Office of Catholic Schools
Diocese of San Bernardino

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Catholic School Families,

On February 28th, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updated their Guidance for the Use of Face Masks for the state of California. After March 11, 2022, the universal masking requirement for K-12 and Childcare settings will terminate. Since the start of the pandemic, the Diocese of San Bernardino has followed COVID guidelines from CDPH. As a result, beginning March 12, 2022, the Diocese of San Bernardino will align with the revised CDPH guidelines – masks will be strongly recommended, but no longer required in our schools.

We understand that some families may be reluctant to send their student to school without a mask, and we welcome them to continue to use a mask if they choose. "Strongly recommended" does not prevent students or personnel from wearing a mask. We ask for each family to evaluate household health risks when considering this choice. During these conversations, please discuss the acceptance of those that may choose differently from yourself. Additionally, we ask families to be vigilant of symptoms, stay home if ill, and contact your healthcare provider if symptoms persist. Positive COVID test results and exposures still need to be reported to schools.

We do not yet know the impact this will have in quarantine periods for self or groups when there is a positive COVID case or exposure. Until those CDPH guidelines are released and evaluated, we will continue our current diocesan protocols for positive COVID cases or exposures. Further, we ask families to honor the CDPH guidelines our schools are still required to follow should elevated protocols need to be reestablished due to elevated COVID transmission risk.

As communities of faith, we center ourselves in Christ as we face the collective challenges before us. Our prayers are with you as we enter the Lenten season and anticipate the glory of Easter.

Blessings,

Maribel Arguelles-Ortiz
Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Diocese of San Bernardino

