



DIOCESE OF MONTEREY
Department of Catholic Schools

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September 16, 2020

Dear Monterey County Catholic School Communities,

I pray that this letter finds you and your family safe and healthy.

As you may be aware, the State of California developed an updated reopening plan for counties. It is a four tier, color-coded phased plan that includes widespread (purple), substantial (red), moderate (orange) and minimal (yellow). A county is assigned a tier based on two primary metrics: daily case rate per 100,000 and test positivity rate. Currently, Monterey County has been assigned the purple tier.

While in the purple tier, elementary schools can apply for a waiver to open for in-person instruction for grades TK-6 if the county's daily case rate per 100,000 is 14 cases or less. Grades 7-12 are not eligible to apply for waivers and will be able to return to campus when our county has been in the red tier for at least two weeks.

This week, Monterey County's daily case rate per 100,000 is 13.9, and I have been advised that the Monterey County Health Department is now accepting elementary school waiver applications.

The Diocesan Catholic elementary schools in Monterey County, which include Madonna del Sasso School, Sacred Heart School and San Carlos School, will begin preparations for our waiver application. We anticipate submitting the completed applications by the end of the month, with the understanding that the process may be delayed if Monterey County's metrics worsen. Each elementary school principal will be in contact with you regarding the school's Operations Plan and your feedback on the school's waiver application.

The health and safety of staff and students remain our top priority, and we will continue to work together to further the mission of Catholic education during this time. I sincerely appreciate the dedication of our faculty, staff and families during our distance learning program, and I remain hopeful for when we can welcome our students back to campus.

Blessings,

Kimberly Cheng
Superintendent