



# ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

*Office of the Superintendent of Schools*

August 6, 2021

Dear Catholic School Parents and Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself to you as the new Secretary of Education and Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of Miami. Having started my new role on July 6, 2021, I am sincerely getting to know the 61 Catholic schools of the Archdiocese. I have always worked in Catholic education, having served as a teacher, principal, and Superintendent in other dioceses. Our Catholic schools truly offer an education that is second-to-none. Not only have I witnessed the transformational value of our schools as an educator, but I am proud to have my own four children enrolled in Catholic schools of the Archdiocese.

I am sincerely grateful for your partnership and trust as a parent/guardian. It is our mission to provide your child with top-notch academic and spiritual formation. Thank you for the innumerable ways that you work with your school in support of your child's education.

As we enter the new academic year, our schools will undoubtedly be impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In recent weeks, the Archdiocese of Miami has worked hard to develop our COVID protocols for schools. A summary of these protocols is included with this letter along with a statement from Archbishop Wenski. As you can read, we continue to prioritize the safety and wellbeing of each of our students and employees. Given escalating infection rates and other indicators, it is vital that ongoing practices remain in place. At the same time, we are happy to ease some restrictions from last school year, particularly in light of vaccine eligibility.

In reading these protocols, it is important to remember that they represent our current approach based upon the state of the pandemic. As the pandemic continues to evolve, so too may our practices. We will inform you of any updates or changes to our COVID plan throughout the school year.

Please note that, as announced last spring, individual schools will no longer be providing long-term virtual learning for students. We believe that in-person learning is the optimal setting for the education of our students, and we have demonstrated that such learning can be accomplished safely. However, we recognize that some families are not yet ready to return for in-person learning. As such, families interested in long-term virtual learning will receive instruction from the Archdiocese of Miami Virtual School ([www.adomvirtual.com](http://www.adomvirtual.com)). Families will remain enrolled at their current school even if instruction is delivered in this way. If you are interested in long-term virtual learning, please speak with your school principal. Your school will still provide instruction for short-term quarantines and isolations, although such instruction may not be virtual.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

*Office of the Superintendent of Schools*

Your own school will be communicating further regarding COVID protocols in the new year. In the meantime, know that my prayers are with you and your family. I look forward to a successful school year ahead!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Rigg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "R".

Jim Rigg, Ph.D.  
Secretary of Education  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools  
Archdiocese of Miami

## MESSAGE for high school parents – A SUMMARY OF ADOM COVID POLICY

Dear Parents:

Much of the discussions around vaccinations and whether to wear or not wear a facial mask has unfortunately been politicized. However, after much research, including sources such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the CDC (Center for Disease Control) the Archdiocese of Miami is focused on mitigating as much as possible risks of infection in our churches and schools and has put in place the following policies which will be reviewed weekly and updated when indicated. Vaccinations, masks, social distancing, etc., of course, are not 100% effective but not to attempt to mitigate risks to parishioners and school families would be a failure of pastoral oversight on my part.

+ Thomas Wenski  
Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski  
Archbishop of Miami

- The ADOM COVID protocol is modeled on CDC guidance and will be revised as needed consistent with any additional guidance from the CDC or FL Department of Health.
- Anyone who is sick should remain at home until symptoms resolve. Please contact the school. Anyone who has been tested for COVID and awaits results, should remain at home. Please contact the school.
- Any exposure to persons with COVID should be reported to the school; student should remain at home until school determines if there is a need for quarantine.
- Any student with a positive diagnosis of COVID should isolate at home and contact the school; the school determine when return to school is safe.
- **MASK REQUIREMENTS:**  
Masks are optional outdoors, for anyone, regardless of vaccination status; maintain social distance.  
Masks are optional indoors for persons fully vaccinated who have provided documentation of the vaccination to the school; maintain social distance of at least 3’.  
  
Masks are required for those not vaccinated (age 2 or older) except outdoors, or during sports or other vigorous activity, regardless of age or vaccination status.
- **TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS --- outside Archdiocese of Miami but WITHIN USA**  
If fully vaccinated, no quarantine requirements.  
If not fully vaccinated, quarantine following US travel is required and is the 7-day + PCR protocol or the 10-day protocol without any testing.
- **TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS --- INTERNATIONAL**  
If fully vaccinated, no quarantine required – but PCR testing within 3-5 days of return to US with test results reported to school  
If not fully vaccinated, mandated quarantine upon return; use 7-day + PCR testing protocol or the 10-day protocol without any testing.

- QUARANTINE PROTOCOL WHEN QUARANTINE IS NECESSARY:

**ADOM PREFERRED:**

**QUARANTINE 7 DAYS + PCR and caution until 14<sup>th</sup> day**

6 full days of quarantine - then

Testing no sooner than day 6 or later, PCR test required  
quarantine continued until NEGATIVE results received  
quarantine must include at least 7 full days

present negative results to supervisor/school

return to normal life after negative results and completion of 7 full days of quarantine

EXTRA caution for 7 more days/monitor symptoms for full 14 days' incubation period

**IF ELECTING NOT TO TEST:**

**QUARANTINE 10 DAYS and caution until 14<sup>th</sup> day**

10 full days of quarantine

NO testing

Return to normal life after 10 full days of quarantine if NO symptoms have begun

EXTRA caution for 4 more days/monitor symptoms for full 14 days' incubation period

- ISOLATION WHEN A POSITIVE DIAGNOSIS IS RECEIVED:

If asymptomatic: a minimum of 10 days' isolation; NO TESTING NEEDED TO RETURN

If symptomatic: a minimum of 10 days' isolation and return only after symptoms are resolved. NO TESTING NEEDED TO RETURN.

- PARTICIPATION IN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

To participate on a high school athletic team, negative PCR test result (at site selected by student) is required weekly. Athletes may opt out of weekly testing if they document they are fully vaccinated or, within the 90-days post recovery, document natural immunity via a positive diagnosis.

- IF FULLY VACCINATED AND DOCUMENTATION IS PROVIDED TO THE SCHOOL:

Masks are not required outdoors; masks are not required indoors for the fully vaccinated.

Student may opt out of weekly testing in order to participate in school athletics.

No quarantine needed following international travel, however testing is required.

No quarantine or testing needed following travel in USA.

No quarantine needed if close contact to someone who is contagious but should be tested 3-5 days after the exposure AND a mask worn for up to 14 days or until a negative test result is received. However, if symptomatic, then isolation of a minimum of 10 days is needed.

- IF THE STUDENT HAD POSITIVE COVID DIAGNOSIS WITHIN PRIOR 90 DAYS

Natural immunity following recovery can be documented with positive test results

Masks are not required outdoors; during 90 days after recovery, masks are not required indoors.

Student may opt out of weekly testing in order to participate in school athletics within the 90-day post recovery period.

If documented, no quarantine needed following travel with US within the 90-day post recovery period.

If documented, no quarantine needed following close contact to someone who is contagious within the 90-day post recovery period. However, if symptomatic, then isolation is needed.

Revised: August 5, 2021



# Archdiocese of Miami



## 5 Questions

about the COVID-19 Vaccine answered:

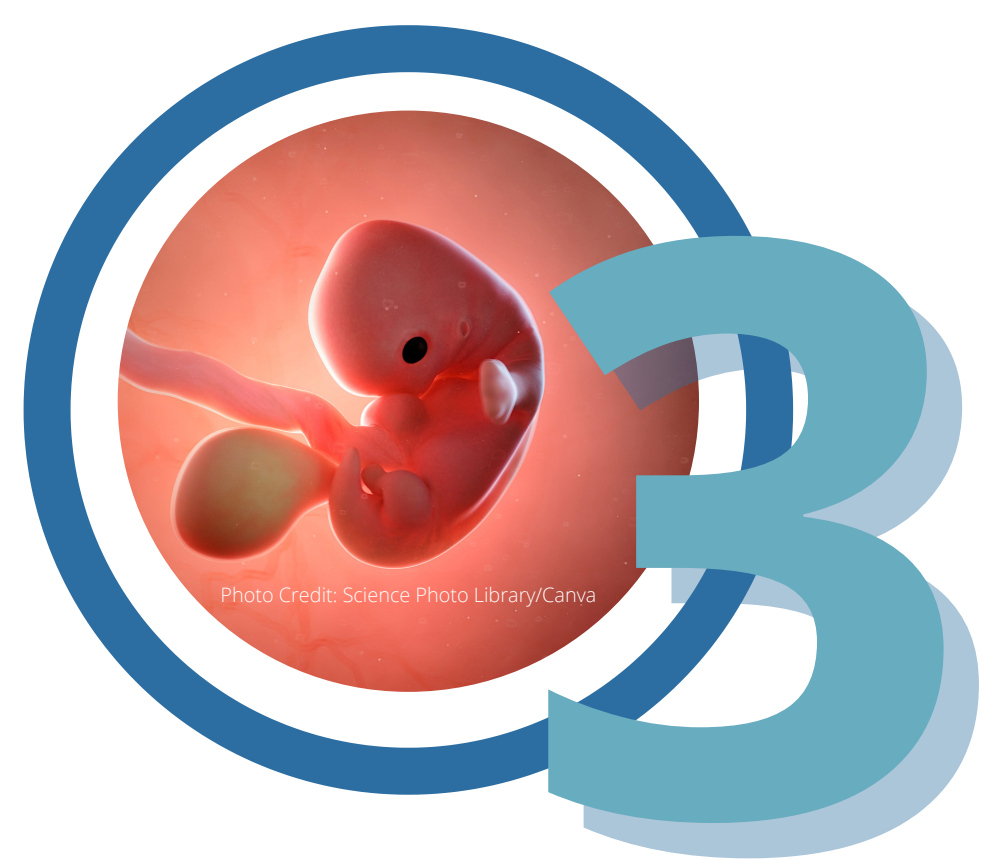


### What does the Church say about the COVID-19 vaccine?

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (Vatican) the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops (FCCB) have stated that it is morally acceptable to use the COVID-19 vaccines.

### Is there a moral obligation to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccination is voluntary. From an ethical point of view, the morality of vaccination depends not only on the duty to protect one's own health but also on our moral responsibility for the common good. In the absence of other means to stop or even prevent the epidemic, the common good recommends vaccination, especially to protect the most vulnerable in our society. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor.



### Is it true that there is a connection between some vaccines and abortion?

There are currently three COVID-19 vaccines approved for emergency use in the United States by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration: Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson. The cell lines used at various stages of development, production, and testing by these three drug companies originated from the embryonic cells of an unborn child following an abortion that took place several decades ago. These cell lines have been used for decades in the production of many pharmaceuticals in common use.

### Is it morally acceptable to receive the COVID-19 vaccines?

If it were possible to choose among a variety of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived fetal cell lines should be chosen. In the United States, the Food and Drug Administration has currently approved the use of vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson. Taking into consideration the gravity of the current pandemic, particularly here in Florida, and that there are currently no alternative vaccines in the U.S., it is morally acceptable to use these vaccines despite their remote connection to abortion-derived cell lines. Individuals can receive the vaccines in good conscience with certain knowledge that the use of such vaccines does not condone abortion nor promote future abortions.



### Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe and effective?

The Church and her leaders are not and do not claim to be authorities on the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines. Such evaluation is the responsibility of biomedical researchers and drug agencies. People should rely on information from authoritative sources in the field of medicine and public health, such as the Food and Drug Administration and qualified health care professionals. The FDA affirms that the vaccines authorized for emergency use in the U.S. have met all the safety and efficacy standards required for such authorization.