September 16, 2021

Catholic Schools of Broome County faculty, staff and families,

We wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with a summary of the updated Covid-19 guidance released by the New York State Department of Health on September 2, 2021. We met with the Broome County Health Department yesterday where additional clarification was provided. The following is a summary of what we have received to date:

1. **Testing of Unvaccinated Faculty/Staff**
   New York State is requiring that all school faculty and staff be either A) vaccinated against COVID-19 or B) get tested weekly. Proof of vaccination status will need to be shared so that weekly testing is not required. Because of HIPPA laws, administration does not need to know each person’s status. All faculty and staff can provide this information to their school’s nurse by emailing, calling or talking with her directly. If a faculty or staff person is vaccinated and does not want to get tested weekly, they must provide proof of vaccination. If they are not vaccinated, or are not comfortable sharing their vaccination status, weekly testing is required. To be clear EVERYONE needs to contact their school nurse about this, regardless of their vaccination status.
   a. Weekly testing will be provided in each of the schools by the school nurse. Faculty and staff may also visit the Broome County Department of Health mobile site that anticipates opening next week. *

2. **Weekly Screening of Unvaccinated Students**
   New York State is also requiring weekly screening of all unvaccinated students. The guidance asks schools to follow CDC recommendations which suggest testing ten percent of the school’s unvaccinated students each week. We will also provide this testing on site and it will be performed by the school nurse. *

3. **Return to School for Individuals Displaying Symptoms of Covid-19**
   Students, teachers, and other staff with new or worsening COVID-19 symptoms must be excluded from school regardless of vaccination status. In order to return to school, options include:
   a. If symptoms are improving AND the individual is fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines, he or she can return to school with either a note from a healthcare provider indicating a Covid-19 test was negative OR a copy of the negative test result. Please see the attached document titled, *Return to School Form*, which must be completed and returned to your school administrator, nurse or Covid-19 Coordinator in order for any faculty, staff or student to return to school. The document will be provided by the school nurse or school administrator. It will also be available on the district website at: www.csbscsaints.org/covid.

   Acceptable Covid-19 test includes: PCR (molecular). Rapid test results will NOT be accepted.

   **OR**

   b. Stay home for 10 days after onset of symptoms.
4. **Quarantine / Isolation**
   a. **Quarantine**
      i. **Vaccinated:**
         Fully vaccinated faculty, staff and students are not required to quarantine after an exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case, unless they have symptoms. According to the CDC, fully vaccinated identified contacts should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

      ii. **Unvaccinated:**
         For those directly exposed to Covid-19, a 10-day quarantine will still be required. A negative test during quarantine will NOT release the individual from quarantine and a quarantine order will be issued by their local health department.

   b. **Isolation** - for those diagnosed with Covid-19, a 10-day isolation is required and an isolation order will be issued by their local health department.

5. **Communication**
   Communication to the CSBC community will be sent out when positive cases result in quarantines. If it is an isolated case with no quarantines, there will not be communication to the CSBC community.

Thank you again for your patience and helping to keep our schools safe and open. As guidance changes or is updated, we will be sure to notify the CSBC community of these changes.

If you have any questions, please contact your schools Covid-19 Coordinator.

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*Separate communication with more details about weekly testing of unvaccinated faculty and staff and the weekly screening of unvaccinated students will be forth coming. The district will be required to report these numbers to a NYS dashboard.*