



## CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

JESUIT PREPARATION *for* COLLEGE... FOR LIFE

November 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We pray that you and your family are well.

As Mr. Tom Coppola, our Dean of Students, shared with you last week, with our WNY region's designation as a "yellow zone" under the NYS Micro-Cluster Initiative, we must make arrangements to do testing for COVID-19 at Canisius High School. This testing is required for us to remain open for in-person instruction.

The specific requirement is that we test 20 percent of our in-person population, inclusive of students and staff. Based on our typical daily in-person student attendance and our total number of faculty and staff, this translates to about 150 tests. We will be testing on Thursday, November 19, 2020.

### **Why is this important?**

With the rise in cases locally, it is increasingly important to verify that our schools remain some of the safest places for students to be. This testing will allow us to continue to confirm that the rate of infection and transmission at Canisius High School remains very low, which will contribute to our effort to remain open for in-person instruction.

While you may have your son opt out of participating in this testing, we urge you to consider this a relatively simple contribution to our school community's overall efforts to stay safe and to remain open. By being tested, our students will be "men for others" in a unique way, recognizing the role they have in keeping their classmates, teachers, and wider community healthy.

### **How do I indicate my consent for my son(s) to be tested?**

All parents and guardians, regardless of their son's in-person or remote learning status, must complete the brief consent form available by clicking [here](#) *no later than 6 p.m. tonight, Wednesday, November 18th*. Parents and guardians with more than one son in the school should fill out a form for each of their sons.

You may also indicate that you do not consent to your son(s) being tested. However, please consider that if we do not have sufficient level of consent to test, we may need to move to remote/distance learning only.

### **What type of COVID-19 test is being used?**

We will use the BD Veritor System for Rapid Detection of SARS-CoV-2. The test, a shallow nasal swab, tickles at most, and is not nearly as uncomfortable as the more invasive PCR test can be. Information on this test can be found by clicking [here](#).

### **Who will administer the tests?**

We have partnered with Parkview Niagara Street, LLC (Parkview Pharmacies). Parkview medical professionals will administer the test with Canisius staff assisting throughout the process. The test results will be registered in the NYS COVID data base. Testing data will be shared between Parkview Niagara Street, LLC and Canisius High School.

### **Where and when will the tests be administered?**

We will test students on Thursday, November 19, 2020 from about noon to 3:00 p.m. in a private area on campus.

### **What happens if my son tests positive for COVID-19?**

First, please know that Mrs. Denise Keating, R.N. (our school nurse) and those assisting your son will exercise care and discretion during and after testing. Should your son test positive for COVID-19, we will follow our protocol and contact you as soon as we are made aware of the positive result. We are also required to report a positive case directly to the Erie County Department of Health. We expect to know the results of all our testing within 24 hours. If you are not contacted by Mr. Coppola or Mrs. Keating, R.N., it means your son has tested negative for the virus.

We know these are unsettling times, and this new testing requirement adds an additional layer of complexity and, for some, unease. Having said this, at this time, we are asking for your collaboration and support so that we may continue to provide healthy and safe in-person instruction for our students.

We thank you for your continued efforts to keep the Canisius community safe and healthy.

With prayerful best wishes for you and your family,

Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.

President

Ms. Andrea Tyrpak-Endres

Principal