



St. Christopher's By-the-Sea

Episcopal Church and Montessori School

The Reverend Susan M. Bruttell, Rector and Head of School

Dear Families, Faculty and Staff:

For almost three months, we have kept our campus open and worked to protect our students, faculty and staff. We are proud of how we have fared, and I know that the students have been happy to be back on campus. Nonetheless, we are acutely aware of the fragility of our situation. The Flu season is beginning and Covid-19 positivity rates are surging locally, nationally and internationally at an alarming rate. We want to remain diligent in our efforts to keep everyone safe.

We have all heard talk of schools in South Florida that have been forced to return to fully remote learning because of problems with the virus or disregard of COVID-19 protocols.

As we approach the holidays, I share St. Christopher's [Thanksgiving and Holiday Travel Guidelines](#), which are based on CDC recommendations for holiday gatherings and travel. Please read the guidelines below carefully.

Gatherings

- Families, faculty and staff should neither host nor attend any gatherings of more than 10 people.
- Social distancing and mask wearing are required of all attendees at gatherings.
- Gatherings should take place outdoors or in well-ventilated spaces.

If any member of the school community hosts or attends a gathering that is in violation of any of these guidelines, that member must observe a 14-day quarantine.

Travel

- Following the lead of the CDC, St. Christopher's discourages travel out of state, or to [level-3 destinations outside of the United States](#).
- Students, faculty or staff who travel to a level-3 destination outside the U.S. must quarantine for 14 days.
- Upon returning from the trip, the students will go to distance learning for 2-weeks (10 school days).
- Students who wish to come to in-class earlier than the two weeks must do a COVID-19 test **five days after arrival**.
- They need to bring proof of the negative results upon resuming in-class.
- Travelers must carefully watch for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following travel
- We are asking families to stay home 72 hours after their trip and get a PCR test.

As we continue to stress, we must rely on everyone in our community to help keep the school safe. **Please also be very careful what you and your families do off campus that may create exposure to our community (i.e., playdates, parties, gathering in people's homes, restaurants, etc.)**

In addition, everyone should continue to watch for symptoms of COVID-19. Should your child develop a fever, cough, headache, body aches or any of these symptoms, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov>, please keep your child home and seek advice through your healthcare provider.

Please know that the safety and well-being of your child, and our entire community is our number one priority, and we continue to take steps for various scenarios and contingency strategies. Thank you for doing your part.

Keep the Faith,
Reverend Susan+