



# ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

Under the direction of the Basilian Fathers

January 21, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Today's update is to clarify expectations regarding some of the changes to programme delivery as we adjust to new COVID-19 protocols.

We are doing our best to be flexible in these uncertain times; however, providing flexibility does create some monitoring and reporting challenges. To maintain a high degree of accountability and accuracy in support of students and staff, we require your attention to these adjusted expectations regarding attendance reporting.

- For accurate recording and case management, parents/guardians of any student not attending school in-person must contact the attendance office by email at [attendance@smcsmail.com](mailto:attendance@smcsmail.com) with the following information:
  - **Home due to COVID-related symptoms or exposure and learning online**
  - or
  - **Home ill and absent from all learning (including online learning)**
  - or
  - **Other, please provide further information**
- We are currently providing more flexibility to requests for remote access to classrooms to accommodate COVID-related concerns and protocols. This access is not to accommodate travel and recreation flexibility. In these instances, kindly report your son's absence to the Attendance Office as you normally would for a planned absence.
- Remote access to the classroom is an accommodation for the immediate pandemic environment. It does not replace the in-person learning experience and as such may impact levels of student success.
- Regarding remote access to classrooms, the school reserves the right to require in-person assessment if necessary. The school will accommodate any COVID-19 contact-related concerns.

We are pleased to share that we have experienced only 3% student absenteeism (absent from in-person and remote access) in the first few days back. With the new guidelines and lack of access to PCR and rapid antigen testing, it is difficult to report current active case counts with certainty. We rely on families to keep us informed of your son's health and exposure status if not at school via the Attendance Office. Our school nurse may follow up if necessary. We also thank you for adhering to the new opening guidelines, monitoring your sons, and completing the daily screener with accuracy.

Our hope is we are finding a way to grow forward out of these pandemic days, but we are not done yet.

Sincerely,

Mr. James McKinnon  
Principal