



## Bridgeport Catholic Academy

3700 South Lowe Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60609

11/14/2020

Dear Bridgeport Catholic Academy Family,

I am writing to inform you that our school currently has numerous staff and students under quarantine for COVID-19 exposure. As you are aware, we had to quarantine three cohorts of students last week. As of Friday, we had to quarantine a fourth cohort, as well, due to a positive COVID case.

As a result of these infections, in consultation with the Office of Catholic Schools, we have decided the best course of action is to close the Bridgeport Catholic Academy school building for two weeks and pivot to remote learning for all of our students. While we believe these cases arose outside of school, we will perform additional cleaning and disinfection.

Students and teachers will be invited to pick up supplies on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, on a schedule that Assistant Principal Thompson will communicate separately.

Remote learning for all students (P-8) will begin on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> and continue through Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. The already scheduled Thanksgiving break will mean that we will have 5 ½ days of remote instruction. Teachers will communicate to families about the remote learning plan on Monday 11/16.

The school will reopen for in-person instruction on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever (temperature higher than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit), chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle/body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea or vomiting and diarrhea. If you or your child develop symptoms of COVID-19, please contact your health care provider to discuss evaluation and testing. For severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or difficulty waking, or bluish lips or face please seek the closest emergency department or call 9-1-1 immediately.

As per our safety protocols, individuals who are sick with or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home and away from others for at least 10 days since their symptoms first appeared and at least one day (24 hours) with no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and improved symptoms, whichever is longer.

The health and wellness of our staff and students are the highest priority of Bridgeport Catholic Academy. We will continue to follow local, state and national guidelines as we ensure proper protocols and preventive measures are in place for the health and safety of our staff and students. For any additional COVID-19 questions or support, please visit your local department of health website for the most reliable information.

As a faith community, we are doing our best to respond with compassion and prayer to everyone affected by the COVID-19 around the world, particularly those who do not have access to health care and community support. Let us continue to keep each other, our communities, and our country in our prayers. *“The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song, I praise Him.” Psalm 28:7*

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Flaherty  
Principal  
Saint Gabriel Catholic School  
& Bridgeport Catholic Academy