



DIOCESE of SACRAMENTO
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

December 3, 2020

CSD Letter to All School Families regarding Stay-At-Home Mandate

Dear Catholic School Community,

Today, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a new stay-at-home mandate for California, based upon hospital capacity in five regions of the state. Hospital ICU capacity falling below 15% will trigger a stay-at-home order which will remain in effect for 3 weeks, or until such time as sufficient hospital capacity becomes available. Under this plan, the state will not require schools that have resumed on-campus, in-person learning to move to distance learning; as such, **schools of the Diocese of Sacramento may continue to offer in-person learning**. You can read more about the new order at <https://covid19.ca.gov>.

We are grateful for public health taking the special nature of schools into account in writing this order. In responding to this latest wave of Covid-19, other countries and states have kept their schools open, recognizing that students benefit from being in class. The data shows that, with the right protocols and vigilance, schools can keep the rate of Covid below that of the general population; through your hard work and cooperation, we've shown that to be the case here, in the Diocese of Sacramento.

The state has a challenging few weeks ahead. As our emergency rooms run out of beds and hospitals face heartbreaking decisions on how to manage the surge in cases, we all have a civic duty in once again flattening the curve. The best way to do this is to take the new order at face value and do what it asks: stay home, and limit social gatherings, including with extended family.

Christmas has traditionally been a time for families to come together, but there is grace in the call to quiet celebration as well; the loving embrace of the immediate family and the Good News of a Savior born in a manger is what our kids need, and we are proud to be part of your lives in sharing that message. This too shall pass, and I am confident that we will look back on this year with humility and grace in what we did for each other as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

Wishing you and yours a blessed Advent,

Peace,

Lincoln Snyder
Superintendent and Executive Director of Schools
The Diocese of Sacramento