



Our Lady Star of the Sea School
PO Box 560, 90 Alexander Lane
Solomons, MD 20688
Phone (410) 326-3171
Pastor: Father Ken Gill
Principal: Mrs. Jennifer Thompson

September 22, 2021

Dear OLSS Families,

During this challenging time with COVID-19 and the fall season starting, allergies issues in many of our students are occurring more frequently. Due to symptoms like runny nose/congestion and cough which can be allergy related or COVID symptoms, we are finding that it is becoming increasingly difficult to decipher between the two. Unfortunately, if we do not have documentation from a healthcare provider that your child has a pre-existing condition like allergies or asthma, when we contact the health department to update them, it is forcing us to send students for testing and further evaluation.

In an effort to help minimize this effect, I am requesting all families that have students that have allergies or asthma that cause congestion/runny nose and or cough, to please have your healthcare provider provide the school with written documentation of this pre-existing condition to be kept on file at the school. This will greatly reduce the need for quarantine and testing due to allergy related symptoms. IF students present with a single symptom of new onset cough and no documentation of pre-existing allergies, asthma, or other diagnosis we will be forced to send for testing. IF a student has congestion/runny nose plus another symptom for example a sore throat which can also occur from allergies, we must again send them for testing if we have no documentation that your student(s) has these symptoms related to allergies. As always, if a student presents to their teacher, school nurse, or other staff member with symptoms that are atypical for that student, they may be subjected to testing based on the discretion and assessment of staff.

Again, thank you so much for everyone's patience, understanding, and cooperation during this time.

Sincerely,
Brandi Hutchins
Mrs. Brandi Hutchins
OLSS School Nurse
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