Facilities folder of e-library. The person(s) or vendor signing the License or Carnival Contract should be provided a full copy of this ADOM current COVID-19 policy.