



DIOCESE of SACRAMENTO
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

July 17, 2020

From: Lincoln Snyder, Executive Director of Schools
To: The Catholic School Community
Re.: New Guidelines for the Reopening of Schools

Dear Catholic School Community,

Today, July 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom announced new California Department of Public Health guidelines regarding the reopening of school campuses for in-person learning. The guidelines offer specific direction in some important areas, such as social distancing and the use of masks, and we are already in the process of updating our back-to-school plan with the new directives.

Many of you have expressed concerns about public school districts remaining closed; for us, these guidelines clarify the conditions under which we can return to campus. The state maintains a monitoring list of counties with elevated levels of transmission of COVID-19; the new guidelines require a county to be off of the Monitoring List for 14 days for its schools to reopen. As of July 17, the counties with diocesan schools on that monitoring list are Colusa, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, and Yolo. The guidelines also state that once a campus reopens, it can remain open, even if the county goes back to the monitoring list.

These guidelines offer us a clear pathway for a return to campus. We are still 4 weeks out from the start of school, so given the 14-day requirement, we will update you on a county-by-county basis next week. In the meantime, we all have a role to play in slowing COVID. As Bishop Soto recently said, "We must remain vigilant, especially for the sake of the most vulnerable among us." Counties on the monitoring list could come off it, and conversely, counties not on the list could find themselves there, so please be cautious for the sake of our communities.

We look forward to being in touch with you in the next week as we learn more. We have been working toward this day since March, and I am confident that our schools are prepared to serve your family in faith, community, and growth.

Peace,

Lincoln Snyder
Executive Director of Schools
The Diocese of Sacramento