

12/30/2021

To the chancery staff:

Due to the rapid spread of the omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the following changes to the safety protocols at the chancery are in effect Monday January 3, 2022 until Monday January 17, 2022:

1. Work from home if possible – stay in contact with your supervisor to coordinate your schedule. If you must work at the chancery, keep your time at the office as short as possible. Stagger your schedule so that contact with other staff in your work area is minimized. Sign in and out at the reception desk as usual regardless of the time.
2. Reception will be closed during this time.
3. The dining room, lounge, and south wing are off limits except to residents, kitchen, housekeeping and maintenance staff.
4. Conduct meetings via Zoom or telephone instead of in-person.
5. Restrict unnecessary business travel – travel requires approval by a supervisor. If travel was already approved, it requires new approval based on necessity.

Parishes are encouraged to modify their safety protocols in a similar way according to their local situation. Diocesan schools may operate under different protocols due to the unique circumstances involving children who seem to be less likely to have severe infections.

The following steps are strongly recommended:

Vaccination with a booster if possible, wear a mask in public, use well-ventilated spaces, socially distance between households and follow the current CDC guidelines for gathering and travel.