



## CATHOLIC INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

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December 9, 2021

Dear Island Catholic Schools families,

I hope this letter finds you well and that this season of Advent fills your heart and home with hope, peace, joy and love!

Please find two important COVID-19 updates to be aware of.

### **International Travel**

Many families may be considering international travel over the Christmas Holidays. It is important to note that all unvaccinated children who travel internationally are not permitted to attend school for two weeks following their return to Canada.

Unvaccinated students ages 12-17 are required to follow all quarantine requirements. Unvaccinated students under the age of 12 who are accompanied by someone who qualifies for the fully vaccinated traveler exemption are not required to quarantine, however, these students have the [following restrictions](#):

For the next 14 days, the children must:

- not attend school, camp or daycare
- not attend large or crowded settings, indoors or outdoors, such as an amusement park or sporting event

There is no allowance for unvaccinated students to return to school within 14 days following international travel, regardless of who they travel with or if they receive a negative PCR test result.

### **Vaccines for Students aged 5 – 11**

Vaccinations for children aged 5 – 11 have commenced, with approximately 2,000 BC children in this age range being vaccinated each day. Here are the information resources provided by BC government agencies:

BC COVID-19 Situation Report for K-12 Schools

- [BC COVID-19 Situation Report for K-12 Schools](#)

COVID-19 pediatric vaccine for children aged 5-11:

- <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0209-002245>

Any child between 5 – 11 years old can receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Parents can register their child in the Get Vaccinated system <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/> to be notified of when their child can get vaccinated. The vaccines are free and children do not need BC Care Cards to receive them.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to keeping staff and students safe!

Merry Christmas!

Katja Groves, Superintendent