



February 15, 2022

Dear Catholic School Families,

The weeks following Christmas Break were undoubtedly challenging for all of us as we moved through the Omicron variant of COVID in our schools. As with all things during this pandemic, our school teachers, leaders, students, and families worked together to get through a tough few weeks by following county health protocols while doing everything humanly possible to keep schools open.

It appears that the trajectory of this pandemic is once again moving in a new direction as COVID cases are rapidly declining in the Bay Area, and our governor is preparing to lift the indoor mask mandate for many businesses and locations. While indoor mask mandates for schools will not be lifted this month, or perhaps even in the near future, I have asked the schools of the Archdiocese to begin to examine COVID protocols that are not mandated by the county, such as required outdoor masking, with the hope of starting to lift these practices over the next few days and weeks.

Undoubtedly, COVID mitigation guidelines will be updated several times over the next few months, and these updates can take time to understand fully. As the needs of each of our school communities are unique, the slow lifting of COVID restrictions is at the discretion of each school principal and pastor and could change if a new variant or surge occurs. Please be patient with your school leadership as they discern the most appropriate path to take at their school site.

I appreciate your support and trust in the Archdiocese of San Francisco and your school communities over the past two years. This pandemic has been a huge learning experience for all of us, and no doubt, the learning will continue.

Sincerely,

Pamela Lyons
Superintendent of Schools