



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ❖ OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS & CENTERS
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Dear Catholic School and ECC Parents and Guardians,

May 5, 2021

As this very unique school year comes to a close, I would like to provide you with some updates regarding Covid-19 protocols in Catholic schools and where we will be moving for the 2021-22 school year.

Clearly, this has been a challenging year for everyone but particularly for students and school staff. According to federal data published in late March, less than half of the schools in the US were open for full-time instruction. Due to the hard work and cooperation of everyone in our school communities, we have been blessed to have all of our Catholic schools open for face-to-face instruction since August 24. In addition, Covid-19 infection rates for both employees and students have been significantly lower than that of the general state population.

I know there are members of our school communities who see the progress we've made in combatting the virus and would like to immediately dispense with all Covid precautions; conversely, there are others who note the issues that are still occurring and urge a more cautious approach. With just a few weeks remaining, we will continue to follow our established Covid-19 protocols until the end of this school year. We ask for your continued patience and cooperation. As you may know, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 21-102 on May 3rd. This order ends emergency restrictions placed by city, county, and local governments. To clarify, EO-21-102 does not impact public school districts or Catholic schools.

While no one can predict the future, it is our goal to be back to normal for the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. To that end, we will be forming a Covid-19 advisory committee that will monitor the situation over the summer and help direct our decision-making process. We will continue to communicate with you as we look forward to next year.

May God continue to protect our Catholic school students, families, and staff members.

Sincerely in Christ,

Christopher L. Pastura
Superintendent of Catholic Schools and Centers
Diocese of St. Petersburg