



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November 16, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ:

There is no mandate regarding student COVID-19 vaccinations being enforced at this time in our Catholic parochial schools. With prudent public safety protocols, we have been able to limit the spread of this virus in our communities.

The State Administration's plan to add the COVID-19 vaccination to the list of mandatory vaccinations for students to enter public or private schools in the state, as currently proposed, would be contingent on full FDA approval of the vaccine for children and would need to allow for both a medical and personal belief exemption. Personal or medical exemptions included in the regulations for the COVID-19 vaccination will be honored at Catholic parochial schools in the Diocese of Sacramento.

We have faced unprecedented challenges over the past 19 months. Our clergy, principals, teachers, staff, and volunteers have worked tirelessly to ensure safe environments for worship and learning, to care for the vulnerable, and provide for the common good in the churches, schools and charitable services in the Diocese of Sacramento.

I have heard your concerns, thoughts, and feedback surrounding this issue. Our Catholic parochial schools continue to provide a holy and safe learning environment where parents can entrust their children. Parents are the primary educators of their children. I thank you for choosing to entrust your children to our care.

Please join me in asking God's mercy to bring an end to this pandemic, grant healing to all the afflicted, perseverance to all who care for them, and comfort to all who mourn. In this month of November, let us also pray for the souls of our brothers and sisters lost to this dreadful virus. Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, may the wisdom and charity of the Lord Jesus teach us to place the God-given gift of freedom at the service of caring for one another, especially the most vulnerable.

Respectfully,

+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento