

A Statement from Superintendent Marti West Regarding 2021-2022 COVID-19 Safety Precautions

Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of San Antonio opened last August committed to doing whatever was needed to keep our communities safe with students in school and on-campus. Each school, with guidance, developed broad COVID-19 safety measures, from mask requirements to sanitation protocols, along with social distancing as well as vaccination availability for all teachers and staff. These safety measures, backed with the strong commitment of administrators, teachers, staff, and families, benefited our students immensely, allowing them to grow in love and learning in a year of a global pandemic.

As the 2021-2022 school year begins, the 37 Catholic Schools of the archdiocese will draw upon the lessons learned last year to continue to open and operate safely and successfully. Our schools will begin classes this month using the safety protocols and precautions from last year. Most will still require masks, as students under the age of 12 are unvaccinated. Others are strongly encouraging masks for all students and anyone on campus. All must maintain a continuation of COVID-19 cleaning and sanitizing protocols, keep social distancing (3 feet) whenever possible, and strictly adhere to the “if sick, stay at home” policy for teachers, staff, students, and visitors. The COVID-19 vaccine has been made available and encouraged for Catholic School faculty/staff and eligible students. Schools may ask for voluntary compliance in submitting evidence of fully vaccinated status for faculty/staff and students to assist administration in decision-making as it relates to vulnerability of the school’s population and in mitigating the spread of the virus as it may occur on campus.

Catholic Schools -- as well as parishes -- operate across a broad geography in San Antonio and surrounding communities. Across the 19 counties of the archdiocese, our commitment remains to keep children and families safe and surrounded by supportive learning environments.

If your school has not yet shared their COVID-19 safety protocols to begin the school year, expect that communication to come shortly.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to navigate the challenges of the pandemic well and we will be guided by 2 Timothy 1:7 – For God did not give us a spirit of timidity or fear, but rather of power and love and self-control.