



CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

JESUIT PREPARATION *for* COLLEGE...FOR LIFE

September 30, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the course of the coming days and weeks, you may hear that Canisius has (or had) a case of COVID-19 or that some of our students are in quarantine. Sadly, this is likely going to be the case for much of the school year.

While we are doing all that we can to provide a safe and healthy environment, it seems that on a near daily basis we have members of our community being tested and sometimes quarantined. We had a case of someone in our school community having the virus going back to the last school year and will likely have cases during this school year as well. We are mandated to update the New York State Schools COVID Dashboard daily to record positive cases. You can access that site using this link <https://schoolcovidreportcard.health.ny.gov/#/home>.

Please keep in mind that members of our community may be absent from school because they have symptoms similar to the virus. There is a pretty broad spectrum of these symptoms. Additionally, students may be out of school and in quarantine because they may have been exposed to someone who tested positive.

When we have a member of our school community test positive for the virus (or are notified that the person may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive) we expect the person to adhere to the protocols set forth by the Department of Health (DOH). Once that individual has completed those protocols, the person may return to our community.

Mr. Coppola, our Dean of Students, is involved in daily conversations with the Erie County Department of Health. We maintain this constant communication in an effort to remain up to date on policy development as it pertains to our school. The rationale behind the health department's method of quarantining is to cast a 'wide but purposeful net' so as to take every precaution necessary while still preventing unnecessary quarantines. The metrics used to

define a quarantine are developed by the DOH and all contact tracing is conducted by them as well. Our administration cooperates with their representative in an effort to maintain a healthy and safe environment. Please note that Canisius has no role nor say in the students who may be subject to quarantine, but a duty to enforce it. It is the deep desire of both Canisius High School and the Department of Health to keep our school safe so that we can remain on campus for in-person instruction going forward.

While many would like to know the “who, how, when” and perhaps other details, it is not our place to share such information. We will continue to be in regular contact with our school’s liaison at the DOH and will adhere to the guidance of the DOH in this regard. The DOH advises that the school not engage in contact tracing or communication with our constituencies when/if we have a positive case. This is the role of the DOH, with whom we collaborate and cooperate fully.

We also ask you to continue to help us keep Canisius safe by encouraging your son to continue with wearing his mask, keeping proper physical distance from others, and washing his hands regularly. Thank you for partnering with us in these very unusual and certainly challenging times.

With prayerful best wishes for you and your family,

Rev. David S. Ciancimino

President

Ms. Andrea Tyrpak-Endres

Principal