



VENANGO REGION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

TO: Venango Region Catholic School Families and Employees

FROM: President Laura Blake and Venango Region Catholic School Board of Directors

DATE: August 31, 2021

RE: COVID-19 Update

This correspondence is to inform you of the following:

- On Tuesday, August 31, 2021, a mask mandate for K-12 schools, public and private, was issued.
 - The Pennsylvania Department of Health order will take effect Tuesday, September 7, 2021.
 - <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Diseases%20and%20Conditions/Order%20of%20the%20Acting%20Secretary%20Directing%20Face%20Coverings%20in%20Schools.pdf>
- Regardless of vaccination status, all students, teachers, and staff will be required to wear a mask indoors at both St. Stephen School and Venango Catholic Jr/Sr High School.
- The order will not apply to student-athletes while in active play. Players will be required to mask on the bench and sidelines.
- All parents and visitors to our schools are required per the August 31 mandate to wear a mask while on a school campus this includes sporting events.
- Please remember VRCS is required to follow all masking orders mandated by federal, state, or local government.
- VRCS is required to contact trace positive COVID-19 cases, notify close contacts, and require individuals to quarantine from school.
- Staff, parents, and students should know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
 - People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms (including no symptoms) ranging from mild to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. The symptoms include:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea



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- Symptoms such as fever, sore throat, cough, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting, severe headache may be caused by an illness that can spread to others. Anyone with these symptoms should:
 - Stay home
 - Get tested for COVID-19 (PCR Test)
- If the test is negative, stay home until symptoms have been gone for 24 hours without the use of medication.
- If the test is positive, you must isolate for ten days from symptom onset or a positive test.
- If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:
 - Trouble breathing
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion
 - Inability to wake or stay awake
 - Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone
- Students, staff, and visitors who are exhibiting COVID-19 signs and symptoms will be immediately sent home.
- If spread requires a school closure, all education will immediately transition to online learning.
- VRCS will not ask students, staff, visitors, or parents to prove vaccination status but will ask vaccination status to conduct contact tracing accurately. VRCS strongly encourages all individuals eligible to get the vaccine to consider vaccination.
- All COVID-19 information for VRCS is available on our website, venangocatholic.org, under the Return to School tab.
- VRCS will continue to work with state and local health officials to monitor community transmission and the spread of COVID-19 and reserves the right to modify mitigation efforts and guidelines.