



# Saint Maria Goretti

Est. 1954

## Catholic School

November 5, 2020

### Safety Protocols for Travel following Thanksgiving & Christmas Breaks

As we all look toward Thanksgiving and Christmas, many families have begun to consider plans for the holidays. I know it's hard for us to even fathom celebrating without extended family, friends, and festivities. I also know that we are all more than ready for pandemic precautions to end. However, no matter how frustrating the situation may be, it is still up to us to keep our school community safe. The purpose of this email is to remind you that your family's decisions regarding the holidays can potentially impact our school's ability to remain open.

At this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>) continues to warn that travel increases your chance of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19, and staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others.

Therefore, after much consultation with Fr. Jim, the faculty, our School Advisory Council, and the diocese, and in an effort to keep our school community safe especially after the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, we have put the following plan in place:

- **Thanksgiving Break:** Those traveling (out of the country, state or locally), as well as those who are visiting family and friends or who are having family and friends to their homes during the holidays who are not part of their regular family/friend "bubble" (i.e. those with whom they already interact on a consistent, daily basis), **should strongly consider quarantining and having their student(s) participate in Distance Learning for 5-10 days (1 or 2 weeks) following the Thanksgiving break.**
- **Christmas break:** In an effort to allow more time to isolate after Christmas and lower the exposure and spread of the COVID-19 virus following travel and/or gathering with extended friends and family, **we have made the difficult decision to close the school campus and move to virtual Distance Instruction and Learning for two weeks following Christmas break. Therefore, classes will resume on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 as scheduled, but will utilize the virtual Distance Learning platform and will continue virtually through Friday, January 15, 2021.** We will welcome students back to campus on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 (Monday, 1/18 is the MLK, Jr. Holiday). The hope is that families who are traveling for Christmas will return home after Christmas & New Years and have at least 7-10 days longer to self-isolate before returning to campus.

I am hopeful that notifying families 8 weeks in advance of the plan to move to Distance Learning following Christmas break, will allow for plenty of time to plan and make adjustments and arrangements. While we have no way to verify or monitor the decision that each family makes regarding travel during the holidays and this pandemic, I would be remiss if I did not strongly encourage you to consider the health & well-

being of not only yourself and your families, but the health and safety of all in our SMGCS community. **Again, our goal is to keep our entire school community safe and in school.** We are relying on the choices you make and your support to help us maintain that goal.

Please complete the Holiday Acknowledgement Form at the link below indicating your travel plans over the holidays, if any, and acknowledging your understanding of the changes to the break and learning platform outlined in this email.

[Holiday Acknowledgement Form](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Blessings,

Laura Behee, M.Ed.  
Principal