



DIOCESE of SACRAMENTO  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**Update Regarding Sacramento County Health Order and Applications for Waivers**

August 21, 2020

Dear Sacramento County Catholic School Families:

I am writing to share an update on Sacramento County's health order to cancel all on-campus activities and not accept waivers for a return to school any earlier than mid-September.

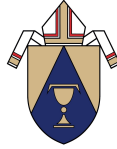
As I have shared with you before, the state has a waiver process that would allow us to return to in-person instruction in counties on the monitoring list. After a three-week delay in updating the list because the state bungled its data collection, the list is available again [here](#). If a county is below 100 infections per 100,000 population for 14 days, schools do not need a waiver to return to class; if it is over 200 per 100,000, the state is recommending that waivers not be issued. As of August 21, Sacramento County was at 149.8 infections per 100,000 population, which is within the range allowed by the waiver process.

# Infections per 100,000 population
0 - 99 <i>No Waivers Needed</i>
100 - 199 <i>Waivers Allowed</i>
200+ <i>Waivers Not Accepted</i>

We've shared the latest version of our waiver application with Sacramento County and posted it to the diocesan website; you can view it at [www.scd.org/2021schools](http://www.scd.org/2021schools). Despite the data improving in Sacramento County's favor, the county health office has taken the step of closing campuses to all activity, with few exceptions, and has informed us that the County of Sacramento will not publish its waiver application for grades TK-6 until mid-September. You can view that directive [here](#). This turn of events concerns me deeply; neighboring counties like Yolo, Solano, and Placer are already reviewing our waiver applications per the CDPH recommendations.

The good news is that I spoke with Sacramento County Health Officer Dr. Olivia Kasirye via Zoom today, and during the call, I reviewed our plan and application with her. She committed to reviewing our plan and offering her feedback in the coming days so that, once the county does officially begin accepting applications, we can receive our waivers quickly.

Despite our concerns, a health order is a health order, and we are complying. We understand the disruption this county action causes you, and we will move forward on applying for a waiver as soon as the county allows us to do so.



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Please continue to be vigilant in maintaining social distancing and proper hygiene at home and in the community. If we all do our part, we will keep our families and students safe, infection rates will fall, and we will be able to return to campus without needing to seek a waiver from the county.

To summarize:

- Sacramento County has prohibited nearly all on-campus activity for all schools, public and private.
- The Sacramento County Health Officer anticipates that the department will begin accepting waivers for grades TK-6 to return to campus by mid-September.
- In the meantime, Sacramento County Health will offer feedback on our plan so that we can receive a waiver quickly once we are allowed to apply.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families remain our utmost concern, and we look forward to the day when we are safely back in class. Until then, thank you for your love and support of your students and communities.

May the Lord Jesus continue to bless His students and our schools.

Peace,

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