



January 8, 2021

Good Afternoon IHS Families,

On December 22, the NJ Department of Health released updated guidelines for schools and their handling of the COVID virus. We would like to take a moment to update you on the changes that will have an impact on us when we return to in person instruction on January 11. The current risk level for our region (Central West) is orange on the Regional Risk Matrix. Orange represents High Risk. As a result, the following are currently updated:

- If someone in the household is being tested for COVID due to illness, any student and or staff in the home has to also stay home until the test results are received.
- Siblings of a student who has symptoms and meets the COVID Exclusion Criteria will be excluded from school until the symptomatic individual receives a negative PCR test result. If the symptomatic individual tests positive, the siblings will need to self-quarantine. While the CDC has updated close contact exclusion from school for 10 days, (or 7 days with negative test results) with our region currently in the ORANGE risk level, exposed close contacts will be excluded from school for 14 days.
- Amid this critical phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, New Jersey strongly discourages all non-essential interstate travel at this time. Travelers and residents returning from any U.S. state or territory beyond the immediate region (New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Delaware) should self-quarantine at their home, hotel, or other temporary lodging for 14 days. \*As of November 25, New Jersey will no longer utilize previously outlined metrics to inform its travel advisory.

Through this whole process, we have worked with the Somerset County Department of Health and will continue to do so. When and if our region levels down from the orange high risk category, we will adjust the policies and send out an update accordingly. Additionally, we are trying to maintain a consistent approach with Immaculate Conception School since our two schools are so interconnected. We thank you in anticipation for your cooperation and support through this school year.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for Us!

Mr. Webber