



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 17, 2022

Statement of Bishop Jaime Soto on Public Health Protocols in our Catholic Schools

Dear Friends in Christ:

As conditions with the pandemic have improved, my team and I continue to implement reasonable protocols that provide safe and healthy environments as well as peace of mind for our families. The wearing of masks is a simple, sensible act of charity. For this reason, I am continuing to encourage parishioners to wear masks while indoors at Mass and I ask that we continue — for the time being — with the existing mask protocols in our schools.

Keeping our schools in the Diocese of Sacramento open for in-person learning continues to be a high priority for me. With prudent public safety protocols, we have been able to limit the spread of this virus in our communities and have not closed any schools during the most recent surge.

The pastors, principals, teachers, staff, and volunteers have worked tirelessly to ensure safe environments for worship and learning. I am grateful for their vigilance. I am also grateful to you, our school families, for choosing to entrust your children to our care. Let us be respectful towards one another as we navigate this ever-changing environment.

Masking of students in our state continues to be a divisive issue. I have heard your concerns, thoughts, and feedback in this regard. My team and I are actively assessing protocols to determine how we will move forward. I ask for your patience and continued cooperation.

This pandemic has required sacrifices from all of us. As we approach the Lenten season and its penitential practices, may these provide opportunities to be transformed by the Exodus journey from death to life, from darkness to light, from sin to grace with our Lord Jesus.

Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, may God's mercy bring an end to the pandemic, healing to all the afflicted, protection of those who care for them, eternal rest to all who have died and comfort to those who mourn.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jaime Soto", written over a circular blue stamp or seal.

+Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento