



PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Fr. John Merkelis, OSA, President
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September 18, 2020

Dear Providence Family,

This past weekend, we were notified that two of our students tested positive for COVID-19. The individuals were last on the campus on Thursday, September 10th. In our contact tracing, we discovered there are 4 other students who must quarantine. The Dean's Office is in communication with the families and with the students' teachers. All of these students are in quarantine and have begun on-line classes until they can be readmitted to school. As always, we notify the Illinois Department of Public Health of every positive case.

In addition, we were notified this morning that an employee tested positive for COVID-19. After reporting this to the Illinois Department of Public Health and consulting with a Doctor of Infectious Diseases, we were assured that, besides the employee, no one needs to quarantine.

The students report that they wore their masks, remained in the assigned classroom seat 6 feet away from classmates and maintained this distance during the lunch period. The employee reports following the protocol to wear a mask and maintain the appropriate distance during the school day. **No quarantine or other immediate action is necessary for your child, unless you have been otherwise contacted by us.**

Please continue to be vigilant and adhere to the 3 Ws: washing hands, wearing masks, and watching distance. If you or your child experience symptoms (listed below), please keep your child at home and notify your primary care provider, as well as Providence Catholic.

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| -fever | -loss of taste or smell |
| -cough or sore throat | -nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea |
| -shortness of breath | -headache |
| -any difficulty breathing | |

Providence Catholic must be notified if your students has tested positive, is experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 or has been exposed to someone who has a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. During school hours, please call the Deans Office at (815) 717-3130. After school hours, or on the weekend, please contact Dr. Harper and Mr. Healy via email:

Dr. Harper: jharper@providencecatholic.org

Mr. Healy: khealy@providencecatholic.org

Also, as some college students return home from campus for COVID-related reasons, please follow the same protocol: your Providence student should quarantine and not attend Providence if s/he has a brother or sister who is COVID positive.

We at Providence Catholic are bound by the Health Insurance Probability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and cannot release any further details which could compromise anyone's right to confidentiality. Since school opened, we are aware of a total of three students and one employee who tested positive for COVID and who spent some time on our campus. I want to keep you updated as we progress through the school year. Thanks for adhering to our re-opening plan so carefully: we have made it through Week 4! It is only with your help and vigilance that we can continue to provide on-campus learning for students who are so happy to be back at school!

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Merk". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "F" and a cursive "Merk".

Fr. Merk

