



ST. ANN'S HOME, INC.

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Dear parents, guardians, school districts, stakeholders and friends:

I am sending out this communication to inform you of a change regarding St. Ann's school schedule. St. Ann's was recently notified by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) that employees working in residential congregate care programs, including approved private special education schools providing residential care, must complete mandatory baseline COVID-19 surveillance testing by 9/30/20.

As a result of this development and to ensure the health and well-being of all St. Ann's students, residents and staff members, St. Ann's will need to alter the previously shared school calendar. In order to complete this testing in a thorough and timely manner and with the intention to limit the disruption to St. Ann's overall operations, St. Ann's will need to suspend school from Tuesday 9/8 through Friday 9/11. This will allow for school employees to meet the necessary requirements to get tested, receive results and put planning into place if the results impact St. Ann's ability to provide educational services. These four days will be made up sometime later in the school year (more information will be provided about that plan at a later date).

St. Ann's understands how this decision may disrupt previous plans for families, etc., as well as interrupt the start of the students' school year. We didn't come to this decision easily, but after our multidisciplinary team made up of education, medical, clinical, residential and administrative personnel thoroughly considered many scenarios, this option presented as the most thoughtful, efficient and safe. St. Ann's has put a lot of attention into making sure the St. Ann's environment was one in which school districts, families etc. could feel good about sending their student with a reduced worry about safety. To date, St. Ann's has not had any reported positive tests for residents/students. I believe this speaks to the tremendous efforts that our staff and agency as a whole have made to follow the many protocols and practices we have put into place to keep everyone safe.

For more information about this mandatory surveillance testing you can visit – www.mass.gov. Again, I am sorry for any inconvenience that this plan may cause, but we feel this decision is in the best interest of meeting the safety needs of all our students/residents and employees. Please feel free to reach out to me or another St. Ann's administrator if you feel that would be helpful.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during these unprecedented times. I hope you all remain well and can look forward to happier times ahead.

Joseph Cronin
President & CEO
St. Ann's Home and School