



December 18, 2020

Dear Mercy community,

As our school breaks for the Christmas holiday, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued vigilance regarding the COVID-19 safety protocols we have in place at Mercy. Our community has done a wonderful job in observing the protocols! We continue to be grateful that we have not had any instances of community transmission of the virus on campus.

We have worked diligently to mitigate the risks of COVID-19, and our protocols have served us well. Just as we did at Thanksgiving, **Mercy High School will return to online learning for one week after the Christmas break—Monday, January 4 through Friday, January 8**, as a risk mitigation strategy.

As of yesterday, the State of Maryland has restricted out-of-state travel to essential purposes only. In alignment with Archdiocese of Baltimore policy, please note that students, faculty, and staff must notify our school nurse, Ms. Mary Rizzi-Ayd, RN, BSN in writing prior to out-of-state travel. Please be in touch with Ms. Rizzi-Ayd at [mrizzi-ayd@mercyhighschool.com](mailto:mrizzi-ayd@mercyhighschool.com).

Kindly note that if a student, faculty, or staff member elects to travel out of state, those traveling are required to follow the guidelines below prior to returning to campus:

- Quarantine for 14 days.
- Be symptom free.

We will continue to carefully monitor our evolving external environment, and our response will continue to be prudent. Please refer to *Principal Notes* and communications sent out by Mercy for future updates to our policy as they occur. Thank you again for your strong partnership. We wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Lennon '85  
President

Jeanne A. Blakeslee  
Principal

Mary Ella Franz Marion '76, P'09  
Dean of Students