



November 6, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE & TRAVEL ADVISORY

Dear Mercy community,

In light of Governor Hogan's message yesterday, we wanted to communicate with you again about how important the continued vigilance of our entire community—Mercy students, families, faculty, and staff—is in this pandemic. **As we write this letter, we have not had a single instance of community transmission of COVID-19 at Mercy High School.** We know that you join with us in a sincere hope that our on-campus instruction can continue uninterrupted now through the Christmas Break. Hand washing, social distancing, wearing masks, and avoiding crowds and crowded spaces are all tools used effectively by our community that will keep our Mercy Girls learning on-campus!

In preparation for the holidays, we also want to bring to your attention again that the Maryland Department of Health has issued a public health advisory for out-of-state travel, which notes that **Marylanders are strongly advised against traveling to states with positivity rates of 10% or higher.** The CDC warns that travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19 and recommends that the best way to protect yourself and others is to stay home.

Mercy High School continues to work diligently to mitigate the risks of COVID-19. Therefore, in alignment with the Archdiocese of Baltimore policy, students, faculty, and staff must notify our school nurse, Ms. Mary Rizzi-Ayd, RN, BSN in writing prior to out-of-state travel. Please direct your correspondence to Ms. Rizzi-Ayd at mrizzi-ayd@mercyhighschool.com.

If a student, faculty, or staff member elects to travel to a state or country with a positivity rate for COVID-19 of 10% or greater (see <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/testing/tracker/overview>), those traveling are required to follow the guidelines below prior to returning to campus:

- Quarantine for five days (out-of-state travel) or 14 days (international travel).
- Undergo COVID-19 testing on or after the 5th day (for travel within the U.S. only).
- Submit evidence of a negative test result. We will not accept a rapid test result.
- Be symptom free.

Note: If a student, faculty or staff member elects NOT to undergo COVID-19 testing, the person must quarantine for a period of 14 days.

Many thanks to each of you for following the protocols designed to protect the health of our community. As we move into the Thanksgiving season, we again offer our deepest gratitude for your partnership in this extraordinary year.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Lennon '85
President

Jeanne A. Blakeslee
Principal

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