



Office for Schools

October 14, 2021

Dear Catholic School Families,

Over the course of recent days, since Gov. Newsom announced his intention to require all school children to receive a COVID-19 vaccination, our office has received an outpouring of interest and concern on the issue.

Whether your call, letter, or email was to express your support for the Governor or your opposition, one thing was clear—all of you are concerned about the safety of your children and all the children who attend Catholic school in our diocese.

We know it's not clear from the news reports, but at this point, all we have is a **news release** and the bare outlines of the Governor's proposal. There is no Public Health Order that we can react to or comment on. When or if the State issues such an order, our diocesan leadership and attorneys will review it to understand how it might apply to Catholic schools and Catholic school students.

When we have more (and more accurate) information, we will be able to talk about next steps. Until then, here is all we know:

- There is not yet any statewide order requiring students in public, private or charter schools to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.
- San Diego Unified School District mandates requiring COVID vaccination for their students do not apply to students in Catholic schools.
- The diocese recommends, but **does not require**, vaccines for eligible students.
- The diocese **does require** the indoor use of masks and certain social distancing measures to protect students and staff in Catholic schools.
- New federal mandates do require vaccination and/or testing for employers with 100 employees or more. This does not affect students, but it may affect staff and teachers at large Catholic schools, parishes and the Pastoral Center.

No matter what, we will be guided by the same three principles that have governed our decisions throughout the pandemic: adherence to Catholic moral teaching; protecting the health of our students, faculty and staff; and respect for the law.

Thank you again for your ongoing partnership and patience. May Christ continue to bless and protect you and your family.

In Mission,

John Galvan  
Director, Office for Schools