



November 13, 2020

Dear St. Viator families,

Communication was sent this morning related to another reported COVID case from a student at St. Viator within a cohort that is already quarantined. Although this cohort is quarantined, when an additional COVID case is reported within that cohort, I am required to send out another communication to that cohort as well as the entire school community. This can become confusing because the whole school communication is the same as the initial one that was sent on 11/8/2020. The cohort-specific letter references a new "return to in person instruction" date of 11/30/2020, but references an initial exposure date of 11/4/2020. The business of COVID exposure and dates for quarantining can shift based on new students that are being diagnosed with COVID-19. This information and guidance is shared with me through the Archdiocese of Chicago coronavirus task force that works with St. Viator (and all AoC schools) based on the new reports I am given.

Boiled down, I received a new report of another student being diagnosed with COVID on November 12, 2020 within a cohort that is already quarantined. I received new guidance on quarantine dates based on the information that this family shared with me. The affected cohort received a separate letter announcing a new return date of 11/30/2020. As you can imagine, our own situation at St. Viator is compounded by the rise in COVID-19 cases in Chicago and particularly in the 60641 area. The mayor and governor are pleading with our communities and state to stay at home, not travel, and wear a mask. I am also asking our St. Viator families to please heed these requests and limit your exposure to this terrible virus. Our ability to remain open depends on everyone's cooperation with the CDC, IDPH, and CDH guidelines. As of today, we have three children sick with COVID-19 that are in person and three children in our remote learning that are sick with COVID-19. With the Thanksgiving holiday approaching, I know the desire to drift away from the protocols we have followed for many months is tempting, but we will feel the consequences of this in terms of a major health crisis if we do.

As mentioned in the letter from this morning, prolonged close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more. Those who had brief, casual contact with an infected individual are not considered at great risk of transmission and, for most people, the illness is generally mild and can be safely

managed at home. As always, everyone should monitor their health and stay at home if they develop symptoms. Anyone who develops severe symptoms should seek medical care immediately.

We continue to follow local, state and national guidelines as we ensure proper protocols and preventative measures are in place for the health and safety of our staff and students.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever (temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit), chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. If you or your child develop symptoms of COVID-19, please contact your medical provider to discuss evaluation and testing.

You all remain in my daily prayers.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rieger  
Principal