

In light of Governor Baker's announcement, updated DESE guidance, City of Westfield announcement, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Dr. Baillargeon notice, and in consultation with our School Board, Covid Committee and faculty/staff of St. Mary's Parish School is eliminating all school masking mandates on behalf of all grades Preschool- 8th grade.

This applies to children of any age in our schools.

As always, however, we will follow any local health board mandates. Similarly, we will follow the existing federal order for **mask wearing on school buses**. DESE guidance on mask wearing for students returning after Covid cases will remain which means anyone returning to school after Covid positive, will be required to wear a mask for 5 additional days.

Individual teachers, staff members and students will be allowed to wear masks at their own discretion. All parents can decide for their own children whether a mask for their children is advisable. These personal decisions will be respected.

This will be effective on Monday, February 28th, the first school day after February Break. This will give schools time to adjust their policies and communicate with parents and other affected parties.

We are proud of our decision to keep our Catholic schools open and doing so in a way that has kept our students, faculty and staff safe during the global pandemic. Thank you to our Nurse Patty Howes for all she has done and continues to assist with to keep our students safe and healthy! Please contact Nurse Howes to sign-up for our new Covid protocol which will provide FREE testing kits to your student. We suggest each student to test prior to returning to school 2/28/22.

Blessings,

Father John Salatino

Pastor