

**Dear CCS Families,**

**Re: Reminder of COVID-19 Protocols at CCS**

As we enter our first full week of classes at CCS, it seems we've already experienced so much since September 1. Being reconnected with friends and colleagues is refreshing and encouraging. Yet while we have been able to sample some minor relaxing of operating restrictions, we are also reminded that this pandemic is not yet over. So, to begin, **thank you** for signing on to be a part of our ongoing efforts here at CCS to prevent the spread of COVID.

While our school was spared in-class transmission last year, all around us the numbers of positive cases increase and hospital beds fill up. Many more of us know families directly impacted by the disease. In this environment, it is normal to feel the added pressure of sending your precious ones to school each day. At this time we would like to remind you that we are vigilant in our reinforcement of school protocols that are in place to prevent person-to-person transmission. No matter your particular stance on them, we are asking for your help in encouraging our students to recognize and adhere to these protocols while they are with us.

**Mask use.** Thank you for continuing to wear masks. This is a highly visible way of showing that we are here for each other. We know no mask is perfect, but masking-up is one way that we know reduces transmission. One amendment we are making to our masking policy is to make masks mandatory in our common space upstairs. Prior to today, masks were optional in this area.

Currently, masking in hallways and public areas in our school is generally well managed by our students. Teachers and staff understand that diligence is needed to ensure that all students are always abiding safe mask use. Though it can be tiring for all of us, we will continue to remind students/staff to keep those noses covered!

*Please note:* masks should be considered part of each student's "school supplies" and the responsibility of families to provide. We hold a stock of "emergency masks" in the event of loss, damage or forgetfulness, but supplies have already been rendered critically low by students arriving without. A way you can help is by reminding students that, unlike some local businesses, these masks are not a complimentary service. A little extra effort to reach into a bag, or quickly run back to a car rather than laying claim to our less-than-finite supply would be greatly appreciated.

**Illness.** Thank you for going the extra mile here. Unlike masks, our tissue supply is largely untapped as people are choosing to stay home when symptoms of illness crop up. Again, THANK YOU for this. Please continue to review your [daily health-check](#) requirements each day before students leave for school. Exercise extra caution here as having healthy students at school is a key factor to our success. It's

hard to be told that you're too sick to be somewhere, and hard on us to be the ones who have to say it. If in doubt, reach out. We'd be glad to discuss it with you. If we are a little extra cautious before ushering them out the door we can hopefully prevent a possible transmission.

**Communication.** We're here for you. Thank you for letting us know when or if there are COVID positive cases in your family or close community. This allows us to pray for your health and well being in ways that respect and protect your privacy. We'd also like to be able to help when you have questions like "What counts as a 'close contact'?" or "What are the most current requirements for isolation or quarantine?" Open lines of communication help us make adjustments to our policies and procedures that we trust will keep all our families as safe as possible, and keep our doors open. Although AHS has made adjustments to how we deal with COVID cases with our school community, we will continue to alert you if we have a positive case on site. This is in line with our school division's [guidance](#). We will not share personal information but we do want to ensure you have the information you need to make an informed decision. Sending large groups of students home will now only occur if we see more than 10% of our students away due to illness - a threshold determined by AHS.

When it comes down to the reality of a highly transmissible illness there are a lot of unknowns that we have to leave at His feet. The more transparent we can be with each other, the more CCS can feel like the safe and caring place He intends us to be.

Here for you in His name,

**CCSS Leadership Team**

- Jadan Barthel, Principal
- Thomas Currie, Vice Principal
- Ken DeWyn, Executive Director
- Layne Kilbreath, Director of Faith Formation