



THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

May 18, 2021

Dear Families of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Columbus,

The statements last week from Governor DeWine's office and from the CDC relaxing masking requirements for vaccinated individuals was certainly welcome news, and hopefully signal the end of the pandemic that has shaped so much of our lives for more than a year.

In a message to schools, Governor DeWine wrote:

“While Ohio will be amending its health orders to comply with this new CDC guidance, in order to maintain consistency and model safe behavior for Ohio's students, these changes do not affect the existing order requiring the use of facial coverings and other health protocols in our schools. With limited numbers of students vaccinated, it is important that we continue these safety measures through the end of the current school year.”

After consultation with Bishop Brennan, our parish Covid task force, the medical advisors to our Diocese, and our Covid task force for schools, we believe that it is safest to stay the course for the last few days of the school year. Our task force is currently working on guidance for summer activities and beginning to plan for the Fall.

I remain extremely optimistic that our schools will begin to look and feel much more like they did in 2019 very soon. We are nearly at the finish line, and I want to ensure we reach it in the safest possible way. Additionally, I'd like to remind you that Bishop Brennan continues to encourage those eligible to receive the Covid vaccination.

Thank you for doing your part and for your continued support of our Catholic school communities.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Adam J. Dufault
Episcopal Moderator for Education
Superintendent of Catholic Schools