



Archdiocese of Hartford

Office of Education, Evangelization and Catechesis

To: Catholic School Administrators
CC: Fr. Michael Whyte
Date: 23 July 2021
Re: Vaccinations and Masks

[Vaccine for Employees:](#)

As the Delta variant continues to spread here in CT and across the nation, the OEEC wishes to further strengthen its hope that all administrators, teachers and staff members of our schools, as well as volunteers of our schools, will be vaccinated against COVID no later than Sept. 1st.

The expectation is that all become vaccinated for the common good for all those that we serve and with whom we work, and especially for the young who are vulnerable due to the nature of the Delta variant.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an individual is considered fully vaccinated two weeks following the second dose of the vaccine for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines; and, two weeks following the one dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

Employees will be required to show proof that they are fully vaccinated or provide a physician's letter for a medical exception and those with serious objections to receiving the vaccine should place those objections in writing and send to Fr. Whyte.

Please send a copy of your vaccination record to the administration of your school, which will be kept confidential, and we thank you for doing so. Each school will be following up with those who have not yet done so. A report of vaccinated employees from each school will be submitted to our office. Names will not be attached to this form.

Effective immediately, employees who **have not** been fully vaccinated, those that have a medical exemption from the vaccine, and those who have an OEEC approved objection to the vaccine, will be required to wear a mask in all common areas of the school buildings, while in meetings with others, and will be required to sanitize workspaces, office machines and shared equipment.

Many of the major pharmacies, CVS, Rite-Aid, and Walgreens, as well as pharmacies located in major grocery chains have the COVID vaccine in stock, and no appointments are needed.

The COVID vaccine for students, while encouraged, will not be required or a condition for admission in any of our schools.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like additional information about anything addressed in this memorandum.

Masks and Our Children:

For the time being, and in conjunction with current CDC guidelines and Connecticut State requirements, *children wearing masks in school will be at the discretion of their parents.* Students will still be expected to be distanced at three feet and to bring a mask to school, which may be needed on the occasion when prolonged small group work is conducted such as a science lab experiment and small group instruction where three feet separation is not possible.

It is recognized that children learn best unmasked, and our current decision and policy is based on the best outcome for all our students. This policy is subject to revision based upon government action and medical science.