

March 1, 2022

Dear Catholic School Community Members,

I pray this correspondence finds you well. I am writing to you today on the state of public health protocols in our Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (ADLA).

Yesterday, the California Department of Health and Human Services announced that the public health order requiring all individuals in TK-12 schools to wear a mask indoors will be revised to “strongly recommend”. We have been informed this revision will be mirrored by the local public health agencies within the ADLA as well. **As a result, beginning March 12, 2022, the Archdiocese will align with the revised public health order – masks will be strongly recommended, but no longer required, in our schools.**

This change will be received differently across the Archdiocese. For some, this is welcome news. For others, concerns remain that infection is still a threat, particularly those with serious health conditions. To be sure, COVID-19 has not gone away, but the tools we possess to mitigate its effects are now well established. Indeed, the possibility of a new variant is real, but we are better prepared. We ask that you honor the public health protocols our schools are still required to follow, along with any elevated protocols individual schools have implemented due to local transmission risks.

It’s hard to imagine that two years have passed since the COVID-19 pandemic sent our world into an unprecedented period of disruption and difficulty. The loss that so many families and communities have suffered is extraordinary. Schools have been among the hardest hit sectors in society. Yet, despite the challenges we have faced, the very best of our school ministry has continuously emerged through the good deeds of students, teachers, staff, principals, pastors, and parents. Our resilience has restored our faith in the future and God has rewarded our patience and care for one another.

Thank you for your patience, cooperation, and commitment to the ministry of Catholic education. Our prayers are with you as we enter the Lenten season and anticipate the glory of Easter.

Yours in Christ,



Paul M. Escala
Superintendent of Schools