



OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

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Dear Pastors and School Leaders,

May God bless you!

On Wednesday, a federal judge ruled that religious schools are exempt from the Governor's executive order mandating schools to end in-person instruction due to the pandemic. Though the Catholic dioceses of the Commonwealth did not join this lawsuit, I am writing to clarify our stance on in-person instruction in light of this decision.

In the Archdiocese of Louisville, I wrote to you on November 13 about an expansion of the joint recommendation from the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness and the Office of Catholic Schools regarding holiday buffers. This November 13 communication issued a strong recommendation to all schools to cease in-person instruction, beginning this week through January 8. We stand by the safe operation of our schools, but we are the fourth largest school system in the state and the rapid community spread was impacting our schools with increasing cases and especially increasing quarantines. When a number of teachers and staff, along with dozens and sometimes hundreds of students are quarantined, the operation of schools becomes unsustainable. In addition, the health department was advising us that they were being overwhelmed with cases, and our partnership with the health department has been an invaluable aid to the safe operation of our schools.

Given these realities, I again strongly recommend that it is in the best interest of students, faculty, and staff for Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Louisville to implement non-traditional instruction through January 8.

Thanks to all of you for all they are doing to serve our families. Please join me in prayer for the speedy and safe implementation of a vaccine and for all those affected by this pandemic.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville