



August 2, 2021

Dear Catholic School Families of the Archdiocese of San Francisco,

With school openings only a few weeks away, I'd like to update you on changes to state guidance for all K-12 schools as we approach the 2021-2022 school year.

In mid-July, the [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#) released updated guidance for K-12 schools reflecting recent updates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There are several elements of the guidance that will directly benefit our students. The two most restrictive prevention measures included in last year's guidance are no longer required: physical distancing and cohort scheduling. The elimination of these measures will allow us to continue to provide full-time in-person instruction for every student enrolled in our Catholic schools.

With the elimination of these requirements, CDPH is relying on a multi-layered prevention strategy approach, including continued face-covering guidance.

The State of California has issued the following requirements:

- All K-12 students are required to mask indoors.
- Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students.
- Masks are optional outdoors for all in K-12 school settings.
- Consistent with guidance from the 2020-21 school year, schools must develop and implement local protocols to enforce the mask requirements.

In consultation with the 11 other dioceses of California, the Archdiocese of San Francisco remains committed to following recommended public health guidance for all parishes and schools. Locations may exact stricter standards, but not less restrictive. Our adherence to these same public safety measures allowed us a successful return to Catholic school campuses last year. The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) supports the mask requirement.

The Department of Catholic Schools and your school's administration will continue to monitor our state's guidance and keep you posted on any changes impacting Catholic school operations.

The past 17 months have been challenging in different ways for everyone. Whether you're excited for the future, feeling overwhelmed by changes, frustrated from the challenges, trying to process loss, or a combination of all these things, we want to acknowledge your role in making it through a historic school year. Our Catholic school communities and staff members supported each other, went far above and beyond to learn new ways of doing things, and did everything possible to take care of our students and families. We did it together.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding. May our faithful God shine warmly on you and your families this summer.

Yours in Christ,

Pamela Lyons  
Superintendent of Schools