

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for all of your support for the last eight days. It is great to see the students and hear their voices, and because we are all working together your children seem happy as a little more “normal” has entered their lives. The children are doing so well wearing their masks, thank you for preparing them. Thank you also, for following our daily COVID contact checklist. It’s working to keep us safe and healthy.

Drop off in the morning is working well. By staggering your arrival time, you have helped to move the process along quickly.

Afternoon dismissal has rave reviews from many of you. Again, if you stagger arrival times there will be little or no wait. There will be days when the school yard gate is closed because a gym class or another class is working outside. When the driver in the first car gets out and checks to see that the classes are no longer outside, you can open the gate. The reminder is that arriving earlier than necessary for dismissal, causes a back log on Hammond and Main St. Please try to arrive as close to 2:45 as possible.

**Important Information:**

Please understand that if your child is seen by the school nurse for any symptom associated with the COVID virus, they will need to be picked up immediately and brought home. Once they are at home, you will need to contact your pediatrician for clearance to come back to school. Likewise, if you call your child in absent in the morning, you must follow the same procedure and contact your pediatrician. Please understand also, that this is not a rule made by St. Peter’s. The Department of Public Health has set the guidelines, which will apply to all students and staff. The pediatrician may see your child or they may refer them immediately for COVID testing. It is important that you contact the school and advise us that your child is being referred for testing. It is then necessary for you to contact us again with the test result. When your child receives the paperwork for the negative test, please forward a copy of that to school as well. Everything needs to be documented.

If your child or someone that your child has been in contact with tests positive, then they should also be tested. If your child is deemed a direct contact, then even if their test result is negative they must quarantine 14 days. If your child tests positive they must quarantine for a minimum of 10 days and be symptom free. I have attached the documentation from DESE and the Department of Public Health for you to read. In addition, there is a slide show on the web site regarding the COVID protocol and expectations, that might answer some of your questions.

If your child has seasonal allergies or a doctor diagnosed re-occurring condition, it would be wise to have your doctor provide that information to the school in writing.

If you are travelling out of state, please be aware that you and your child may need to quarantine for fourteen days as well. The Massachusetts “quarantine states” list is updated and appears on the Mass.gov web site.

I am sure that you are aware that Worcester still falls within the red zone for the number of COVID cases. As promised, we continue to monitor that index. St. Peter’s students come from twenty-two different towns and cities, and so these numbers are being taken into account as well. The index also does not differentiate in population, for example, the nursing home, college students or homeless population and the general population, including children are all figured together with one formula.

**We are committed to staying with in-person education as long as it is possible.** We pray that God will take good care of all of us and we will see out the 2020-2021 school year, right here on Main St. If that is not the case and the Governor or circumstances change for safe school, then please be prepared for a shift from school to home(remote) learning.

**Please remember that all of these rules have been established to keep us safe and help us to stay in school.**

Thank you for trusting your children to us. We are blessed indeed.

God Bless,

Mrs. Meg Kursonis