



Sent Saturday, January 1 at 3 PM

Hello Holy Name High School Families,

I hope your Christmas was a happy and healthy one. Here are a few reminders for when we return to school after the holiday:

First, please remember that, as already planned, **there are no classes on Monday, January 3**. All students report back to classes on Tuesday, January 4.

When we get back to school, COVID-19 mitigating strategies will be just as important, if not more so, than they were before break. With that said, **the on-campus mask mandate remains in place**. As a recent letter signed by members of the Ohio Hospital Association and Ohio Children's Hospital Association said, *"Health experts around Ohio have recommended Ohio schools have masking policies until more students get vaccinated, and that remains their recommendation as students return to school next week. This is even more urgent now because of the rapid spread of the Omicron variant."*

It is highly recommended that students wear disposable/3-ply face masks. Multi-layer cloth masks are also acceptable. Students are responsible for providing their own masks, and should have at least one or two other masks with them daily in case they are damaged during the school day.

Most importantly, students will need to wear their masks properly; in other words, over their noses and mouths at all times. I will admit that earlier this school year, many of us at Holy Name – students and staff alike – became complacent in this practice. Together we will be recommitting to wearing masks properly and will be reminding students of this important practice.

The only time masks do not need to be worn during the school day is when students are eating lunch. However, we ask students to be more vigilant in the cafeteria, and to mask as soon as they are done eating, get in line to buy another item, go to the garbage can, etc.

Additionally, all Holy Name visitors, as well as all spectators at home athletic contests, must wear masks while in the building/in the gymnasium.

This masking policy will remain in effect until at least the end of the first semester (Friday, January 14). We will reevaluate the policy and will decide whether or not it continues before the start of the second semester on Tuesday, January 18.

Upon returning from break, teachers will also be asked to keep windows open at times for increased air flow and ventilation. Because of this, the overall temperature in the building may be cooler. Students can wear school-approved crewneck sweatshirts, pullovers, quarter zips, and sweaters from the Team Shop and Schoolbelles.

Everyone will also be encouraged to practice good hand hygiene, with hand sanitizer available in every classroom and space on campus.

Lastly, the CDC came out with new isolation and quarantine specifications. This has understandably brought up questions. We will try to outline them as best as possible below.



First and foremost, if your child is being tested for COVID-19, please do not send him/her to school until you know the results.

If a student tests positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status or symptoms, they must stay home for five (5) days. If symptoms resolve and a fever is gone by day 6, he/she can return to school, masked. If symptoms persist, a student must remain at home until the symptoms are better.

If a student has been exposed to COVID-19 at Holy Name, or through a school-related activity, the following protocol will be in place so the student can remain in the classroom environment:

- Wear a mask for 10 days after their last date of exposure
- Self-monitor, or parent-monitor, for symptoms of COVID-19
- Isolate and get tested if they start to experience symptoms associated with COVID-19 (regardless of level of severity)
- Test on Day 5 after exposure, *if possible*

Please remember that the above process is contingent on the exposure being in the school setting or school-related activities. This does not apply to household exposures or exposures outside of the school setting or school-related activities. **If your student is exposed to COVID-19 in a non-school related setting (ex. work or family), there are different quarantine guidelines to follow; please check the school website for details.**

As you will see, the duration of the quarantine and the process to follow is very much contingent on COVID-19 vaccination status, as well as whether or not a student has had a COVID booster shot. If your student is vaccinated, it is more important now than ever to have his or her vaccination record on-file at Holy Name. If it has recently been updated, please bring the revised card in so we can make a copy to be kept on file in a confidential manner.

It is true that vaccinated individuals have tested positive for COVID-19. However, as the letter from the Ohio Hospital Association and Ohio Children's Hospital Association said, *"The best protection against developing severe illness from COVID-19, for both school-aged children and adults, remains getting vaccinated."*

Thank you for reading this email message. **If you have any questions about COVID protocols, or if your child has tested positive for COVID and you need to report this, please reach out to me directly at karter@holynamehs.com.**

For those who need to complete their Final Exams when we return from break, the schedule has been sent out and is also online. Please contact Mr. Dodds at wdodds@holynamehs.com if you have any questions about Semester Exams specifically.

I pray you continue to enjoy your Christmas Break, while remaining safe and healthy.

Happy New Year,

Mrs. Karen Carter, Principal