



Department of Catholic Education

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Saturday, September 25, 2021

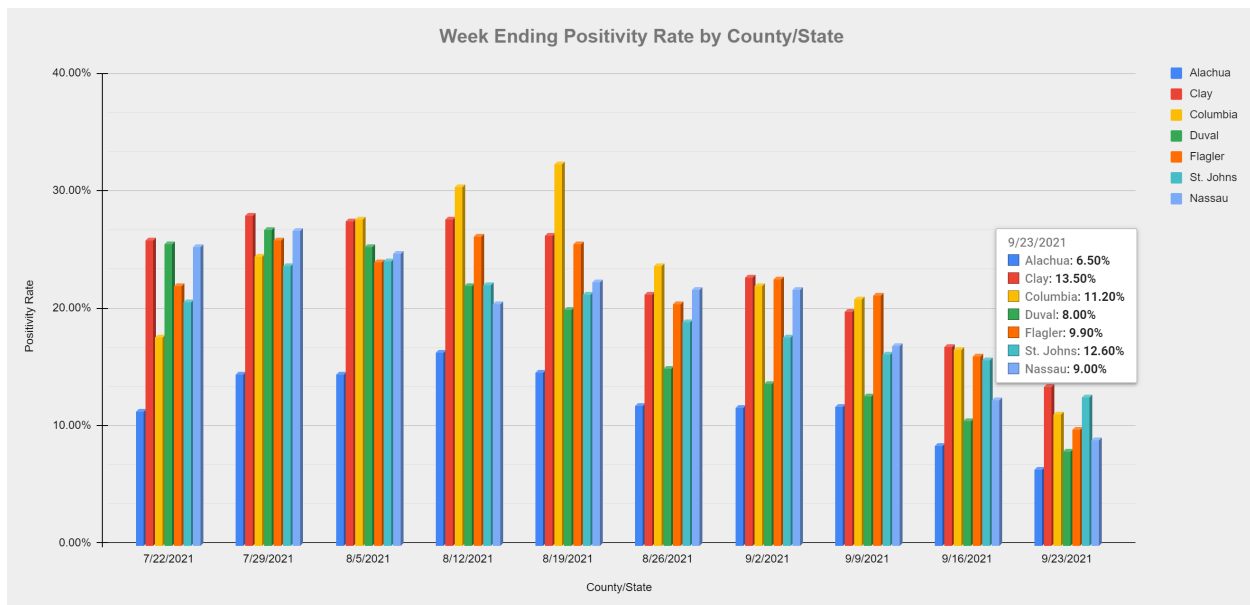
Dear Family, Faculty, and Staff of our Catholic Schools,

As discussed in our letter dated August 9, 2021, our mask mandate policy would become optional once a county has a positivity rate of ten percent or less. This week's Florida Department of Health weekly report indicated that the following counties have fallen below a 10% positivity rate:

- Duval County positivity rate is at 8%
- Flagler County positivity rate is at 9.9%
- Nassau County positivity rate is at 9%

Therefore, all Duval, Flagler, and Nassau County Catholic Schools will be "masks optional." To make this point clear to all stakeholders, if a student or faculty member wishes to continue to wear a mask, this is acceptable and still recommended by the Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control. If the positivity rate increases, exceeding ten percent again, masks will be restored.

Our office will continue to maintain a status page for our schools in each county at www.dosaeducation.org; if you are unsure of the county your school is located in, it can be found on the same webpage. This page is updated by Sunday of each week.



As a reminder, all visitors and volunteers will be required to wear masks, and we will limit the number of visitors at this time. COVID-19 vaccinations will remain optional but are strongly

encouraged. Lastly, all positive cases will be reported to the Office of the Superintendent and families will be notified of every positive employee or student case at a school. We will continue to contact trace for exposed individuals and will notify parents whether a student needs to quarantine or not. Quarantine guidelines change when masks become optional because the social distance between students who are not all wearing masks increases to 6 feet. We have currently been allowed to use a measurement of 3 feet when completing our investigations of close contact exposures.

It is important to note that Alachua county has fallen below 10% positivity, but there remains in effect an Emergency Order in Alachua that will not allow us to move to optional masks until there is a change in the order.

The following counties are still under a mask mandate at this time:

- Clay County positivity rate is 13.5%
- Columbia County positivity rate is 11.2%
- St. Johns County positivity rate is 12.6%

Please direct all questions to your administration at your school as we are in dialogue with them regularly.

Let's continue to pray for all of those affected by COVID-19 and that we may continue to win the fight over this virus.

May God continue to bless you and your families,


Deacon Scott J. Conway
Superintendent of Catholic Schools


Rhonda Rose
Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools

