



March 8, 2022

Dear IMS Community:

We are writing to share a status update regarding COVID-19 mitigation procedures in our schools.

As part of our continuous monitoring of COVID-19 statistics, we have seen a significant drop in the number positive cases within our school communities over the past couple of weeks. As such, we are pleased to announce that the **use of masks will be optional for all students and staff effective Wednesday March 9, 2022.**

Any student or staff member who wishes to continue to wear a mask may continue to do so and we recommend that unvaccinated individuals and individuals with certain medical conditions continue to wear masks.

As an extra precaution to help minimize the risk of a COVID surge in our schools after Easter Break, all students and staff would be required to wear a mask April 19-22, the week after we return from Easter Break.

Our collective goal remains the same: to maintain healthy school and work environments that keep our students in school, full time and in person, where we know they learn best. That takes each of us continuing to do our part and adhering to the other health and safety measures that will remain in place such as staying home if you are sick, getting tested if you are showing COVID-like symptoms, quarantining if you have been exposed to COVID-19, and isolating if you test positive for coronavirus.

All other COVID-19 protocols such as social distancing, increased ventilation, and enhanced cleaning will continue to remain in effect. We will continue to monitor and report COVID-19 cases and if there are case surges within a school building or a county there may be a need to return to the use of masks. The further reduction of other mitigation efforts will be considering over time pending circumstances.

We continue, in the strongest possible terms, to encourage all students and staff to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine and booster.

We remain grateful to our school families, school administrators, faculty, and staff for working with us as partners in school safety during some of the most challenging circumstances we have seen in generations. Our goal is to continue providing educational services at every level in an uninterrupted fashion while maintaining a safe environment for all members of every school community.

As a reminder, you can get four more free at-home COVID-19 tests sent to your home through the website [Covidtests.gov](https://covidtests.gov) so be sure to order yours. Please be assured of our continued prayers for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Bruce Robinson

CEO, Independence Mission Schools

Holy Cross
144 E. Mt. Airy Avenue

Our Mother of Sorrows/
St. Ignatius of Loyola
617 N. 43rd Street

St. Barnabas
6334 Buist Avenue

SS. Cyril & Philomena
45 E. Baltimore Avenue

St. Frances Cabrini
405 N. 65th Street

St. Helena-Incarnation
6101 N. 5th Street

St. Malachy
1012 W. Thompson Street

St. Martin de Porres
2300 W. Lehigh Avenue

St. Martin of Tours
5701 Loretto Avenue

St. Raymond of Penafort
7940 Williams Road

St. Rose of Lima
1522 N. Wanamaker Street

St. Thomas Aquinas
1631 S. 18th Street

St. Veronica
3521 N. 6th Street

The DePaul Catholic School
44 W. Logan Street