

Diocese of Scranton Updates to Quarantine Guidelines

The CDC has recently allowed for alternatives to quarantine guidelines and these are being adopted by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The Diocese of Scranton will adjust some of our protocols based on this new information. For all positive cases, we will continue to be guided by the PA Department of Health, who will help to determine the specific quarantine guidance, as each case is unique.

Please note that the Diocese of Scranton will not allow a negative COVID test to shorten the quarantine period for any situation, even though the CDC and the PA Department of Health do allow for this. We will continue to adhere to our guidance that the full quarantine period must be observed in an effort to reduce the risk of exposure to all.

If a teacher or student is exposed to COVID-19 and it is determined that he/she must quarantine, how long will he/she remain in quarantine?

An individual will remain in quarantine and can return to school on Day 11 after exposure if all of the following criteria are met:

- A. It has been over 10 days since the exposed individual was in contact with the COVID-19 + individual
- B. The exposed individual has NO symptoms listed on the Diocese of Scranton Checklist during this time.
- C. The exposed individual does not have a test pending at the time of return to school.
- D. Students/teachers returning must remain 6 feet apart from other students/teachers at all times, include recess, gym class, etc. for days 11-14.

What if it is a member of my household who tests positive for COVID-19?

If the member of your household who tests positive for COVID-19 is isolating within your household, all members need to quarantine throughout that individual's isolation, which lasts at least 10 days. Once your household member clears isolation, then you will begin quarantine for an additional 10 days based on the criteria above.

If a child/teacher is being released from quarantine after Day 10, do any additional precautions need to be taken?

The CDC and the PA Department of Health recognize that there is still a small risk of development of symptoms of COVID-19 after being released from quarantine based upon these new protocols. As such, they recommend that 6 feet social distancing and universal masking remain in place until the exposed individual is more than 14 days from their last exposure. Thus, for those released from quarantine after Day 10, they must be masked at all times and remain 6 feet away from all other individuals at all times.

- No mask breaks may be taken by that individual, even when outside.
- Students/teachers must remain 6 feet apart from other students/teachers at all times, include recess, gym class, etc.

- Athletes will not be allowed to return to sports until they have passed Day 14 since their last exposure. They can attend practice and sit on the sidelines 6 feet apart and masked upon clearance from quarantine, but cannot participate in sports until after they have passed Day 14.

Is quarantining after travel outside of the state still required?

Out of an abundance of caution to maintain safety for all students, faculty and staff, the Diocese of Scranton is not allowing individuals who travel outside of the state of Pennsylvania for more than 24 hours to choose the option to test within 72 hours prior to your return and return to school with a negative test at that time.

However, in place of the prior 14 day quarantine, we will be allowing those who are in quarantine for travel exposure to now return after 10 days upon return with the following criteria being met:

- A. It has been over 10 days since return to Pennsylvania.
- B. The individual has no symptoms listed on the Diocese of Scranton Checklist during this time.
- C. The individual does not have a test pending at the time of return to school.