



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL

FAITH, ACADEMICS & SERVICE EST. 1954

6500 Highland Drive
Vancouver, WA 98661
Phone: 360.696.2586
Fax: 360.696.0977
www.stjoevanschool.org

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As you are aware, the Governor outlined new restrictions over the weekend. As he explained, these new restrictions come at a truly unprecedeted time as we experience a widespread surge in COVID cases, the worst that we have seen since this began to affect our lives eight months ago.

To further prevent the introduction of COVID into our community and protect the staff and students in the building, we are asking all school families to follow the new [Washington State travel advisories](#), effective immediately. This means that *any staff member or student who chooses to travel out of the state for non-essential travel will be asked to quarantine for 14 days upon their return and will not be permitted into the school building* (please refer to formal communication from the Governor's office to determine what is deemed "essential"). If your family is planning to travel and your child will need to quarantine upon return, please notify your teacher.

During his address, the Governor also stated that K-12 school operations are currently exempt from the new restrictions, acknowledging the importance for our children to attend school where and when they can do so safely. As he stated more than once, his team is using verified science as they are making new policy. Research is finding that schools are at a low risk of an outbreak if safety guidelines are being followed; this is reflected in the numbers of cases in not only our regional schools, but on a broader scale as well.

However, our reality is that a high volume of localized COVID cases may put a strain on staffing and supervision that could force a revision to our instructional modality. We must continue to help our students keep their masks on, wash hands, and distance themselves with reinforcement both at school and at home. Our school can only stay open if our community (staff, students, and families) continues to act with vigilance and follow the current guidelines.

I am grateful that we have been able to increase the opportunities to have our students on campus. I am blessed to have staff members who are willing to make sacrifices in their own lives and for a community who recognizes and supports those efforts, as we acknowledge our collective responsibility to limit the spread and protect one another.

Prayerfully serving
Kathy Lundy
Principal, St. Joseph Catholic School
"Prayer Moves Mountains"