



# DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO

## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 18, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers,  
Peace and wellbeing to you and to your families; I hope all of you are doing well.

We take this moment to update you on the status of our Catholic schools with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have some exciting news!

The process of examining information and working to understand guidelines has required conversations with many specialists devoted to the best interest of our school communities. Together with the Office of Catholic Schools, we have engaged in an ongoing dialogue with local health departments and the California Department of Public Health. The following metrics were set to reopen our TK – 6 schools.

Schools in California can open when the following metrics are met for five consecutive days:

1. Grades K – 6 Case Rate (CR) <25/100,000
2. Grades 7 – 12 CR <7/100,000

For San Bernardino County, we are now on Day 4 of achieving the CR of less than 25 per 100,000 in category 1 above. Therefore, we are fortunate to offer reopening of the Catholic schools in the county of San Bernardino effective February 22, 2021. In the event that the trend does not continue, you will be notified of a new timeline.

The reopening will take place using the following phasing system, resulting in all students in category 1 on campus by March 1<sup>st</sup>:

Monday	February 22, 2021	TK, Kindergarten
Wednesday	February 24, 2021	TK, Kindergarten, Grades 1 & 2
Monday	March 1, 2021	TK through Grade 6

Unfortunately, we are not in a position to consider the reopening of grades 7-12 until the CR is less than 7/100,000 for 5 days in accordance with CDPH. The Catholic schools in Riverside County have not met the metrics required at this time, therefore, they are not authorized to open beginning Feb. 22. We will keep you apprised as the metrics in Riverside County trend positively and our Catholic schools there become eligible to reopen.

Our principals have been preparing for this day. All Covid-19 safety documents have been filed with the state and local health departments. The campuses have been prepared and the principals, faculty and staff are anxiously awaiting the reunion of students to campus. We also understand that some families may not feel comfortable sending their children back into this public environment. We encourage you to contact your principal and have that conversation. Each school is uniquely prepared to continue offering Catholic Online Synchronous Learning (COSL).

Many thanks and prayers for your patience and faith during this time. Our intentions have always been directed towards the safety and quality of the educational experience in our schools. Moving forward together, we ask that you support your school communities by adhering to the guidelines in your daily routines so that we can serve our children and fulfill the mission of Catholic Schools for their generation.

In Christ's Love,

Most Reverend Alberto Rojas  
Bishop of the Diocese of San Bernardino

Dr. Samuel Torres  
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

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