



MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2018 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

Health and Safety Plan Update

August 11, 2020

Dear Parents,

Good afternoon! We wanted to reach out to provide some additional updates since our last communication on July 31, 2020. It is our hope that you have had the opportunity to review the *Mater Dei Health and Safety Plan* developed by the Task Force.

Zoom Meetings

We are in the process of meeting with parents via the Zoom meeting schedule according to grade levels and have received wonderful questions from parents. These questions have been answered and will be posted on the Mater Dei website with password protection. The directions for you to access these questions and answers are as follows:

1. Click on this link on the [Mater Dei website](#).
2. Under "Zoom Meeting Frequently Asked Questions," click on the meeting dates.
3. When prompted for a password, enter: XXXXXXXXXX

We recommend all families review the questions and answers posted on the website prior to submitting your questions before your scheduled Zoom meeting. Previously submitted questions had been considered in preparation for future meetings. We are finding that many parents have the same questions; therefore, we are posting the questions and responses for your convenience and easy reference.

Just as a note of clarification, it is not necessary for you to attend a Zoom meeting for all your children. If you have additional questions, you are welcome to participate, but if you have the information you need, please do not feel obligated to attend.

Department of Health and the PA Department of Education

Late yesterday afternoon, the PA Department of Health and the PA Department of Education issued a new guidance system. The system will use metrics (i.e., number of cases and test positivity rate) to designate a low, moderate, or substantial COVID-

19 transmission for each county. Based on the transmission designation, the PA Department of Health/Department of Education will recommend (not order) the type of instruction schools should provide in relation to the transmission rate.

Low Transmission: Face to Face or Hybrid

Moderate Transmission: Hybrid or Virtual

Substantial Transmission: All Virtual

The PA Department of Health will issue the transmission data for each county every Monday. The DoH recommends that schools wait for 2 consecutive weeks of the same designation prior to considering changing the type of instructional model offered for September. The initial designation for Montgomery County dated August 10th was Moderate Transmission.

Although we have considered this possibility, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, including Mater Dei Catholic School have been preparing for a Face-to-Face return in September. With the information received yesterday, Mater Dei is consulting with the Task Force and the Mater Dei Board of Limited Jurisdiction to review this new metric system from the PA Department of Health and the Department of Education. Further recommendations regarding a hybrid model will be explored and communicated to the Mater Dei community as soon as possible.

Lunch Program and Volunteers

Due to the pandemic, Mater Dei will not participate in the North Penn lunch program for the 2020-2021 school year. Previously, North Penn provided staff to prepare and serve the meals. At this time, the district cannot ensure that they will be able to provide the needed personnel.

Many thanks to our volunteers who have offered to help out this upcoming school year during the lunch/recess hour. We still need volunteers during the lunch/recess hour this school year. If you have any interest, please do not hesitate to reach out to Lisa & Amy at lunchprogram@materdeicatholic.com

As you can imagine, lunch and recess will look a little different this year. We will have a more definitive outline once we get closer to the first day of school. In the meantime, the lunch period will be approximately one hour long and broken into two shifts: First Shift - 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM and Second Shift 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Our intention for longer periods is so the students may have adequate time to sanitize before and after eating their lunch, as well as after recess.

At this time, we desire to assign a lunch volunteer to one cohort in order to minimize any volunteer moving from one cohort to another. In addition, we are asking everyone to arrive for their designated shift 15 minutes beforehand. This will enable adequate time for temperature checks and screening. You will be given a badge and walkie talkie. All volunteers will be required to wear a mask. All lunch volunteers will enter and exit for their shift through the gym ramp doors. Lisa or Amy will be there to greet you.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa and Amy for more information and/or clarification. Please contact these wonderful ladies

as soon as possible if you are willing to do a lunch shift. We are grateful to them for their commitment to the lunch program.

We look forward to meeting you on the continuation of the Zoom meetings scheduled for the next two weeks. Thank you for believing in Mater Dei! May God bless you, your family, and may our Blessed Mother give you hope and peace as the summer continues.

Most sincerely,

Miss Diane E. McCaughan
President

Miss Elizabeth A. Waltrich
Principal