



DIOCESE OF DALLAS

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

Dear Parents:

With the announcement last week from the CDC that vaccinated people could largely resume normal activities in all settings and now the latest order from Governor Abbott, I wanted to reach out and share our plans for the fall. Based on the information that we have today, including vaccination rates, our own number of cases within the schools and our proven ability to avoid on campus transmission, we will be removing mask requirements for the 2021 – 2022 school year, and we expect that the on-campus experience will look very similar to pre-pandemic times.

It is important to note that the relaxation of these directives does not mean that COVID has been eradicated. We expect that we will continue to see cases, and for that reason we will allow anyone who wants to continue to wear a mask to do so. It is also important to note that there may be additional local, state or federal guidelines that are issued between now and the fall, and we do not know if the health department will be enforcing school closures for COVID in the next school year. Despite that uncertainty, we have been able to navigate these issues for the last year and have largely avoided closures and interference in our approach, and we are confident that we will be able to continue to provide that level of service as we move forward.

As it was last year, you will be receiving notice before the start of school regarding site-specific protocols for your school and its unique campus. Our schools will continue to respond to cases within the communities, but we expect those interventions to be temporary and site-specific, which is how we handled flu outbreaks in the past.

I know that there have also been questions about the vaccine and whether we will require it as we move forward. As of today, we plan to handle the COVID vaccine in the same way that we handle the flu shot – we will strongly encourage it, but we will not require it. You should know that we expect public health authorities will have different quarantine protocols for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, and we hope that you consider those implications as you make the best decision for your family.

This has been a difficult year for everyone, and I want to end this communication by thanking our teachers and administrators who worked so hard this year to ensure that we could return and remain in person successfully. Our local sites have done everything possible to ensure that we could continue to form Saints and Scholars, and they have done so while managing incredibly difficult situations that no one was trained for. We are thrilled that there is now light at the end of the tunnel, and we are excited to begin to see a return to our previous practices for all of those involved.

Please continue to pray for us and all of those who still need healing in this difficult time, and thank you for entrusting your children to us.

Respectfully,


Matthew Vereecke