



# Health & Safety Update

*For Schools Principals  
March 3, 2022*

*Presented by the Office of Education*



DIOCESE OF  
**ALLENTOWN**

→ Diocesan schools have experienced a significant decrease in the number of positive cases COVID-19 over the last several weeks.

→ **Week of January 17-21, 2022**

127 positive COVID-19 cases in 22 schools (out of 36 schools)

→ **Week of February 21-25, 2022**

3 positive COVID-19 cases in 2 schools

# Number of positive cases in our schools



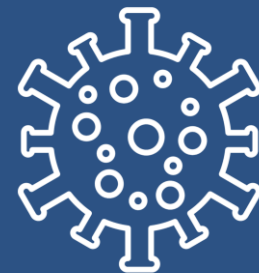
→ The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued new COVID-19 Community Levels which now has three levels: **Low, Medium and High**. These new levels are determined by looking at hospital beds used, hospital admissions and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in the area or county.

→ In the five counties of the Diocese:

Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill Counties are now identified as **MEDIUM LEVEL**. Berks County is at **LOW LEVEL**.

**(\*\*\*as of February 24, 2022\*\*\*)**

## New CDC COVID-19 Community Levels



→ **We will be amending our Close Contact protocols effective immediately.**

**For in-school close contacts only:**

- Students and staff who are identified as close contacts because of a **school exposure** (this would include a school activity exposure) will be notified and if they are asymptomatic, they will not need to quarantine.
- In the case of students, their parents will be notified and told of the close contact and asked to monitor for symptoms, but if they have no symptoms, they may remain in school.
- The principal **DOES NOT** need to send a letter to the school community about the positive case.

**HEALTH**



**SAFETY**

*updates*

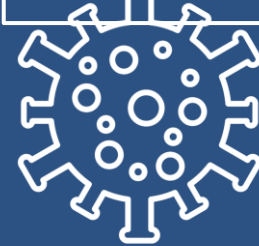




**At this point, follow your local public school districts regarding masks on buses. When we contract for a bus, check with your vendor.**

**Lunchroom** – If you are using your lunchroom/cafeteria, you need not be restricted by six feet between students and students can sit facing each other. This should expand the number of students in the lunchroom at one time. If you have not returned the students to the lunchroom, look at a plan to return the students to the lunchroom in the near future. Let's start to get the students out of the classrooms when we can.

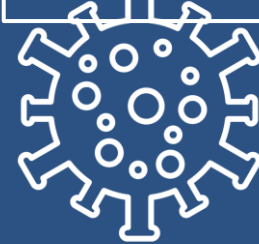
**Continue to  
move  
forward to  
"open-up"  
the school**



## Students Attending Mass

The number of students attending Mass at one time is another area that can be re-visited. Please review your practices and policies. Seating for our students does not need to be as restrictive as we have been when our positive cases were very high.

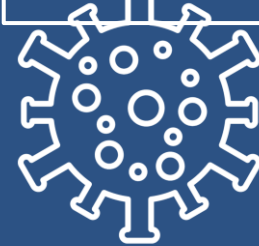
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## Field Trips

Field trips are permitted, however, given the restrictions that some venues have in place or the concerns you may have with some very large venues, you may need to consider different venues this year for some of the grade levels.

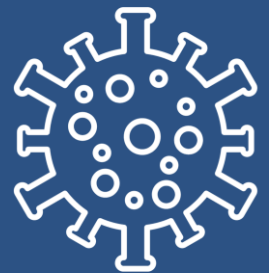
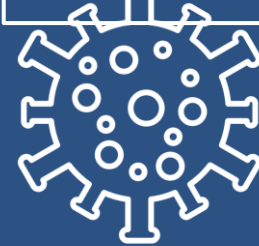
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**Volunteers**- Please consider expanding the opportunities for volunteers in your schools. Traditionally, our parents and volunteers have been the lifeblood of so many activities and programs in our schools. With the various restrictions at the height of the pandemic, some of these contacts with our volunteers have been lost or minimized and I believe we can begin to either re-engage or expand these opportunities at this time.

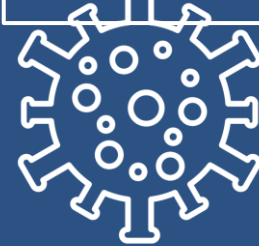
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## Special Events and Programs

A number of special events and programs have been cancelled over the last two years because of concerns with student distancing or bringing parents into the school building. This is another area that can be reviewed now. Possibly you will not return these programs to exactly as they were pre-pandemic, but to begin to bring back these events either as they were or slightly amended to address ongoing concerns.

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# Reporting

→ **Call or email Dr. Fromuth with any positive “school” case(s) each week**

Due every Friday by 2 PM

→ **PA Aggregate Reporting**

Every Friday

